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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARITAL SATISFACTION AND JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

by

Lawrence Brad Beer

A Dissertation
Submitted to the
Faculty of The Graduate College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the
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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARITAL SATISFACTION AND JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

Lawrence Brad Beer, Ed.D.
Western Michigan University, 1986

Researchers investigating the relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type have discovered indications of a clinically useful relationship. By further clarifying the relationship between these two variables, guidelines may be established which can be helpful to counselors conducting marital therapy and marital enrichment programs. A secondary purpose of the investigation was to assess the relationship between selected demographic variables and marital satisfaction.

Married subjects were randomly selected from two groups—La Maz class participants and students from a local community college. Subjects responded to three self-report instruments—the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and a Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ). Forty-three percent (N = 86) of the sample returned completed instruments.

Pearson product-moment correlations were calculated to determine the relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type in five subject groups: La Maz participants, community college students, males, females, and total subjects. Five hypotheses were tested using Pearson product-moment correlations with \( p < .05 \) level of significance. Pearson product-moment correlations were also
calculated to assess the relationship between marital satisfaction and selected demographic variables.

Significant correlations were found between marital satisfaction and psychological type in every subject group, although these correlations varied among groups. Out of a possible 220 correlations, 28 were significant which is greater than what would be expected by chance. Seventeen of the 28 significant correlations were related to the sensing/intuitive psychological type. Significant correlations, at the same level of probability, were found between marital satisfaction and demographic variables and these correlations also varied among groups.

It was concluded that a relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type does exist, especially with the sensing/intuition dimension of the MBTI, but not in the same way for all groups of people. It was further concluded that demographic variables also influence marital satisfaction to some extent, but also not in the same way for all groups of people.

Results obtained did clarify, to a limited degree, the relationship between marital satisfaction, psychological type, and selected demographic variables. Recommendations were suggested for practitioners and for additional studies.
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Dedicated to the memory of Joseph Klein, who taught me the meaning of unconditional positive regard.

And to Cynthia Cushner Beer, with whom I experience the gift of marital satisfaction.
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Lawrence Brad Beer
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The institution of marriage is as popular today as ever. The World Almanac (1986) reports that more than 2,400,000 Americans get married annually, a figure that has remained stable over the past decade. However, many of these marriages end in divorce. The World Almanac indicates there is almost one divorce for every two marriages. This ratio, too, has been a stable figure over the past 10 years.

Of the marriages that do end in divorce, many might have been saved if the level of marital satisfaction could have been enhanced. It has been suggested that marriages may improve by increasing each partner's understanding of the other's psychological "style" (McCaulley, 1981). Certain programs are now in existence which attempt to do just that (Carskadon, 1979a). One tool which is presently being used in some programs is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) (McCaulley, 1981), which is based upon Jung's theory of psychological types. Unfortunately, though, the empirical base which can be used to support the use of this instrument for increasing marital satisfaction is inconclusive.

Some research has been attempted to demonstrate a relationship between marital adjustment, or satisfaction, and psychological type (Gosse, 1978/1979; Sherman, 1981; Wentworth, 1980/1981). To date, these studies have only been able to empirically document a vague and
limited relationship between these two variables. What has been found is that married couples tend to cope in ways that are related to psychological type (Gosse, 1978/1979) and that persons tend to select mates whose type is neither too similar nor too different from themselves (Wentworth, 1980/1981). It has further been reported that males report fewer problems in their relationships when they are involved with introverted, as opposed to extroverted, females and that extroverted females are happier with extroverted males (Sherman, 1981).

While there is only vague and inconclusive evidence at this time about the existence of a relationship between Jungian Psychological Type and marital adjustment or satisfaction, there is sufficient evidence to warrant continued investigation of the two variables.

**Purpose**

The present study was designed to investigate possible correlational relationships between Jungian Psychological Type, which was measured by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and marital satisfaction, which was assessed by the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI). The second component of the study was to determine the correlational relationship between certain demographic and familial variables, which will be reported on the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ), and marital satisfaction, as assessed by the MSI. More specifically, the purpose of this study is to answer the following questions:
1. What is the correlation, if any, between the concepts of marital satisfaction, as assessed by the MSI, and psychological type, as measured by the MBTI, in married individuals?

2. What is the correlation, if any, between selected demographic and familial variables, as reported on the PIQ, and marital satisfaction, as assessed by the MSI?

A final component of the present study was designed to examine differences in the way males and females experience factors which contribute to marital satisfaction and how these factors relate to the dimensions of psychological type. Student and nonstudent samples were also compared in this way. These comparisons were included to assess variation in the way different groups of people experience marital satisfaction as it relates to psychological type and demographic variables, and to allow for greater generalizability of the results.

Rationale

With the present divorce rate as high as it is, it is clear that programs which can help individuals survive stressful times in their marriages need to be developed. A large amount of research is presently being directed towards clarifying factors which allow some couples to survive these times, while other couples falter. One area in which this research is occurring pertains to the relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), which is based upon Jung's theory of psychological type, is presently being used in
marital counseling and marital enrichment programs. Jung (1921/1971) implied that psychological type influences the way people are attracted to and communicate with others as a function of perception and judgment. Myers and Myers (1980) reported that a person who understands the preferences of his or her partner's psychological type may better understand and accept his or her partner. If the above positions are accurate then the MBTI, as a measure of psychological type, may be a useful therapeutic tool for improving the qualities of empathy and communication between a couple. Improvement in these areas might enhance marital satisfaction and help couples more effectively cope with difficult times. There is only a limited empirical base though to support the use of the MBTI in counseling at this time.

Several studies have been conducted for the specific purpose of identifying and clarifying the relationship between psychological type and marital adjustment or satisfaction. Gosse (1978/1979) and Wentworth (1980/1981) both tried to determine if there was a relationship between the amount of similarity in a couple's psychological types and the degree to which that couple was adjusted. Neither of these authors was able to find an empirical relationship between amount of similarity and level of marital adjustment. Sherman (1981) studied 167 couples who were either married or lived with each other for a minimum of 2 years and found that males reported fewer problems if they were involved with an introverted, as opposed to extroverted, female. While many questions remain, it can be inferred from previous research that a relationship between psychological type and
marital satisfaction or adjustment may exist, remains to be clarified, and its significance examined.

The present study was designed to further clarify selected variables which contribute to marital satisfaction and marital distress. More specifically, this study focused upon the relationship between aspects of marital satisfaction and how they are associated with psychological type and certain demographic and familial variables. Demographic and familial variables were included to help further understand the relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type providing a relationship between these variables was found to exist. Identification of a relationship between these variables could provide useful information to families engaged in marital therapy or marriage enrichment programs.

Delimitations

Delimitations of the present study involve both data collection procedures and generalizability of the results. In this section both of these delimitations are discussed.

Only self-report responses to questionnaires were used to collect data. This procedure cannot guarantee that the responses given accurately described the subjects. What it does describe are the self-perceptions of a group of subjects at a particular time. It has been demonstrated (Edmonds, 1967) that people tend to report their marriages in socially desirable terms, which is referred to as conventionalization. This tendency was controlled to some degree by the conventionalization scale on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory, but
it is not known exactly how much conventionalization influenced these results.

Another delimitation of the study is generalizability. The subjects who participated in this research project were not representative of the general population. The subjects in the present study have received more education and strive for more prestigious occupations than the general population. In addition to the above factors, only a certain proportion of people who were asked to participate in this study agreed to do so. These subjects may therefore not truly represent the characteristics of the groups from which they were selected. This delimitation was controlled to some extent because four independent sample groups were used in the study. Greater generalizability of the results was possible when identified correlational relationships were found in more than one sample.

Another delimitation of the present study was in the design itself. Correlational designs are appropriately used in identifying the magnitude and direction of the relationship between variables as opposed to allowing the determination of cause-and-effect (Hopkins & Glass, 1978). Therefore, causation cannot be concluded from the results of this study.

Assumptions of the Study

The study included the following assumptions:

1. All self-reports of subjects, as noted on the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ) and as recorded on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), were
true and accurate statements.

2. The MSI can accurately measure and quantify aspects of marital satisfaction as perceived by subjects in the present study.

3. The MBTI can accurately determine, measure, and quantify the psychological type of the subjects in the present study.

Definition of Terms

The following terms are defined according to their usage in the present study:

**Attitude:** Pertains to the extroversion/introversion dimension of psychological type and is the first dimension on the MBTI. Involves a person's preference for directing psychic energy in either an external or an internal way.

**Continuous scores:** Allows for a quantitative measure of a subject's preference on each of the four dimensions of the MBTI.

**Conventionalization:** A tendency on the part of a person to distort his or her appraisal or his or her marriage in the direction of social desirability and is one of 11 scales represented on the MSI.

**Extroverted:** A person's preference for directing psychic energy towards the external world of people and objects, as opposed to the internal world of ideas. One of two attitudes represented on the MBTI.

**Feeling:** A person's preference for using his or her instincts, as opposed to logic, as the primary basis for making judgments. One of two rational functions represented on the MBTI.
Function: Pertains to the sensing/intuitive and thinking/feeling dimensions of psychological type on the MBTI. Jung (1921/1971) referred to functions as factors of psychic energy.

