

THE DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY IN PREDICTING INTENTION TOWARDS INFIDELITY AMONG MARRIED COUPLES IN MALAYSIA

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THE DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY AND INTENTION TOWARDS INFIDELITY
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Couples in Malaysia
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THE DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY AND INTENTION TOWARDS INFIDELITY

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THE DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY AND INTENTION TOWARDS INFIDELITY

Approval Form

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Abstract

Nowadays, the number of divorce cases has been continuously increasing in Malaysia. One of the main reasons is the infidelity issue in a romantic relationship. Thus, a quantitative, cross-sectional study was used to examine the predictive effect of the Dark Triad personality on intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. An online survey was distributed to 87 Malaysian married couples using a purposive sampling method. The instruments used in the survey questionnaires were Short Dark Triad (SD3), and the Intentions Towards Infidelity Scale (ITIS). The data collected was analysed on SPSS by using Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). The results suggested that psychopathy was the only element of Dark Triad personality traits that significantly predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. The results of the study can serve as a reference for practitioners such as marital counsellors in dealing with marital issues among couples in Malaysia.

Keywords: Intention towards infidelity, Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, married couples

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Declaration

We declare that the material contained in this paper is the result of our own work and that due acknowledgement has been provided in the bibliography and references to ALL sources be they printed, electronic or personal.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations

Explanation

CR Composite Reliability

AVE Average Variance Extracted

SD3 Short Dark Triad

ITIS Intention Towards Infidelity Scale

LHT Life History Theory

Chapter I

Introduction

Background of study

The advance of technology has increased the number of couples who involve in committing infidelity as smartphone offers many applications such as Tinder that allows an individual to meet and get to know other people from different locations. Previously, having an affair in a relationship or family was taboo in Malaysian society. However, infidelity seems to be common and acceptable among married couples in this modern year. A cross- national Durex survey from 36 countries found that 33% of Malaysian participants responded that they had have engaged in infidelity (The Nation, 2012).

According to the Department of Statistic Malaysia (2019), there were over 50,000 divorce cases in the years 2017 and 2018. The number of divorce rates had increased by 0.1% from 50,314 cases to 50,356 cases (Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2019). It was also noted that the Selangor state had recorded the highest number of divorce cases in Malaysia in the years 2017 and 2018 with 24,603 cases (Haroon, 2020). The main reason behind this issue was mainly due to infidelity behaviour involved among married couples. The former Malaysian Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community development, Hannah Yeoh commented that the highest case of divorces in Malaysia was aged between 30 to 34 years old and the reason for the divorce was due to lack of understanding and then followed by infidelity (Kumar, 2019).

If the alarming divorce rate continues in Malaysia, it will lead to negative consequences such as more single-parent households in Malaysia. The increasing rate of children with single parents is detrimental as it can induce various adverse effects on the children. For instance, Barron (2010) stated that children of divorced parents tend to experience a higher chance of an emotional problem, academic problem, relationship

issues, and cognitive disadvantage. In addition to that, Kelly and Emery (2003) also found that children of divorce tend to report more depression and behavioural problems during their adulthood.

Infidelity is defined as unfaithfulness by being undependable or having an affair outside a relationship (Garg & Ruhela, 2015; Zare, 2011). Hence, cheating on spouses or infidelity is an immoral behaviour in a relationship. The three dark personality traits namely, Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy are found to link with a set of immoral actions that affect one's communication and personal relationship with others (Horan, 2014). Consequently, a myriad of past studies has bridged a positive association between the Dark Triad personality trait and infidelity (Alavi et al., 2018; Jones & Weiser, 2014; Sevi et al., 2020; Weiser & Weigel, 2015). In other words, the Dark Triad personality traits are consistently predicted by infidelity which illustrates a strong predictive effect between these two variables. Thus, as stated by Jones et al. (2011), one of the key elements to understand infidelity behaviour is through the Dark Triad personality traits.

