

Alexithymia and Relationship Dissatisfaction: The Role of Conflict Communication Patterns

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “Alexithymia, originally introduced in psychosomatic medicine...,” the review is thorough but could integrate more recent multicultural studies to support the relevance of Malaysian context (e.g., Asia-specific data).

The section starting “Attachment theory provides an important explanatory framework...” is insightful. However, it could explicitly connect how insecure attachment predicts destructive conflict, not just alexithymia, to strengthen the theoretical bridge.

In the “Measures” section, the CPQ description states: “The CPQ includes 35 items (commonly the CPQ-SF short form with 35 items)....” Consider clarifying whether the original or short form was used and justify why it is appropriate for cross-cultural adaptation.

The CSI is reported as “reverse-coded to indicate higher relationship dissatisfaction.” Add a note explaining how reverse coding was verified (e.g., reliability after reversing items).

In Table 1 (M = 54.82 for alexithymia, SD = 10.67), add interpretation in text about how these scores compare with known population means or clinical cut-offs to contextualize the sample’s emotional functioning.

While the discussion notes “Malaysia’s collectivist and multicultural society,” there is little exploration of how cultural adaptation may be necessary for interventions. Add commentary on cultural tailoring for therapy and research.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the paragraph “Despite this evidence, gaps remain... Few studies have simultaneously modeled the direct and indirect paths...”, expand on why modeling direct and indirect effects is methodologically innovative and how it differs from prior mediation studies.

The introduction states “Malaysia’s multicultural environment provides a valuable setting...” but does not elaborate on how collectivist versus individualist norms may influence communication patterns. Adding a few references or rationale would

The SEM fit indices ($\chi^2/df = 2.18$, CFI = .96, RMSEA = .053) are strong. Still, consider reporting 90% RMSEA confidence intervals to increase transparency on model fit reliability.

The discussion states: “Alexithymia impacts dissatisfaction both directly and by promoting destructive conflict.” Since the study is cross-sectional, replace “impacts” with “is associated with” to avoid implying causation.

The section “Clinically, the results emphasize the need to integrate emotional awareness training...” could benefit from specifying which interventions (e.g., Emotion-Focused Therapy, EFT, or communication coaching) are most evidence-based for alexithymic couples.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.