Introverted: A person's preference for directing psychic energy towards the internal world of ideas, as opposed to the external world of people and objects. One of two attitudes represented on the MBTI.

Intuitive: A person's preference for using more abstract, as opposed to concrete, methods for perceiving information. One of two irrational functions represented on the MBTI.

Irrational function: The unconscious process by which a person perceives information. Pertains to the sensing/intuitive dimension of psychological type as represented on the MBTI.

Judging: The tendency of a person to rely on the rational functions of thinking and feeling, as opposed to the irrational functions of sensing and intuition, in relating to the world. One of two preferences on the fourth dimension of the MBTI.

Marital adjustment: The process by which a marriage is evaluated. Marital differences, interpersonal tension, dyadic cohesion, and attainment of marital consensus, in addition to marital satisfaction, are all taken into account (Spanier & Cole, 1976).

Marital satisfaction: Subjective feelings of happiness, satisfaction, and pleasure experienced by a spouse when that spouse makes a current evaluation of his or her marriage (Hawkins, 1968).

Perceptive: The tendency of a person to rely on the irrational functions of sensing and intuition as opposed to the rational functions of thinking and feeling. One of two preferences on the fourth
dimension of the MBTI.

Psychological type: Refers to the theory developed by Carl Gustav Jung which enables individuals to be classified into categories based upon personality traits. Operates under the assumption that chance variation in human behavior is not really determined by chance, but is logically the result of basic observable differences in the mental functioning of people (Myers & Myers, 1980).

Rational function: The conscious process by which a person makes judgments. Pertains to the thinking/feeling dimension of psychological type as represented on the MBTI.

Sensing: A person's preference for using more concrete and verifiable, as opposed to instinctual, methods of perceiving information. One of two irrational functions as represented on the MBTI.

Thinking: A person's preference for using logical, as opposed to instinctual, methods for making judgments. One of two rational functions as represented on the MBTI.

Summary

In this first chapter, the purpose, need, and rationale of the study were discussed; delimitations were addressed; and terms were defined. In the following chapters, the literature is reviewed, the method explained, results are described, and conclusions are discussed.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In this chapter relevant literature in the areas of marital satisfaction, psychological type, and the relationship between marital satisfaction and psychological type is reviewed.

Marital Adjustment and Marital Satisfaction

The concepts of marital satisfaction and marital adjustment have been formally studied since early in this century. Articles about marital satisfaction first appeared in the literature in the late 1920s (Hamilton, 1929). Attempts to predict marital adjustment were evident in the 1930s (Burgess & Cotrell, 1939; Terman 1938), and research has continued on this topic at a dramatically increasing pace. Today, marital adjustment and marital satisfaction have become very popular areas of research. In the decade of the 1970s there were approximately 250 articles published and 182 doctoral dissertations written on this topic (Spanier & Lewis, 1980).

Definition

A large amount of diversity exists in the literature regarding the operational definition of the concepts of marital satisfaction and marital adjustment (Spanier & Cole, 1976). The boundaries between these concepts are vague and a great deal of ambiguity regarding the exact criteria of these concepts remains (Kierman & Tallman,
Cutler and Dyer (1965) have addressed marital adjustment as both an ongoing process and as a goal to be achieved. The process of marital adjustment can be viewed as measures taken by either spouse having the purpose of successfully reducing disturbance in the relationship. As a goal, marital adjustment is frequently used interchangeably with marital satisfaction and can be viewed as an end result, or global assessment, of the marital experience.

Locke and Wallace (1959) indicated that there are three main dimensions to marital adjustment and used these dimensions in designing the widely used Locke-Wallace Short Marital Adjustment Scale. These dimensions are: conflict resolution and management, marital satisfaction and happiness, and companionship and consensus. These authors view marital satisfaction as a component of marital adjustment.

Spanier and Cole (1976) evaluated previous definitions of the concept marital adjustment. The authors argued that many past operationalizations and measurements of this concept have been inadequate and that a more complete definition was needed to enhance reliability and validity for future research. Spanier and Cole proposed that the following definition be used as a guide to future research.

Marital adjustment is a process, the outcome of which is determined by the degree of:

1. Troublesome marital differences.
2. Interpersonal tensions and personal anxiety.
3. Marital satisfaction.
4. Dyadic cohesion.

5. Consensus on matters of importance to marital functioning. (pp. 127-128)

As is evident in the above definition, marital satisfaction is again viewed as a component of marital adjustment. These authors view marital satisfaction as a qualitative assessment of a feeling that a spouse possesses at a particular time towards the marriage. Marital adjustment is viewed as a more comprehensive assessment of the marriage.

According to Hawkins (1968), marital satisfaction can be defined as the subjective feelings of happiness, satisfaction, and pleasure experienced by a spouse when that spouse makes a current evaluation of his or her relationship. The author views this variable as a continuum ranging from much satisfaction to much dissatisfaction.

Marital satisfaction can also be viewed and measured in terms of a set of smaller components. Snyder (1979) identified nine dimensions which can be used to measure marital interaction. These dimensions may be used to assess various factors that contribute to an overall assessment of marital satisfaction and have been included as scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (Snyder, 1979). These dimensions are: problem-solving communication, affective communication, time together, disagreement about finances, sexual dissatisfaction, role orientation, family history of distress, dissatisfaction with children, and conflict over child rearing.
Measurement

Marital adjustment and marital satisfaction have traditionally been difficult concepts to measure. Many instruments that have tried to measure these concepts have been found to lack sufficient reliability and validity (Spanier & Cole, 1976). The most direct attempts to measure these concepts are self-report surveys where respondents are asked to evaluate their marriages. While the list of these instruments is growing at an ever-increasing rate, two tests appear to serve as models for the others. These tests are the Locke-Wallace Short Marital Adjustment Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959) and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976).

The Locke-Wallace Short Marital Adjustment Scale is probably the most widely used measure of marital adjustment (Spanier & Cole, 1976). It was constructed with the specific purpose of obtaining accurate assessments of marital adjustment in a minimal amount of time (Locke & Wallace, 1959). It contains 35 items and obtains a global assessment of marital adjustment. It has been reported though that this scale is heavily contaminated because it is socially desirable for subjects to describe their marriages in favorable, and potentially unrealistic, terms (Edmonds, 1967; Edmonds, Withers, & Dibatista, 1972). This tendency for subjects to idealistically report their marriages has been termed conventionalization.

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale borrowed heavily from the Locke-Wallace Short Marital Adjustment Scale, but has the advantage of factor analysis verification (Gosse, 1978/1979). It was designed to
be value free, to be applicable to any type of adult dyadic relationship which is similar to marriage, and to allow subjects to indicate which variables are most important in their relationship (Spanier & Cole, 1976). This instrument still has the limitation of not being able to control for respondent conventionalization.

An instrument that does take conventionalization into account is the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) (Snyder, 1979). This test has the advantage of measuring nine components of marital satisfaction, in addition to having a scale that measures conventionalization. The MSI also has a scale that obtains a global measure of marital distress. This test was selected for use in this study because of these qualities and is reviewed in Chapter III.

Relationship to Other Variables

Sherman, 1981; Wentworth, 1980/1981), and the impact of demographic variables (Canfield, 1983; Canfield, Hovestadt, & Fenell, 1986). This current study has focused upon the concept of marital satisfaction and its relationship to both personality and demographic variables.

Psychological Type

The theory of psychological type was developed by Jung and first published in 1921. This theory emerged out of Jung's clinical experience as a psychiatrist, during which time he observed the recurrence of systematic differences in the personalities of his clients and acquaintances (Gosse, 1978/1979). The theory is based upon Jung's assumption that people can be categorized into psychological types which are a function of a person's particular way of judging and perceiving, and in addition, to what Jung referred to as a preferred attitude toward the world (McCaulley, 1981). These factors contributed to Jung's assumption that random or chance variation in human behavior is not really random, but logically the result of basic observable differences in the mental functioning of people (Myers & Myers, 1980).

According to Jung (1921/1971), an individual's psychological type consists of a combination of his or her preference on each of three dimensions. Each of these dimensions classifies a person into one of two categories.

The first dimension pertains to an individual's attitude toward the world. According to Jung (1921/1971), all people develop an
early preference for relating to the world in either an introverted or extroverted manner, although both of these attitudes are present to some degree in all people. Extroverted (E) individuals demonstrate a preference for relating to the external world of people and objects in their environment, while introverted (I) persons prefer the world of ideas.

In addition to an attitude preference, Jung (1921/1971) also identified four functions that are a part of every individual. Two of these functions, sensing (S) and intuition (I), are termed irrational or unconscious functions and compose the second dimension of a person's psychological type. These functions serve to indicate an individual's preference toward a particular method of perceiving. Sensing and intuition are labeled unconscious because a person tends not to be aware that these processes are occurring. An individual is classified as sensing if he or she tends to rely mainly upon his or her physiological senses for obtaining information. If an individual demonstrates a preference for less concrete and more abstract ways of obtaining information, he or she is more likely to be classified as intuitive on this particular dimension.