To conclude, infidelity seems to be a fertile ground for individuals that high on Dark Triad personality. Hence, this research will be examining the predictive effect of the Dark Triad personality (i.e., Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism) in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Problem Statement

There are few purposes for examining the Dark Triad personality and one's intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. Firstly, there are limited research conducted in Malaysia on Dark Triad personality in determining infidelity behaviour in the Malaysian context. Although the topic of infidelity was widely discussed in Malaysia, there are only two researchers, Alavi et al. (2018) and Ibrahim et al. (2019),

that focused on Dark Triad personality and infidelity behaviour among unmarried couples in Malaysia. Alavi et al. (2018) also stated that the needs to study Dark Triad personality and infidelity in Malaysia are essential as it is still unclear the association between Dark Triad personality and one's infidelity behaviour. Many of the past studies in Malaysia pay more attention to the external factors such as lack of communication, responsibility problem, long-distance relationship and dissatisfaction in a relationship (Ibrahim et al., 2019) that lead to infidelity behaviour rather than internal factors like individual personality, gender differences, attitudes, attachment styles and relationship experiences (Urganci & Sevi, 2019). Besides, the increasing divorce rate in Malaysia gives alarming salience in investigating married couple. Therefore, this study will be examining the predictive effect of the Dark Triad personality in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Secondly, most of the past studies related to the topic of infidelity were conducted in the Western and European countries such as the United States (Jones & Weiser, 2014; Moore et al., 2020), United Kingdom (Brewer et al., 2015), Italy (Adamopoulou, 2013) and Turkey (Altinok & Kilic, 2020; Sevi et al., 2020). Thus, researchers need to examine the factors that lead to infidelity behaviour in the Malaysian context as this topic has been studied extensively by Western and European researchers but not in the Asian context. The findings of other countries may not reflect similarly to the population of Malaysia due to peculiar reasons such as social-culture differences (Alavi et al., 2018). Hence, this study aims to examine the predictive effect of the Dark Triad personality in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in the Malaysian context.

Since many past researchers found inconsistency of findings on Dark Triad personality and infidelity behaviour (Brewer et al., 2015; Ibrahim et al., 2019; Jones & Weiser, 2014; Moore et al., 2020), it is still unclear whether the Dark Triad personality

significantly predicts infidelity behaviour. Many past researchers (Alavi et al., 2018; Brewer et al., 2015; Brewer & Abell, 2015) found that Machiavellianism was significantly predicting infidelity behaviour which contradicts the finding of Adam et al. (2014). Moreover, few researchers stated that narcissism does not predict infidelity behaviour (Alavi et al., 2018; Jones & Weiser, 2014), however, in the findings of Adam et al. (2014), Ibrahim et al. (2019) and Altinok and Kilik (2020) found these findings to differ from the past studies. One of the strong predictors of infidelity behaviour is psychopathy which was found by Jones and Weiser (2014) and supported by many other past studies as well (Alavi et al., 2018; Toplu-Demistas & Fincham, 2018).

In conclusion, there are a limited study in Malaysia and inconsistency in the past findings among western countries that provides the current study a solid ground to conduct quantitative research in examining the predictive effect of Dark Triad personality in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Research Question

- i. Does Machiavellianism predict intention towards infidelity amongst married couple in Malaysia?
- ii. Does narcissism predict intention towards infidelity amongst married couple in Malaysia?
- iii. Does psychopathy predict intention towards infidelity amongst married couple in Malaysia?

Research Objective

- To examine the predictive effect of Machiavellianism in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.
- To examine the predictive effect of narcissism in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

iii. To examine the predictive effect of psychopathy in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Hypotheses

- H1: Machiavellianism positively predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.
- H2: Narcissism significantly predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.
- H3: Psychopathy positively predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Significance of Study

This study aims to enrich the knowledge gap by examining the association between Dark Triad personality and intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. As the number of divorce cases is rising throughout the years, thus the need to address this problem is essential as it can serve as statistical evidence to help to increase the awareness of the rising divorce rate in Malaysia.

Besides, this study will serve as new knowledge in the field of psychology especially in the Malaysian context as the topic of Dark Triad personality and intention towards infidelity in Malaysia are still considered something new. Furthermore, this study can also be a reference material or guide for future researchers to assist them in conducting a similar study in a different context. Hence, it can help future researchers who are drawn to investigate Dark Triad personality and one's intention towards infidelity.

