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A Ring by Spring and Relationship Study

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Introduction

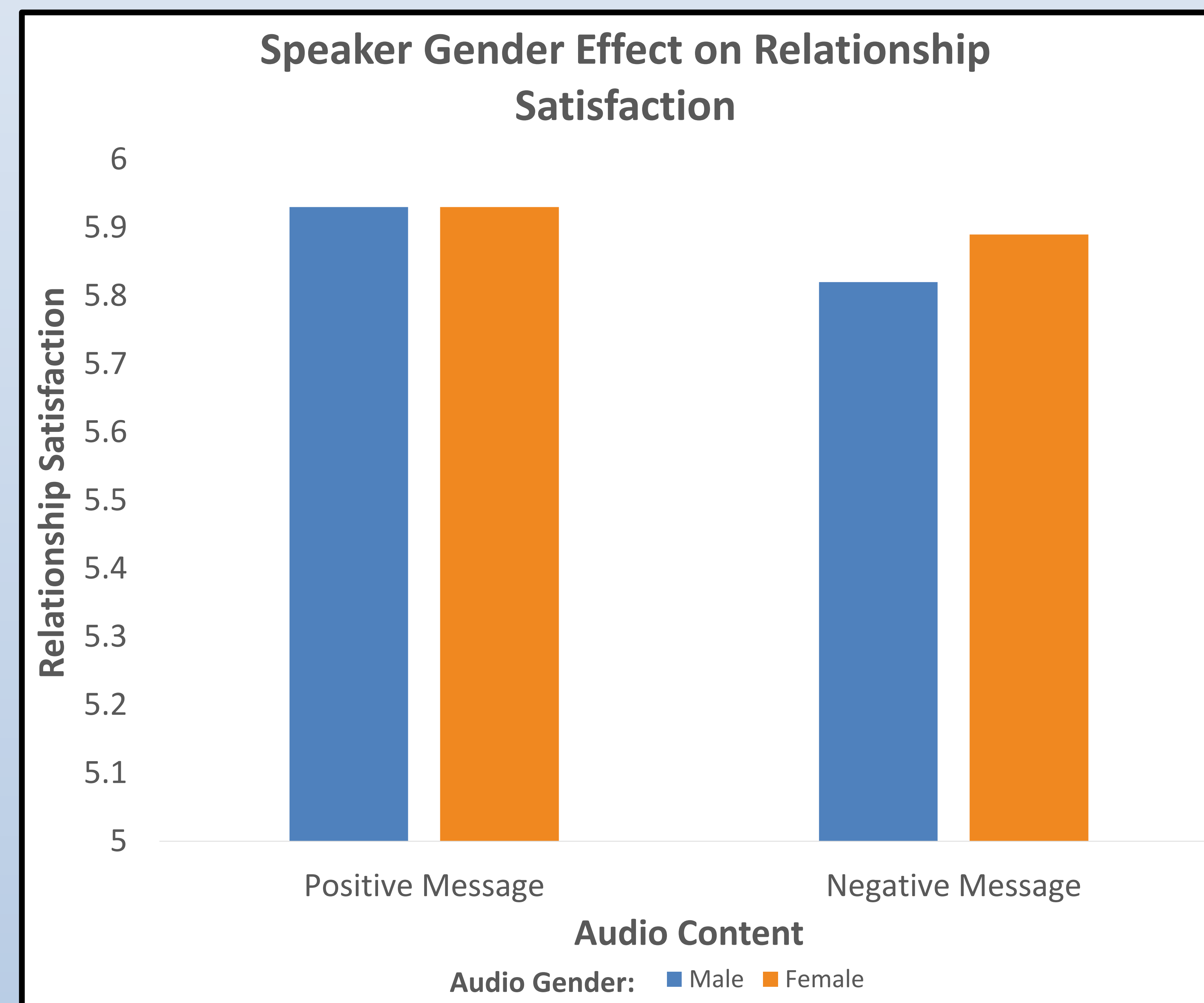
- This study was designed to test if peoples' perception of the "Ring by Spring" culture at Ouachita Baptist University affects their relationship satisfaction. "Ring by Spring" is the idea of getting engaged or married before graduating from college.
- The "Ring by Spring" culture at Ouachita is well-known because many students get engaged by their senior year and sometimes before then.
- By understanding how the idea of "Ring by Spring" affects relationship satisfaction, we can be more successful in obtaining high levels of relationship satisfaction and, as a result, have a more positive perception of self and of our lives.
- The researchers hypothesized that the scripted audio would have a significant effect on the participants' self ratings of their relationship satisfaction.

Method

- 51 males and 68 females from Ouachita Baptist University participated in this study in exchange for partial course credit in varying psychology courses or no credit at all.
- Participants were randomly selected to listen to one of four scripted audio tapes: positive male, positive female, negative male, and negative female.
- Each person filled out two of three questionnaires: a "Ring by Spring" survey evaluating their perception of the topic, a Single Participants' survey evaluating their relationship satisfaction, and a "Relationship Satisfaction" survey evaluating the relationship satisfaction of those currently in a relationship.

Results

- Using a two-way ANOVA, there was no significant effect found on how the gender affected the participants' relationship satisfaction $F(1, 115) = 1.56, p = 0.22$.
- There was no significant effect on how the valence (positive or negative audio content) affected the participants' relationship satisfaction $F(1, 115) = 2.61, p = 0.11$.
- There was no significant difference between male ($M = 1.82, SD = 1.29$) and female ($M = 2.04, SD = 1.19$) audios on the relationship satisfaction of participants.



Conclusions

- Contrary to the initial hypothesis, there were no significant findings in the data collected.
- Although there were no significant findings, there was less change in the relationship satisfaction of male participants compared to female participants regardless of the valence of the audio content.
- In the provided questionnaires, female participants reported higher relationship satisfaction after listening to the positive female audio about "ring by spring."
- The absence of significant findings could have been because of the smaller sample size, the ratio of males to females, and the lack of diversity amongst the participants.
- To find significant effects in future studies, researchers could include the observation of other external factors, such as the marital status of the participants' parents, their primary place of residence, or their levels of extraversion and introversion.

References

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