The third dimension of psychological type relates to the conscious or, as Jung (1921/1971) termed it, rational function of judgment. On this third dimension an individual is classified as either thinking (T) or feeling (F) based upon his or her preferred method of making judgments. Essentially, people who primarily tend to trust their instincts or "gut" feelings would probably be classified as being feeling oriented. Individuals who prefer to logically analyze
a situation before acting would more likely be classified as having a thinking orientation on this dimension.

The theory of psychological type has been expanded since Jung first conceptualized it. A major addition to this theory was the inclusion of a fourth dimension to the matrix of psychological type. This final dimension was developed by Myers (1962) and classifies a person in terms of a preference for either judging (J) or perceiving (P). Myers developed this dimension as a result of her observations that individuals tend to exhibit a dominant function, and that this function has a significant effect upon that person's personality (McCaulley, 1981). Myers (1962) incorporated this final dimension, along with the other three, into the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which is a test designed to determine an individual's psychological type.

Based upon an individual's preference on each of the above four dimensions, he or she can be classified into one of 16 different psychological types. Certain personality characteristics are associated with each of these types. Jung (1921/1971) believed that differences in psychological type may be at the root of many misunderstandings and conflicts between people, due to natural differences in both perceiving and judging that are associated with each psychological type. Myers and Myers (1980) reported that these differences can explain why people possess particular satisfactions and motivations.
Measurement

The instrument which is most widely used to determine psychological type is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) (Myers, 1962). By 1979, more than 500 studies had been completed and catalogued in which this instrument was used (Carskadon, 1979a). Favorable reliability and validity levels have been established for the use of the MBTI in a number of areas. This test is reviewed in Chapter III of this study.

Marital Satisfaction and Psychological Type

The relationship between marital satisfaction, or marital adjustment, and psychological type is only beginning to be established. Myers and Myers (1980) reported that differences in psychological type between husband and wife can cause friction in a marriage, but that this friction can be reduced or eliminated if these differences are explained to the couple. Several studies have attempted to empirically demonstrate the effects that differences or similarities in psychological type can have on a marriage.

Gosse (1978/1979) studied the relationship between the degree of similarity in the psychological types of a married couple and its effect upon that couple's level of marital adjustment. He also interviewed a number of subjects to gather clinical impressions about the role of psychological type in their marriages. This author used analysis of variance with a planned comparisons design and was unable to find a significant empirical relationship between a couple's level
of marital adjustment and a couple's preference for any single dimension of psychological type. In addition, Gosse was unable to find a significant relationship between a couple's level of marital adjustment and the extent to which a couple was similar across all four dimensions of psychological type. He did report though that a more subtle relationship between marital adjustment and psychological type does exist, and that this relationship was evident in the clinical interviews that he conducted. Gosse reported that various styles and stresses in a marriage appear to be related to psychological type.

Wentworth (1980/1981) also studied the relationship between the degree of similarity in the psychological types of a married couple and its effect upon the level of marital adjustment. She concluded that the amount of similarity in the psychological preferences of a couple are not predictive of that couple's level of marital adjustment. Wentworth did find though that people tend to select mates who are neither totally similar, nor totally dissimilar to themselves in regard to psychological type. She further reported that there is some evidence that couples who are similar on the judging/perceiving dimension of the MBTI are more likely to experience difficulties which are related to that particular aspect of psychological type.

Sherman (1981) focused upon the relationship of various combinations of psychological type and the extent of problems experienced by a couple who have lived together for at least 2 years. Married couples were included in her samples, but marriage was not a necessary requirement for participation in this study. Sherman concluded that there is a relationship between psychological type and the level
of satisfaction that a couple may experience, although predictive validity for combinations of psychological types in marriage was not clearly established. One specific conclusion that this author found was that both introverted and extroverted males report fewer problems when they are in a relationship with an introverted female, and that extroverted females are happier with extroverted males.

Summary

This chapter was divided into three main parts. In the first part of this chapter the literature concerning the definition and measurement of marital satisfaction and marital adjustment was reviewed. Other areas of related research in which these variables are being used were also described. The second part of this chapter reviewed relevant literature regarding Jung's concept of psychological type. The final section of the chapter reviewed literature which pertained specifically to the relationship between marital satisfaction, or marital adjustment, and psychological type.
CHAPTER III

METHOD

In this chapter, subject selection and data collection procedures are described, demographic and familial information about the subject populations are presented, and instrumentation is discussed. Also included within this chapter is a description of the design, an explanation of the statistical procedures used, and the research hypotheses.

Selection of Samples

The subjects used in this study were married persons who were randomly selected from one of two groups. One group consisted of all married students registered at Kellogg Community College (KCC), located in Battle Creek, Michigan. The second group was selected from married couples who recently participated in La Maz classes sponsored through the Kalamazoo Association for Prepared Childbirth (KAPC), Kalamazoo, Michigan. The two Michigan cities are located approximately 25 miles apart in the state's lower peninsula. A total of 100 individuals equally divided between males and females from each of these groups were asked to participate in this study. Subjects from the community college sample were selected from a registration list of active students during the fall semester of 1985, while subjects from the La Maz group were randomly selected from a mailing list of class participants within the last 2 years.
The Kalamazoo Association for Prepared Childbirth is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1970 by a group of potential parents who desired to use the La Maz method of childbirthing. Classes for this method of birthing were not offered in the local area at that time. This group has no particular religious affiliation and is a member of the International Childbirth Education Association. Classes are taught by lay teachers who have both experienced a La Maz birth themselves and completed a 1-year training course. At present there are other groups offering La Maz classes in the area, but this group distinguishes itself from the others because it offers a more extensive La Maz course, requires the participation of a trained coach for every mother, and has smaller classes for more individual attention. Participants who enroll in classes sponsored by this organization will have to pay a higher fee than if they were to enroll in similar classes sponsored by other local groups.

Kellogg Community College (KCC) was founded in 1956 and presently has approximately 4,600 full- and part-time students enrolled in classes. KCC is ranked as an average size community college in the state of Michigan. KCC offers a wide variety of courses, and students have the opportunity to obtain a 2-year associate degree in an occupational program, take coursework with the intention of transferring to a 4-year college or university, or take coursework for their own personal or professional growth. The median age of a KCC student is 26, and this is about 4 years higher than it was 10 years ago. This increase results from many females returning to college after raising their families, and many males returning to obtain
vocational training in order to change careers.

Permission to execute this study was requested to, and granted by, the Human Subjects Review Committee at Western Michigan University. Permission to use sampling groups was granted by both the Kalamazoo Association for Prepared Childbirth and Kellogg Community College, under the stipulation that the identity of this association and college remain anonymous from the subjects who have been selected for the study.

Data Collection Procedures

Data collection procedures employed in this study were adapted from the total design method (Dillman, 1978). This technique of survey research emphasizes a personalized approach from researcher to potential subjects for the purpose of obtaining a maximum response. Potential subjects were contacted by mail during early November 1985 and were sent a testing packet which included a letter explaining the study and asking for their participation (Appendix A), two copies of a letter of consent (Appendix B), the PIQ (Appendix C), the MBTI (Appendix D), the MSI (Appendix E), and a postage-paid envelope which was preaddressed to the researcher. The envelopes were numerically coded in order to protect the subject's confidentiality.

Follow-up postcards were also sent to those subjects who had not returned their testing materials (Appendix F). The first follow-up was mailed 1 week after the initial mailing and the second follow-up was mailed 2 weeks after the first. Subjects were asked to return survey packets between November 4 and December 16, 1985. Of the 200
surveys mailed, 86, or 43%, were returned completed within the allowed time period; an additional 40, or 20%, were returned incomplete. Two individuals who received surveys contacted the researcher and indicated that they were not, and had never been married, and one subject returned a completed survey packet after the deadline. All other potential subjects either did not receive the test materials or chose to discard them. Thus, 57% of the sample surveyed did not acknowledge receipt of the instruments or the two follow-up postcards.

Description of Subjects

In this study, two distinct samples were deliberately established for the purposes of allowing comparisons between groups. The response rates from both groups were almost equal. There were 44 completed surveys returned from the La Maz sample while 42 completed surveys were received from the community college sample. Demographic and familial information about sample groups was obtained from the previously described questionnaire developed specifically for the study.

A wide diversity of subjects participated in this study. The oldest respondent was 67 and the youngest was 18, while the median age was 30. Reported annual family income ranged from $175,000 to $0, with a median of $30,000. There was a broad range of occupations which included physicians, scientists, truck drivers, and factory workers, besides a number of full-time students. Years spent in
formal education ranged from 11 to 20 with a median of 14. A comparison between subject groups will be presented in Chapter IV.

**Instrumentation**

Three independent tests were used to collect data for this study. They are the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), and the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ). Each of these instruments is described below.

**Myers-Briggs Type Indicator**

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is an instrument designed to describe variations in normal attitudes and behavior (McCaulley, 1981). It was developed by Myers and Briggs (Myers, 1962) and is based upon Jung's theory of psychological type, as previously described. The test developers operated under the assumption that a great deal of human behavior is orderly and consistent, and that variation is a function of the way people prefer to use perception and judgment (Myers, 1975). The test yields four standard scores, one for each dimension, or scale, of the MBTI. The test scales are: extroversion (E)/introversion (I), sensing (S)/intuition (I), thinking (T)/feeling (F), and judgmental (J)/perceptive (P).