Lastly, this study can help professionals such as practitioners, counsellors, and government to have a better understanding of the predictive effect that Dark Triad personality has on one's intention towards infidelity. The information, it allows them to introduce an effective and efficient intervention as well as a prevention programme to

reduce rising divorce issues in Malaysia. Besides that, the government and counsellor also can utilize the findings of this study to plan an intervention programme to help married couples who experience infidelity in their marriage and seeking help in saving their marriage from divorce. Thus, this study can help to overcome the increased rate of divorce cases in Malaysia.

Definition of Terms

Infidelity

Conceptual definition: Infidelity defines as unfaithfulness by being undependable or having an affair outside a relationship (Garg & Ruhela, 2015; Zare, 2011). There are three types of infidelity: emotional, sexual, and online infidelity. Emotional infidelity is known as one's placing their emotional resources such as love, attention, and time to another person who is outside of one's partner (Tan et al., 2016). Sexual infidelity refers to having sexual activities with someone other than their long-term partner (Tan et al., 2016) and online infidelity is comprised of both sexual and emotional intimacy but through online contact (Aviram & Amichai-Hamburger, 2005).

Operational definition: Intention towards Infidelity Scale (ITIS) will be used in this study to examine the likelihood of one engaging in infidelity behaviour (Jones et al., 2011). The higher the total score, the stronger one's intention towards infidelity.

Dark Triad Personality

Conceptual Definition: Dark Triad personality consists of three different elements which are Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism. Machiavellians are characterized as individuals who are strategic calculating orientation, callous effect and manipulative (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). An individual with this trait usually plans things accordingly and build their connection with other people. They like to manipulate people around them and uses tactics to protect their reputations. Whilst for psychopathy is impulsive, pay less attention to their

reputation and tend to abandon their family and friends (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Thus, impulsivity is one of the important keys to differentiating Machiavellians and psychopathy behaviour. Meanwhile for narcissism defined by Jones and Paulhus (2013, p 29) is "a clash between a grandiose identity and underlying insecurity".

Operational Definition: Dark Triad personality will be measured by using Short Dark Triad (SD3) (Jones & Paulhus, 2013) which consists of Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism. Respondents with higher scores indicate a higher level of each Dark Triad personality.

Married Couples

Conceptual definition: According to the America Heritage Dictionary of English Language, Marriage (2011) is defined as a social institution whereby a man and women define themselves as husband and wife by religious or legal.

Operational definition: Couples who registered their marriage under the National Registration Department, Malaysia.

Chapter II

Literature Review

Review Analysis

Infidelity

The definition of infidelity is a destruction of a couple's expected or specified contract concerning emotional and/or sexual exclusivity (Haseli et al., 2019). It is reported as one of the most common sources of divorce between married couples (Amato & Previti, 2003; Gordon & Mitchell, 2020; Knopp et al., 2017; Scott et al., 2013). Two types of infidelity may be engaged by individuals in romantic relationships, which are emotional infidelity and sexual infidelity (Blow & Hartnett, 2005; Weiser et al., 2017). Sexual infidelity can be defined as an individual is cheating on his or her partner by having sexual intercourse with another person who is not his or her partner (Guitar et al., 2017).

Meanwhile, emotional infidelity can be defined as an individual emotionally ignores or rejects his or her partner by spending more time to think or be with another person who is not his or her partner (Guitar et al., 2017).

There were a few consequences of infidelity in a marriage. One of the consequences is substantial economic loss (Gordon & Mitchell, 2020; Crouch & Dickies, 2016). Past studies also denoted that individuals face the onset of depression and anxiety when their partners commit infidelity in their relationships (Cano & O'Leary, 2000; Couch et al., 2017). Moreover, a person will experience inimical mental health symptoms, counting anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress symptoms when he or she is being cheated by their partner or spouse (Bird et al., 2007; Gordon & Baucom, 1999; Shrout & Weigel, 2020).

The occurrence of infidelity in a romantic relationship is due to factors that related to sex, age, sterility, socio-economic, and occupation which are responsible for further

marital issues (Akorede et al., 2018; Ogwukhademhe & Ishola, 2013). Furthermore, these studies also indicated that the most significant factors that contributed to infidelity in marriage are the partner's low level of sexual desire, husband's or wife's sexual dissatisfaction, and impotence.

