

Thematic Analysis of the Concept of Marital Jealousy Among High-Conflict Couples

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the first paragraph of the introduction, the sentence “Contemporary psychological research conceptualizes jealousy not merely as an episodic emotional reaction, but as a multifaceted construct...” introduces multiple frameworks (attachment, personality, socio-cultural, evolutionary). Consider adding a short synthesis paragraph explicitly integrating these perspectives into a coherent conceptual foundation for the present model.

The paragraph beginning “Given these theoretical and empirical gaps, the present study adopts a qualitative thematic approach...” would benefit from a clearer methodological rationale. Please explicitly explain why qualitative inquiry is superior to existing quantitative approaches for addressing the stated research gap.

After the paragraph “Fifteen high-conflict couples... were selected”, please add a subsection describing participants’ age, length of marriage, number of children, education level, and socioeconomic background to improve transparency and transferability.

The paragraph beginning “This theme emphasizes the utilization of mature defenses...” should clarify how the classification of defenses as “mature” was theoretically grounded (e.g., Vaillant’s model).

In the note under Table 2, the decision to exclude negative themes (e.g., poor sexual functioning) requires stronger methodological justification, since negative cases are typically valuable in qualitative analysis.

In “Efforts to Enrich the Sexual Relationship”, please add a brief statement describing how participant comfort and confidentiality were ensured when discussing intimate topics.

In the paragraph “Comprehensive Family Support and Assistance”, please explicitly differentiate emotional, instrumental, and spiritual support to enhance analytic clarity.

The sentence “The pressure of jealousy is also greater on women” warrants a short analytical discussion linking this finding to gender role theory and patriarchal social structures.

The opening paragraph of the Discussion should explicitly state how this four-dimensional model advances or modifies existing jealousy theories.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The sentence “The interviews were conducted either face-to-face or via telephone and email” raises methodological concerns. Please justify the inclusion of email interviews and discuss how data equivalence was ensured across modalities.

In Qualitative data analysis, the section describing “Initial coding” remains abstract. Provide at least one concrete example of how a raw excerpt was coded into a category and then into a theme.

In the paragraph beginning “The validity (credibility) of the findings was evaluated…”, please explicitly map the employed strategies onto Lincoln and Guba’s four criteria: credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability.

When referencing Figure 1, the sentence “These four dimensions… exert reciprocal influences on one another” would benefit from a brief textual walkthrough of the figure to guide readers in interpreting the proposed relational network.

In the subsection “Conscious and Optimistic Living”, the narrative is rich but lacks direct linkage to established psychological theories (e.g., optimism theory, mindfulness). Add theoretical references to strengthen interpretive rigor.

In “Religious–Spiritual Worldview”, the manuscript should explicitly situate these findings within the Iranian cultural-religious context and clarify the limits of cultural generalization.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.