The MBTI was first published in 1962 by the Educational Testing Service and since that time it has enjoyed a steady rate of growth (McCaulley, 1981). Much of the present research on this test is coordinated through the Center for Applications of Psychological Type (CAPT), which is affiliated with the University of Florida in
Gainesville. An annual journal entitled *Research in Psychological Type* is published to report on some of the research which has been done specifically with this test.

There are two forms of the MBTI, F and G. Form F is the original version and consists of 166 items. Form G was developed during 1975 and 1976 and became available to the professional community in 1977. Form G was developed through normative studies that were designed to recheck the validity of the original items and to eliminate items which were not necessary so that a shorter form could be developed (Myers, 1977). Correlations above .975 have been established for all standard scales between Forms F and G, which allows both versions of the MBTI to be used interchangeably (McCaulley, 1981). Form G was used in this study to decrease the amount of time that subjects would need to complete the test packet.

Reliability data for the MBTI include measures of internal consistency and test-retest reliabilities of the separate scales and the type classifications themselves. The scales on the MBTI have been shown to have a significant internal consistency. Split-half coefficients based upon results from nine samples of college students indicate ranges from .76 to .88 for the EI scale, .75 to .90 for SN, .68 to .86 for TF, and .80 to .85 for JP (Myers, 1962). It has been demonstrated, though, that older and more intelligent samples tend to show higher reliabilities (McCaulley, 1981).

Psychological type has been demonstrated to be a reliable concept (Carskadon, 1979b; Myers, 1962). When changes occur in type, only one preference is usually affected. Preferences that do change
tend to be those that are given a low endorsement by the subject (Howes & Carskadon, 1979; McCaulley, 1981).

In test-retest research the scales on Form G of the MBTI also have been found to possess significant reliability with the exception of the TF scale for males. Carskadon (1979b) found after 7 weeks that reliabilities for male psychology students were .79 for EI, .84 for SN, .48 for TF, and .63 for JP. In a similar study of female students he found reliabilities of .86 for EI, .87 for SN, .87 for TF, and .80 for JP.

There also has been considerable research completed regarding the validity of the MBTI. Most studies which have examined the validity of the MBTI have focused upon how well the test reflects the constructs of Jungian typology, and these studies have found support for the construct validity of the instrument.

An extensive study that supported this hypothesis was completed by Myers and Davis (1964). The authors initially tested 5,300 medical students in the early 1950s and did a follow-up study approximately 12 years later. The research indicated that the subjects chose medical specialties that were consistent with their psychological types. It was further indicated that students who did change specialties did so in a direction that was consistent with their psychological type. For example, students who entered anesthesiology and avoided psychiatry emphasized the more concrete process of sensing, while students who preferred psychiatry over anesthesiology preferred the more abstract process of intuition.
Another area in which the construct validity of the MBTI has been supported is the area of vocational choice. Persons tend to select vocations that are consistent with their psychological type (McCaulley, 1981). For example, engineering tends to attract individuals whose type includes a preference for scales T and J. Within the general field of engineering it has been found that TJ individuals who are more inclined toward intuition (N) go into more theoretical areas such as chemical engineering. More applied areas of engineering, such as civil or industrial, tend to attract individuals who indicate a preference for sensing (S) (McCaulley, 1976b).

While other studies have supported the position that persons of a given psychological type are attracted to vocations that are related to their psychological type (Carlyn, 1976; Miller, 1967; Myers, 1962), it is important to note that all types are found in all occupations. However, certain psychological types exist to a proportionately greater degree in certain vocational fields (McCaulley, 1981).

In sum, the MBTI has been demonstrated to be a reliable and valid instrument. A large amount of research continues to further establish the validity of the MBTI in other areas which include marital and family relationships.

Marital Satisfaction Inventory

This instrument came into publication in 1981 and was developed by Snyder between the years 1978 and 1980. The Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) is a multidimensional self-report measure of marital
satisfaction that consists of 11 scales. These scales are: conventionalization (CVN), global distress (GDS), affective communication (AFC), problem-solving communication (PCS), time together (TTO), disagreement about finances (FIN), sexual dissatisfaction (SEX), role orientation (ROR), family history of distress (FAM), dissatisfaction with children (DSC), and conflict over child rearing (CCR).

The MSI purports to identify separately for each spouse the nature and extent of marital distress through the above scales. It consists of 280 "true or false" items through which each spouse is able to indicate his or her subjective experience of the marriage (Snyder, 1981).

The reliability of the scales on this inventory has been confirmed through studies of internal consistency and test-retest reliability. Internal consistency ratings for the scales using Chronbach's alpha coefficients range from a high of .97 on GDS to a low of .80 on the DSC. These figures were derived from responses of 750 persons with the exception of the two scales referring to children (DSC and CCR). Because these two scales were not relevant to adults who do not have children, the reliability coefficients for these scales were based upon 493 persons (Snyder, 1981).

Test-retest reliability coefficients range between a high of .94 for FAM to a low of .84 on the AFC. These scores were based upon the responses of 37 couples, taken from the general population, who took this inventory twice with an average span of 6 weeks between test administrations (Snyder, 1981).
In spite of only a limited amount of research completed on this instrument to date, the MSI has been labeled as valid and as possibly the best self-report measure for the global assessment of marital satisfaction available (Dixon, 1985). Studies that have been completed offer strong support to the usefulness of the MSI as a means for rapidly determining both the extent and sources of marital distress (Sheer & Snyder, 1984; Snyder, Willis, & Keiser, 1981). Strong correlations between this instrument and other highly regarded measures of marital satisfaction such as the Marital Adjustment Test (Locke & Wallace, 1959) support the construct validity of the MSI at the .01 level of significance (Snyder, 1981).

While the MSI has been found to be a valid test, certain weaknesses also have been cited. For example, the content validity of the ROR, FAM, and DSC subscales is low to the point of raising questions about the usefulness of these subscales (Dixon, 1985). In addition, Snyder (1981) reported that certain demographic factors, such as race, education, and stage of the family life cycle, exert modifying effects that need to be considered when interpreting test scores.

In sum, while some limitations do exist, the MSI has been evaluated as being a reliable and valid assessment of marital satisfaction. It has been selected for this study because the test is highly regarded, because it has never been studied together with the MBTI before, and because it allows marital satisfaction to be studied both as a global measure and as a set of smaller components.
Personal Information Questionnaire

The Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ) was developed to collect demographic and familial data used as predictor variables for this study. These predictor variables include: age (AGE), gender (MF), socioeconomic status (SES), yearly income (YI), time married (TM), presence of children (PC), age of eldest child (AEC), age of youngest child (AYC), number of children (NC), subject's family-of-origin's socioeconomic status (FOS), subject's spouse's family-of-origin socioeconomic status (SSS), subject's perceptions of having a happy childhood (HC), subject's perceptions of whether his or her spouse had a happy childhood (SHC), time spent married prior to having children (TBC), religious commitment (RC), and previous history of divorce (HD). The PIQ consists of 17 questions designed to obtain this essential demographic and familial information.

Design

The study was designed to identify relationships that may exist between aspects of marital satisfaction, as measured by the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). It also examined the correlational relationship of the MSI with selected demographic and familial variables, which were reported in the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ). The above two correlational comparisons using Pearson product-moment correlations (r) were performed on five different subject groupings. The five groups used were:
total subject pool, community college, La Maz, total females, and total males. (See appendix for correlational materials.) A comparison of marital satisfaction with both psychological type and demographic variables with each of these five groups constituted the 10 hypotheses of the study.

All subjects completed the three surveys previously described. All surveys were hand-scored and scores for each subject were tabulated and entered into the DECsystem 10 computer system at Western Michigan University. Correlational analyses were performed using the "STAT PACK" program.

Hypotheses

The 10 hypotheses in this study are:

1. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), in married individuals based upon the total group of subjects in this study.

2. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in married individuals based upon subjects selected from the community college sample.

3. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in married individuals based upon subjects selected from the La Maz sample.
4. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in the sample group of married females.

5. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in the sample group of married males.

6. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables reported on the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ), in married individuals based upon the overall pool of subjects in this study.

7. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in married individuals selected from the community college sample.

8. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in married individuals selected from the La Maz sample.

9. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in the sample group of married females.

10. There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in the sample group of married males.
CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

This chapter is composed of three sections. In the first section sample groups are described. Next, the results of the statistical analyses of the hypotheses are presented. A brief summary of the chapter is then given.

