




Strategies for Scaling Micro-Affections to Sustain Long-Term Bonding: A Qualitative Study of Hungarian Couples

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Shahram Vahedi ¹  Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran vahedi117@yahoo.com	Reviewer 1: Farhad Namjoo ²  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: farhadnamjoo@kmanresce.ca Reviewer 2: Manijeh Daneshpour ³  Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America. mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, paragraph 3 (“Together, this body of work illuminates the need to examine... everyday behaviors that prevent disconnection”), the gap is identified but not sufficiently contrasted with prior research. Explicitly compare this study’s focus on preventive micro-affections with existing post-distress interventions.

In Theme 1 – Nurturing Everyday Connection, while quotes are rich, the paragraph is long and dense. Consider structuring subthemes (e.g., Ritualizing Affection, Creative Micro-Gestures) as subheadings to improve navigability.

In Findings and Results, the demographic table lists professions but does not connect them to relational strategies. A brief interpretive link (e.g., how occupational stress influences micro-affections) would enrich contextual depth.

In “Another significant contribution of this study is its cultural grounding”, elaborate how Hungarian sociocultural context adds new knowledge beyond confirming Western findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In paragraph 2 (“Cross-cultural research highlights how commitment functions and relational scripts differ depending on family dynamics and cultural expectations”), include more about Central/Eastern European marital norms (e.g., post-socialist value shifts) to deepen the Hungarian cultural rationale.

In paragraph 4 (“Personality and psychological resources also contribute...”), consider linking “dark personality traits” and “ego strength” more explicitly to micro-affection enactment; right now, the paragraph shifts abruptly from structural to individual factors.

In Theme 2 – Sustaining Emotional Safety, most quotes are female voices. Aim for more balanced gender representation to avoid impression of gendered bias in emotional labor.

The first discussion paragraph (*“These findings illustrate that sustaining marital...”*) lacks explicit theoretical anchoring. Relate your three themes to established frameworks (e.g., Gottman’s sound relationship house, attachment theory) for stronger integration.

In “Such details contribute to intervention science...”, you mention therapists and educators but stop short of outlining how micro-affections could be operationalized in couple therapy protocols (e.g., homework exercises, daily affection diaries).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.