Description of Samples

This study was designed to identify correlations that exist between both marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type, and marital satisfaction and certain demographic variables. Several sample groups were used to improve generalizability, as well as to allow a comparison between groups. Descriptions of the samples used are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

As displayed in Table 1, the La Maz and community college samples are significantly different in terms of: age, years married, ages of their children, and time spent married prior to having children. No significant differences were found between these groups on the descriptors of: income, education, number of children, socioeconomic status of the families-of-origin of either the subject or the subject's spouse, and history of previous divorce. The statistical procedures used to compare group means were t tests and chi squares.
Table 1
Mean Demographic Descriptors of La Maz and Community College Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>La Maz</th>
<th>Community college</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>28.30</td>
<td>37.60*</td>
<td>32.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years married</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>15.33*</td>
<td>9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months married prior to first child</td>
<td>36.73</td>
<td>24.52*</td>
<td>30.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>2.24*</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of eldest child</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>14.02*</td>
<td>8.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of youngest child</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>9.95*</td>
<td>5.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual family income (thousands)</td>
<td>32.91</td>
<td>32.31</td>
<td>32.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education (percentage)</td>
<td>14.25</td>
<td>13.79</td>
<td>14.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of divorce</td>
<td>.11</td>
<td>.19</td>
<td>.15a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status of family-of-origin</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.06a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status of spouse's family-of-origin</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>2.16a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

aIndicates usage of chi squares; all other comparisons used t tests.
*p < .05.
Table 2
Mean Demographic Descriptors of Gender Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>36.88</td>
<td>31.27*</td>
<td>32.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years married</td>
<td>11.69</td>
<td>9.28</td>
<td>9.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months married prior to first child</td>
<td>30.25</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>30.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of eldest child</td>
<td>10.75</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>8.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of youngest child</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>5.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual family income</td>
<td>36.79</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>32.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
<td>14.21</td>
<td>13.95</td>
<td>14.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of previous divorce</td>
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<td>.11</td>
<td>.15a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status of family-of-origin</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.95*</td>
<td>2.06a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status of spouse's family-of-origin</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>2.16a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates usage of chi squares; all other comparisons used t tests.
*p < .01.

As shown in Table 2, males and females in this study differed significantly only in terms of age and socioeconomic status of subject. No significant differences were found when these groups were compared in terms of: years married, time spent prior to having a child, number of children, level of education, annual family income,
reported socioeconomic status of subject's spouse, and history of previous divorce.

Testing of Hypotheses

Ten hypotheses were tested in this study. The results of each hypothesis are presented below.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), in married individuals based upon the total group of subjects in this study.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between the MSI and the MBTI with the total group of subjects (see Table 3). Critical value for $r$ at the .05 level for 86 subjects is .217. The largest number of correlations were found between the sensing/intuitive dimension of the MBTI and the scales on the MSI. Intuitive subjects reported significantly larger amounts of dissatisfaction in the areas of both time and money management, and global assessments of the marriage. These subjects also viewed themselves as having less traditional role relationships with their spouses. Sensing subjects from this group were identified as having a more conventionalized, or idealized, view of their marriages. The only other dimension of the MBTI that was correlated with the MSI for the total subject pool was the judging/perceptive scale. It was found that subjects identified as perceptive also indicated higher levels of global distress.
Table 3

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations
Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and
Continuous Scores on the Scales of the Myers-Briggs
Type Indicator for the Total Group of Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scales on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extroversion/Introversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>-.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>-.021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
Hypothesis 2: There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in married individuals based upon subjects selected from the community college sample.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the \( p < .05 \) level of probability, for all dimensions of the MBTI and a number of scales of the MSI with the community college subject group (see Table 4). Critical value for \( r \) at the .05 level for 42 subjects is .304. Both intuitive and feeling persons reported less traditional role relationships with their spouses. Intuitive persons also indicated more dissatisfaction concerning how time is spent in their marriages. Sensing persons reported more marital idealization, while perceptive persons indicated more global dissatisfaction. Thinking individuals reported more dissatisfaction with sex, and introverted subjects reported higher levels of dissatisfaction with children.

Hypothesis 3: There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in married individuals based upon subjects selected from the La Maz sample.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the \( p < .05 \) level of probability, between the MSI and the MBTI with the La Maz subject group (see Table 5). Critical value for \( r \) at the .05 level for 44 subjects is .304. Persons classified as sensing reported higher levels of marital idealization, while intuition was predictive of global marital distress. Persons classified as thinking also reported more idealization in their marriages, in addition to
Table 4

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Continuous Scores on the Scales of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for the Community College Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scales on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extroversion/Introversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>-.092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>.173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.364*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>-.155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
Table 5

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Continuous Scores on the Scales of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for the La Maz Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Extroversion/Introversion</th>
<th>Sensing/Intuition</th>
<th>Thinking/Feeling</th>
<th>Judging/Perceiving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>.324*</td>
<td>.322*</td>
<td>-.007</td>
<td>.111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>-.111</td>
<td>-.410*</td>
<td>.180</td>
<td>-.090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>-.174</td>
<td>-.065</td>
<td>.103</td>
<td>-.208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>-.110</td>
<td>-.127</td>
<td>.115</td>
<td>-.224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.261</td>
<td>-.251</td>
<td>.201</td>
<td>-.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.251</td>
<td>-.212</td>
<td>.029</td>
<td>-.287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>-.024</td>
<td>.035</td>
<td>.084</td>
<td>-.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.034</td>
<td>-.159</td>
<td>.511*</td>
<td>.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.275</td>
<td>-.272</td>
<td>.271</td>
<td>-.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.067</td>
<td>-.080</td>
<td>-.118</td>
<td>-.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>.024</td>
<td>.007</td>
<td>.168</td>
<td>-.225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
reporting less traditional role relationships with their spouses.

**Hypothesis 4:** There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in the sample group of married females.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between these variables for female subjects in this study (see Table 6). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level for 24 subjects is .381. The sensing/intuitive dimension of the MBTI was most highly correlated with the scales of the MSI for this subject group. Intuitive females reported greater amounts of dissatisfaction concerning the way time is spent with their spouses, the way finances were managed, and in the global assessment of their marriages. These intuitive subjects also indicated having less traditional role relationships with their spouses, while sensing females indicated a more idealized view of their marriages. The only other significant correlation between these two sets of variables in this subject group was that thinking females reported less traditional role relationships with their spouses.

**Hypothesis 5:** There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the MBTI, in the sample group of married males.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, for male subjects in this study group (see Table 7). Critical values of $r$ at the .05 level for 62 subjects is
Table 6

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Continuous Scores on the Scales of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for the Female Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Extroversion/Introversion</th>
<th>Sensing/Intuition</th>
<th>Thinking/Feeling</th>
<th>Judging/Perceiving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>.157</td>
<td>.358*</td>
<td>.151</td>
<td>.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>-.064</td>
<td>-.310*</td>
<td>-.065</td>
<td>-.135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>-.109</td>
<td>-.045</td>
<td>-.023</td>
<td>-.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>-.048</td>
<td>-.145</td>
<td>-.174</td>
<td>-.152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.136</td>
<td>-.320*</td>
<td>-.010</td>
<td>-.166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>-.077</td>
<td>-.269*</td>
<td>-.046</td>
<td>-.144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>-.070</td>
<td>-.029</td>
<td>.087</td>
<td>-.207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.001</td>
<td>-.334*</td>
<td>.308*</td>
<td>-.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.219</td>
<td>-.148</td>
<td>.148</td>
<td>-.131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.111</td>
<td>.028</td>
<td>-.080</td>
<td>-.118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>-.024</td>
<td>-.003</td>
<td>-.137</td>
<td>-.211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
Table 7

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Continuous Scores on the Scales of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for the Male Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scales on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</th>
<th>Extroversion/Introversion</th>
<th>Sensing/Intuition</th>
<th>Thinking/Feeling</th>
<th>Judging/Perceiving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td></td>
<td>.040</td>
<td>.132</td>
<td>-.220</td>
<td>.236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td></td>
<td>.212</td>
<td>-.101</td>
<td>-.234</td>
<td>-.451*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td></td>
<td>.245</td>
<td>-.154</td>
<td>.235</td>
<td>-.248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td></td>
<td>.195</td>
<td>-.249</td>
<td>.321</td>
<td>-.183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.031</td>
<td>-.289</td>
<td>.075</td>
<td>-.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td></td>
<td>.248</td>
<td>-.414*</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>-.280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td></td>
<td>.277</td>
<td>-.121</td>
<td>.221</td>
<td>-.153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td>.144</td>
<td>-.067</td>
<td>.053</td>
<td>-.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td></td>
<td>.101</td>
<td>-.194</td>
<td>.526*</td>
<td>.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.438*</td>
<td>-.060</td>
<td>-.188</td>
<td>-.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.165</td>
<td>-.071</td>
<td>.371</td>
<td>.110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
.250. While significant correlations were found between the scales of these tests, there were fewer significant correlations found for this subject group than any other group in the study. Subjects that were classified as intuitive reported more dissatisfaction in the handling of family finances. Thinking persons indicated greater amounts of family-of-origin distress, and introverted male subjects reported more dissatisfaction with their children.

**Hypothesis 6:** There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables reported on the Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ), in married individuals based upon the overall pool of subjects in this study.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between the MSI and a number of the demographic variables for the total group of subjects (see Table 8). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level for 86 subjects is .217. Ages of the subjects' children were correlated with the most scales on the MSI. It was found that subjects with older children reported more global dissatisfaction and more specific dissatisfaction with the way family finances are managed. These subjects also reported more traditional role relationships with their spouses. In addition, amount of education and family-of-origin socioeconomic status were correlated with the MSI. Higher levels of education were predictive of less traditional role relationships, as well as less dissatisfaction with children. Subjects who were raised in lower- and lower-middle-class homes reported more dissatisfaction with their children in addition to more distress in their family-of-origin. Subjects with spouses
Table 8

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Demographic Measures From the Personal Information Questionnaire for the Total Group of Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scores on the Personal Information Questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>-.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>.121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>.073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>.053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
raised in lower- or lower-middle-class homes reported more conflict with their spouses regarding child rearing. Finally, length of marriage was the only other demographic variable correlated with the MSI for this group of subjects. It was found that longer marriages were predictive of greater levels of dissatisfaction regarding problem-solving communication.

Hypothesis 7: There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in married individuals selected from the community college sample.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between these sets of variables for the community college subject group (see Table 9). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level for 42 subjects is .304. Significance was particularly evident for the scale measuring role orientation, which was predictive of this subject group more than higher age of subject, older children, and longer lengths of marriage. Subjects with spouses raised in upper- and upper-middle-class homes reported higher levels of distress in their own family-of-origin, in addition to more dissatisfaction with affective communication in their present marriages. In addition to the above correlations, lower levels of education were predictive of greater dissatisfaction with children, and subjects with a greater number of children reported more conflicts with their spouses over child rearing.

Hypothesis 8: There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables,
Table 9
Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the
Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Demographic Measures From the Personal
Information Questionnaire for the Community College Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scores on the Personal Information Questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>-.098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>-.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>-.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.477*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>.219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
reported on the PIQ, in married individuals selected from the La Maz sample.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between selected scales of the MSI and a number of different demographic variables (see Table 10). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level for 44 subjects is .304. Both older age and higher levels of education were predictive of less traditional role relationships. Higher income was correlated with less dissatisfaction concerning management of finances, while longer marriages were indicative of greater dissatisfaction concerning the time spent together with spouse. Subjects who were raised in lower- and lower-middle-class homes reported more distress in their families-of-origin, and finally, subjects with older children reported more difficulties with problem-solving communication.

**Hypothesis 9:** There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in the sample group of married females.

Significant correlations exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between these variables for female subjects in this study. More significant correlations were found between these two sets of variables for this group than for any other subject group (see Table 11). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level with 62 subjects is .250. Having older children was found to be predictive of a less idealistic view of marriage, more global marital distress, and higher levels of marital dissatisfaction with both affective and problem-solving communication. Additionally, women with older children reported
Table 10

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Demographic Measures From the Personal Information Questionnaire for the La Maz Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scores on the Personal Information Questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>-.417*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>-.087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>.173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>-.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>.364*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>-.168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
Table II

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Demographic Measures From the Personal Information Questionnaire for the Female Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scores on the Personal Information Questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>-.242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>.267*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>.218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>.053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>-.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>.016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P < .05.
unhappiness about the way family finances were managed. The presence of more children was also correlated with global marital distress and problems with affective communication, in addition to being predictive of dissatisfaction with the way time is spent in the marriage. Lower reported income levels and less time spent married prior to having children were also correlated with dissatisfaction concerning the way finances are handled. Women who obtained higher levels of education reported less traditional role relationships with their spouses and less dissatisfaction with their children. Women raised in lower- and lower-middle-class homes reported more dissatisfaction with their children, in addition to more distress in their family-of-origin. Finally, women with spouses raised in lower- or lower-middle-class homes reported more conflicts with their spouses regarding child rearing.

Hypothesis 10: There is no correlation between marital satisfaction, as measured by the MSI, and demographic and familial variables, reported on the PIQ, in the sample group of married males.

Significant correlations were found to exist, at the $p < .05$ level of probability, between these variables for male subjects in this study (see Table 12). Critical value of $r$ at the .05 level with 24 subjects is .381. Lower levels of income were associated with greater amounts of dissatisfaction in the areas of time spent together, affective communication, and problem-solving communication. Male subjects with fewer children also reported greater dissatisfaction with affective communication, in addition to a preference for more traditional role relationships with their spouses. History of
Table 12

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and Demographic Measures From the Personal Information Questionnaire for the Male Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory</th>
<th>Scores on the Personal Information Questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization</td>
<td>-.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress</td>
<td>.161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication</td>
<td>-.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication</td>
<td>-.078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together</td>
<td>-.131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances</td>
<td>.097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction</td>
<td>-.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation</td>
<td>-.310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress</td>
<td>-.256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children</td>
<td>.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing</td>
<td>.256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05.
previous divorce was predictive of higher levels of global dissatisfaction in the subject's present marriage, and male subjects who were raised in lower- and lower-middle-class homes indicated higher levels of dissatisfaction concerning the way finances are managed.

All results are summarized in Tables 13 and 14 in Appendices D and E.

Summary

The first part of this chapter consisted of a demographic description of the various subject groups used in this study. The results of the 10 hypotheses were then presented. These results, which indicated the existence of a number of significant correlations between the experimental variables used in the study, will be discussed in terms of their implications to the field in Chapter V.
CHAPTER V

DISSERTATION SUMMARY, DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Chapter V will consist of four sections. First, a brief summary of the first four chapters of this study will be given. The next section will be a discussion of the results. The third section will be the conclusions of this investigation; and finally, implications for future research will be suggested.

Summary

An examination of the relationship between marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type and selected demographic variables was the focus of this research. It was undertaken because of the lack of clarity which exists concerning the relationship between the constructs of marital satisfaction and psychological type. The potential benefits of obtaining results that could be helpful to couples engaged in either marital therapy or marital enrichment programs was also a reason for conducting the study. Analysis of demographic variables was included for the purpose of obtaining additional information about the relationship between these variables, psychological type, and marital satisfaction.

A review of the literature was conducted in three main areas. The first area focused specifically on the topic of marital satisfaction. An historical perspective regarding the research in this area
was presented, in addition to a present assessment of the state of the field.

The second area which was reviewed focused upon the concept of Jungian Psychological Type. Once again an historical perspective was given, in addition to a summary of the different areas of research in which this concept has been investigated.

In the final area which was reviewed, research involving the relationship between Jungian Psychological Type and marital satisfaction was described. This section reviewed previous studies which have been completed concerning the relationship between these variables.

Three instruments were administered through the mail to 86 subjects who were randomly selected from two independent sample groups. The instruments used in this study were the Marital Satisfaction Inventory, which consists of 11 scales designed to measure different factors that contribute to marital satisfaction; the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which enables the determination of Jungian Psychological Type; and the Personal Information Questionnaire, which was designed to obtain demographic information. One sample group consisted of participants in La Maz childbirthing classes and the other group was selected from married students at a community college. Two other samples were formed using gender as a variable.

Scores from the surveys were tabulated by hand and analyzed using the STAT PACK program on the DECSYSTEM-10 computer at Western Michigan University. The t-tests and chi squares were performed to determine demographic differences between sample groups.
Correlational analysis was the primary statistical method used to determine the significance of the experimental hypotheses. Ten hypotheses were tested and all were found to contain statistically significant correlations at the $p < .05$ level of probability.

Discussion of the Results

This section is divided into two subsections. In the first subsection results pertaining to the relationship between marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type are presented. The second section focuses upon results concerning the relationship between marital satisfaction and the demographic variables used in the study.

Marital Satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type

The findings of this study indicate that some relationships between the concepts of marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type does exist, although a direct cause-and-effect relationship cannot be appropriately concluded. These findings are discussed below in terms of how each dimension of the MBTI is correlated with the scales of the MSI.

Extroversion/Introversion (EI)

Three correlations were found to be significant between the EI dimension of the MBTI and the scales of the MSI (see Table 3). Of the correlations that were found, no significant relationship was observed between this dimension and any of the scales of the MSI in either the female or total subject groups. Introverted subjects from
the male and community college groups were found to be significantly more dissatisfied with their children and extroverted subjects from the La Maz group indicated a more conventionalized view of their marriages.

The above findings are not surprising since children of the male and community college groups are older than the other groups. Subjects who reported higher levels of dissatisfaction with children are probably dealing with children who are at more rebellious developmental stages. Introverts tend to have a less clear idea of what people are like (Myers & Myers, 1980); and may, therefore, have a more difficult time dealing with rebelliousness.

Higher levels of conventionalization are indicative of a need, on the part of a subject, to maintain an idealistic view of his or her marriage and describe it in more socially desirable terms (Snyder, 1981). Extroverted persons tend to focus on the outer world of people and things, as opposed to the inner world of ideas and understanding, and may possess a tendency towards intellectual superficiality (Myers & Myers, 1980). The La Maz group consists of recent parents and this experience might encourage extroverted subjects to idealistically describe their marriages.

**Sensing/Intuition (SN)**

The SN dimension of the MBTI was correlated with the largest number of scales on the MSI, although no single scale was significantly correlated with this dimension of the MBTI for all subject groups. In total, there were 17 significant correlations between
this dimension and the MSI. Five of the scales of the MSI were correlated with SN and relationships were found for at least three of the subject groups with each of these scales. The scales on the MSI that were correlated with this dimension were: conventionalization, global distress, time together, finances, and role orientation.

Results support the conclusions of Sherman (1981) that the SN dimension is more useful in discriminating satisfied from dissatisfied women than men and that intuitive women report more problems than sensing women. Significant correlations were only found in the area of finances for the male group with intuitive males indicating more problems in this area. Female intuitive subjects also indicated trouble with finances in addition to reporting problems with the way time is spent in the marriage. Both of these areas might have contributed to a significant correlation on the part of intuitive females to indicate global dissatisfaction with their marriages. The community college group also indicated problems in the areas of time together and finances for intuitive subjects, but did not demonstrate the same degree of global dissatisfaction. The La Maz group indicated global dissatisfaction for intuitives, but not the problems with time together and finances. One possible explanation for the relationship between the SI dimension of the MBTI and marital satisfaction is that sensing persons tend to take a more positive view in accepting things for the way they are, whereas intuitive persons are more likely to focus on how things could be.

In four of the five subject groups it was found that high levels of conventionalization are associated with sensing persons. It was
found in three of the groups that intuitive persons prefer less traditional role relationships with their spouse. These findings support the conclusion that sensing individuals are more content with what is and that intuitive persons view marriage in terms of its potential.

**Thinking/Feeling (TF)**

At least one scale of the MSI was correlated with the TF dimension of the MBTI in all subject groups, except for the total subject pool, even though there were only a total of five significant correlations between the scales of the MSI and this dimension of the MBTI. Some of the correlations that were found though appear to be important ones.

Noteworthy correlations were found between the TF dimension of the MBTI and the role orientation scale of the MSI. Feeling subjects in the community college sample and thinking subjects from both the La Maz and female groups all indicated a preference for a less traditional role orientation. One possible explanation of this finding is that thinking oriented persons tend to be more inquisitive (Myers & Myers, 1981) and less accepting of traditional values. This explanation helps explain the above correlation for the La Maz and female groups, but does not help explain the correlation for the community college group. The possibility exists that an interaction effect occurred with the community college sample. Since the subjects from this group are attending college after having been away from school for a number of years, a renegotiation of marital roles is likely.
Feeling subjects might be better suited for this delicate process.

Another significant correlation was found for the TF dimension of the MBTI in the community college subject group. Thinking subjects from this subject group reported significant levels of sexual dissatisfaction. These subjects have been married, on the average, for over 15 years. This finding could mean that more communication is necessary to keep sex interesting. Persons who are thinking oriented might find this type of communication to be more difficult than feeling oriented people.

A final correlation that was found to be significant between the TF dimension of the MBTI and the MSI occurred in the male subject group. It was found that thinking male subjects were more likely to report distress in their family-of-origin than feeling subjects. One possible explanation for this finding is that thinking males might have been discouraged to discuss feelings in their family-of-origin and therefore developed a thinking orientation as a defense.

**Judging/Perceiving (JP)**

The JP dimension of the MBTI was only minimally correlated with the MSI. In fact, only the global dissatisfaction scale of the MSI was found to be significantly correlated with this dimension. Higher levels of global dissatisfaction were found to be associated with perceptive persons in the male, community college, and total subject groups. This finding might be indicative of a need on the part of perceptive persons for new experiences (Myers & Myers, 1981) since the groups where this correlation was found tended to have been
married for a longer period of time when compared with the remaining subject groups.

**Marital Satisfaction and Demographic Variables**

The findings of this study indicate that a relationship between marital satisfaction and demographic variables does exist, although a cause-and-effect relationship cannot appropriately be suggested. These findings are discussed below in terms of how each demographic variable is correlated with the scales of the MSI.

**Age**

Three significant correlations were found between age of the subject and aspects of marital satisfaction. Female subjects reported a significant correlation between increased age and larger amounts of dissatisfaction with affective communication. This finding was not found for the male subject group. These findings support the results found by Olson and McCubbin (1983) that wives report increasing levels of dissatisfaction with marital communication during the child rearing years and that husbands tend to view this communication in a more positive way.

There was also a correlation between role orientation and age. Older subjects from the community college group indicated a preference for more traditional role relationships with their spouse, while older subjects from the La Maz group indicated less traditional role relationships. As mentioned earlier in this study, there was a significant difference in age found between the subjects in community
college and La Maz groups. The differences found between these groups might be attributed to historical differences in the time periods in which these subjects were raised. For example, many of the subjects in the La Maz group were raised during the 1960s, a rebellious time in the history of this society. This might encourage a less accepting attitude on the part of these subjects towards traditional role relationships.

Years Married

Five correlations were found between length of marriage and with marital satisfaction. Similar to the variable of age, subjects from the community college group, who have been married for longer periods of time, indicated a preference for more traditional role relationships with their spouse. This finding also might be due to historical influences.

Length of marriage in the La Maz and female groups were correlated with larger amounts of dissatisfaction in the way time is spent. This might be due to greater time demands experienced by subjects who have been married longer. It was found that length of marriage was significantly correlated with more children in this group of subjects, and this is likely to contribute to a shortage of time.

Significant correlations between these two variables occurred in the area of problem-solving communication with both females and the total group of subjects, and with females in the area of affective communication. It was found that longer marriages were predictive of
more difficulty experienced by these subjects in attempts to resolve problems. These correlations are consistent with the findings on age where it was found that communication problems increase with age in female subjects during the child rearing years. Since there were more than 3 times the amount of female subjects, in comparison to males, in this study, the correlations for the total subject group are probably skewed towards females.

**Time Married Prior to First Child**

The length of time married prior to having a child was correlated with only two scales on the MSI. Female subjects reported fewer disagreements with their spouse about finances if there was a longer time span between the time that they were married and the time that they gave birth to their first child. One explanation for this finding is that fewer financial demands are placed upon couples without children, and that this time period might present an opportunity for a couple to put aside money for the time when they do have a child. It is surprising that this result was not found to be significant in the other subject groups.

**Number of Children**

The number of children that subjects had was significantly correlated with a number of scales on the MSI. This was particularly true for female subjects where it was found that larger numbers of children were predictive of higher levels of dissatisfaction in the areas of: affective communication, problem-solving communication,
time spent together, and global assessment of the marriage. These four scales on the MSI are all highly correlated with each other (Snyder, 1981). These findings support Canfield et al. (1986) who found that subjects from smaller current families report higher levels of satisfaction. These findings were not supported by the results in the male subject group where it was found that less marital dissatisfaction with affective communication existed in larger current families.

A significant correlation was also found between larger current families and higher levels of conflict over child rearing in subjects from the community college group. This might be true because there is less free time available for the couple to spend with their children due to the time demands of being a student. This subject group reported having the largest current families which might also be a contributing factor to this finding.

**Age of Children**

Significant correlations were found between marital satisfaction and age of the eldest child. This finding was particularly evident with female subjects where higher levels of dissatisfaction in the areas of affective communication, problem-solving communication, management of finances, and global assessment of the marriage were all significantly correlated with the presence of older first children. These subjects also reported a less idealized view of their marriages when compared with subjects having younger first children. Some of these significant correlations were also found in the La Maz...
and total subject groups. These findings support family life cycle research which indicates that decreasing levels of marital satisfaction are associated with increasing ages of children up until the time that all of the children leave home (Olson & McCubbin, 1983).

An additional finding between these variables was that the presence of older children was predictive of more traditional role orientations. This was found in both the community college and total subject groups. This is not surprising since there is a wider diversity in the ages of children in the subjects of these groups when compared to the La Maz group. Subjects with older children are more likely to be raised during less rebellious time periods than those with younger children.

These findings were not nearly as evident when the age of the youngest child was correlated with the scales of the MSI. Only greater dissatisfaction with affective communication was significantly correlated with older youngest children in female subjects, and increased levels of global dissatisfaction were found for this variable in the total subject pool.

**Income**

Annual family income was significantly correlated with the scales of the MSI. This was particularly true for the male subject group where there were more correlations found between marital satisfaction and income than any other variable in the study. It was found that lower levels of income were predictive of higher levels of dissatisfaction with affective communication, problem-solving
communication, and in the way family leisure time is managed for this group of subjects. Surprisingly, a significant correlation was not found between income and disagreement over finances in males, even though lower family income was found to be predictive of more financial disagreement in the female, La Maz, and total subject groups. A possible explanation for this finding is that males have traditionally assumed the role of family providers. They may therefore experience more difficulty admitting dissatisfaction in this area and project this dissatisfaction into other areas of the marriage.

**Education**

Levels of subject education were found to be significantly correlated with two scales of the MSI, role-orientation and dissatisfaction with children. Each of the correlations occurred in three of the five subject groups. Subjects from the female, La Maz, and total subject groups with higher levels of education were predictive of preferring less traditional role relationships with their spouse. This finding supports the position of Snyder (1983) that increased education results in less traditional role orientations.

It was also found that increased education is predictive of less dissatisfaction with children. This correlation was found to be significant in the community college, female, and total subject groups. Subjects who have more education might have developed a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the needs of their children, in addition to developing skills that they can give to their children which will enable these children to succeed.
Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic status of both the subject's and the subject's spouse's family-of-origin were found to be significantly correlated with current marital satisfaction. The family history of distress and dissatisfaction with children scales of the MSI were particularly associated with subjects' reports of their family-of-origin socioeconomic status. It was found in the female, La Maz, and total subject groups that being raised in lower and lower-middle class homes was predictive of higher levels of perceived distress in the subject's family-of-origin. One of many possible explanations for this finding is that financial problems place greater amounts of stress on a family, and this leads members of lower class families to perceive more distress in their families. Historical influences might also be exerting an influence upon these correlations since these findings were only significant in the three subject groups with the lowest mean ages.

A significant correlation between lower family-of-origin socioeconomic class and higher levels of current dissatisfaction with children was also found in the female and total subject groups, in addition to being found in the male group. This finding supports the position that family-of-origin experiences affect perceived levels of current family functioning (Canfield et al., 1986; Snyder, 1983).

Finally, correlations were also found to be significant between lower socioeconomic status of the subject's spouse's family-of-origin and more frequent current conflicts over child rearing. This was
evident in both the female and total subject groups. This is another example where family-of-origin experiences influence current family perceptions.

**Divorce**

History of previous divorce correlated only with the global dissatisfaction scale on the MSI, and this occurred only with the male subject group. Male subjects reported more dissatisfaction with their current marriages if they have a previous history of divorce. This finding needs to be interpreted cautiously because only 6 male subjects indicated that they had previously been divorced. Therefore, only minimum confidence may be attributed to the assumption that a previous divorce has an influence upon current marital satisfaction.

**Conclusions**

Two major conclusions were formulated based upon the results of this study. First, there is a statistically significant, but limited, relationship between marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type; and second, there is a statistically significant, but limited, relationship between marital satisfaction and certain demographic variables. Each of these conclusions will be discussed independently.
Marital Satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type

In each of the five subject groups, significant correlations were discovered between marital satisfaction, as measured by the scales on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI), and Jungian Psychological Type, as determined by scores on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Correlations were inconsistent and not found to be significant in all subject groups for a given dimension on the MBTI, and a particular scale of the MSI. Therefore, only a limited, and mixed, relationship between these two variables may be assumed as a finding of this study. Had a more conservative, clinically oriented criterion, such as the shared variance interpretation of correlational data, been applied, there might have been scant relationships to report.

The sensing/intuitive dimension of the MBTI was most highly correlated with marital satisfaction. Significant correlations were found in the majority of subject groups, including the total subject group, indicating that intuitive persons reported higher levels of dissatisfaction in the areas of finances, leisure time, and global views of the marriage. Intuitive persons also preferred a less traditional role relationship with their spouse and sensing persons reported a more idealized view of their marriages. The findings indicate intuitive persons might experience more difficulty finding satisfaction in marriage, particularly in the areas of money and time management.
There were three significant correlations found between the judging/perceiving dimension of the MBTI and the scales of the MSI. The significant correlations which were found indicated that perceptive persons experience more global marital distress when compared to judging persons. Thus, perceptive persons might also have a more difficult time finding satisfaction in marriage.

**Marital Satisfaction and Demographic Variables**

A similar pattern was found in the correlations between marital satisfaction and demographic variables as was discovered in the correlations between marital satisfaction and psychological type. Significant correlations were found between, at least, one scale of the MSI and every demographic variable in at least one subject group. However, no significant correlations were found between any scale of the MSI and any demographic variable in all subject groups. It was concluded that aspects of marital satisfaction may be correlated with demographic variables, but not in the same way for all groups of people.

Results did support the aspect of family life cycle theory which indicates that marriage becomes less satisfying as children mature, although this finding was significant only in the female and total subject groups. It can also be concluded that females experience less satisfaction as their families become older and larger.

Education and socioeconomic status of families-of-origin were both found to be significant influences upon current levels of dissatisfaction with children in the majority of subject groups. Higher
levels of education in females were predictive of more positive evaluations of their children. This finding was also significant for the total subject group. Lower levels of family-of-origin socio-economic status were concluded as predictive of higher levels of current dissatisfaction with children. This finding was true for both males and females, in addition to being significant with the total group of subjects.

Implications for Future Research

The major purpose of this study was to examine and clarify the relationship between marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type. The findings of the study lend support to the position that there are some relationships between marital satisfaction and Jungian Psychological Type, but also indicate that this relationship still needs further clarification in order to develop accurate guidelines for clinical work with individuals and couples.

A second purpose of the study was to explore the relationship between marital satisfaction and certain demographic variables. The findings of this study confirmed the existence of a relationship between marital satisfaction and these demographic variables, but indicated that these relationships also need further clarification.

A large number of variables were explored and wide diversity was found in the perceptions of independent groups of individuals regarding their experience of marital satisfaction in a number of different areas. Studies using fewer variables and focusing upon specific aspects of marital satisfaction, with specific groups of people, may
be useful in establishing guidelines for clinical work with a particular group of people. Preliminary factor and regression analyses indicated that these statistical procedures might be more productive in future studies if done in conjunction with correlational analyses. Future studies might also employ statistical procedures and experimental designs which will allow cause-and-effect relationships to be established between particular personality or demographic variables and aspects of marital satisfaction.
APPENDICES
Appendix A

Cover Letter
TO: Research Participants

FROM: Lawrence Beer, M.S.
     Doctoral Candidate
     Counseling Psychology
     Western Michigan University

As a doctoral candidate, I'm conducting a study to determine the relationship between certain personality traits and marital satisfaction. It is my hope that the information obtained through this study can be used to help married people improve their marriages.

You can help me help others by participating in the study on a volunteer basis. This will require approximately 1 1/2 hours of your time at home to complete the three enclosed questionnaires. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

Please follow these instructions:

1. Complete the three enclosed questionnaires. Take your time and answer each question as accurately as possible. It is important that you do not receive any help from your spouse in answering the questions.
2. Sign the enclosed consent forms.
3. Return one (signed) consent form and the three completed questionnaires to me in the enclosed pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope as soon as possible (the second consent form is for your records).

Because of the expense involved in providing the enclosed materials, please return the three questionnaires to me whether or not you complete them. All participants who return completed questionnaires and a signed consent form will receive a final report of the study.

Your participation is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Beer, M.S.
Doctoral Candidate

Robert Betz, Ph.D.
Professor
Dissertation Chairperson
Appendix B

Consent Form
CONSENT FORM

I give permission to participate in a research project being conducted by Lawrence Beer, a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University. I understand that only Mr. Beer will see the results of the questionnaires that I will be asked to complete unless I give him permission to share these results with any other person. I realize that in reporting the data my identity will not be known. I also realize that I may withdraw from this study at any time and will not receive any money for my participation.

I have read and understand the procedures described above. I agree to participate in the procedures and I have received a copy of this description.

Signature ___________________________

Witness ___________________________

Investigator ___________________________

Lawrence Beer, M.S.
Appendix C

Personal Information Questionnaire
PERSONAL INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions: Please write the most accurate answer for each question. 
Do not put your name on this questionnaire. All information is confidential and will be used only for group statistical purposes.

1. Are you married and currently living with your spouse?

2. Do you have at least one child living in your household?

3. Please indicate your sex.

4. What is your age?

5. What is your occupation?

6. What is your current annual family income?

7. What is your level of education?

8. How many children do you have?

9. Have you ever been divorced?

10. Did you have a happy childhood?

11. Do you think your spouse had a happy childhood?

12. What was the social class of the family you grew up in?

13. What was the social class of the family your spouse grew up in?

14. How old is your eldest child?

15. How young is your youngest child?

16. Do you consider yourself to be a religious person?

17. How long of a period was it between the time you first were married and the time you had your first child?
Appendix D

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Mean Scores on the Scales of the MSI and Mean Continuous Scores on the Scales of the MBTI for All Subject Groups
Table 13
Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Mean Scores on the Scales of the MSI and Mean Continuous Scores on the Scales of the MBTI for All Subject Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the MSI</th>
<th>Extroverted/Introverted</th>
<th>Sensing/Intuitive</th>
<th>Thinking/Feeling</th>
<th>Judgmental/Perceptive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventionalization (CNV)</td>
<td>0 0 E 0 0</td>
<td>S S S S 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global distress (GDS)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>N O N N O</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>P P O O P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective communication (AFC)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving communication (PSC)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time together (TTO)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>N N O N O</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreement about finances (FIN)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>N N O N N</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual dissatisfaction (SEX)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 T O O O</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role orientation (ROR)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>N N O N O</td>
<td>0 F T T O</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of distress (FAM)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 T</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with children (DSC)</td>
<td>0 I 0 0 I</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over child rearing (CCR)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.  \( p < .05 \)
T = Total subject group
C = Community college
L = La Maz
F = Females
M = Males
Appendix E

Significant and Nonsignificant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Mean Scores on the Scales of the MSI and Mean Scores of Selected Demographic Variables
Table 14
Significant and Non-significant Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Mean Scores on the Scales of the MSI and Mean Scores of Selected Demographic Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales on the MSI</th>
<th>Demographic scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TCLFM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONV</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTO</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIN</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAM</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSC</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COR</td>
<td>0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. p < .05.

AS = Age of subject  T = Total subject pool
YM = Years married  C = Community college
TBC = Time married before first child  L = La Paz
NC = Number of children  F = Female
AEC = Age of eldest child  M = Male
AYC = Age of youngest child  FI = Family income
YE = Years of education  YE = Years of education
PD = Previous divorce  SES = Socioeconomic status
SEX = Socioeconomic status  SSS = Socioeconomic status of spouse
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