Psychopathy and Infidelity

Psychopathy has been linked to infidelity in a myriad of past studies due to its dark nature. This trait is often distinguished by its subtypes which are primary and secondary psychopathy to provide a clear direction of the research. These subtypes paint a classic nature vs nurture distinction. For instance, primary psychopathy is strongly rooted in emotional deficiencies that are caused by serotonin hyperstability and limbic hyperresponsivity (Yildrim & Derksen, 2015) which require intensive medical intervention. Secondary psychopathy on the other hand, is an accumulation of harsh and challenging environments that can be placed on the same domain as a borderline personality disorder (Yildrim & Derksen, 2015).

Brewer et al. (2015) conducted a study in determining psychopathy influence on infidelity among students in Britain successfully delineate secondary psychopathy as a significant predictor of infidelity. A much recent study done in America among a multiracial sample corroborated this finding where primary psychopathy failed to predict infidelity which Warach et al. (2018) explained that primary psychopathy will be a better variable for serial infidelity rather than a one-time offender. Therefore, this finding supports this research utilization of the Short Dark Triad (SD3) as the instrument in assessing psychopathy because the constructs are leaning more towards secondary psychopathy (Jones & Paulhus, 2014).

A study by Alavi et al. (2018) conducted in Malaysia utilizing SD3 among nonmarried couples successfully produced a strong correlation between psychopathy and intention towards infidelity in comparison to the other two traits in the Dark Triad.

Consistently, a similar finding also found among American sample that incorporated a similar instrument among non-married couples also supports psychopathy as the strongest predictor of attitudes towards infidelity (Sevi et al., 2020). In addition, despite administering different instruments in assessing psychopathy, a study among non-married multiracial Canadian undergraduate students depicted that individual with high psychopathy trait tend to report more sexual partners and having had an affair (Visser et al., 2010).

Although consistency in psychopathy traits can be seen as it predicts attitude, intention and actual infidelity, these findings are only limited to non-married couples. Therefore, this study aims to expend the analysis to married couples in Malaysia as well as expanding Alavi et al., (2018) study as the only research in Malaysia that highlighted the association between psychopathy and intention towards infidelity.

Machiavellianism and Infidelity

Machiavellianism and psychopathy are commonly misunderstood and used interchangeably due to the aversive nature of the trait. According to Jones and Paulhus, (2011) impulsivity element in psychopathy is the key distinction from Machiavellianism. Therefore, the defining component of Machiavellianism is manipulativeness and strategic calculating orientation (Jones & Paulhus, 2014).

Machiavellianism is a significant predictor of intention towards infidelity in Malaysia (Alavi et al., 2018) and consequently echoing Brewer and Abel (2015) finding among Britain's sample. Both researchers have arrived at the same conclusion although the different instrument is applied in assessing Machiavellianism proving the validity of the Short Dark Triad (SD3) and Mach IV in assessing Machiavellianism across culture. In addition to that, both studies used non-married couples as their sample.

Furthermore, a study in America among multiple ethnicities on a large sample of

884 participants also provided a consistent result of Machiavellianism predicting infidelity (Jones & Wiser, 2014). However, the research utilized a peculiar way of collecting data on infidelity. Participants were asked two questions which comprise of "Have you ever been unfaithful to your current (or most recent) partner?" and "Did the infidelity cause the end of the relationship?" therefore the result might differ when a validated instrument is applied. Interestingly, among 22% of participants who admitted committing infidelity, 78.2% did not end in relationship dissolution or break up especially those who score high in Machiavellianism. One explanation provided by the author is, due to strategic calculating orientation and manipulative nature of Machiavellianism makes an individual high on this trait to be more careful and cunning in handling consequences following infidelity.

In conclusion, consistent findings on Machiavellianism research to infidelity in the past did not extend to married couples. However, the consistency in finding proved the validity of the different versions of the Machiavellianism instrument. Lastly, past studies also demonstrate relationship sustainability of Machiavellian individual that committed infidelity confirming the defining element of Machiavellianism as strategic and manipulative.

Narcissism and Infidelity

The growing literature on narcissism has recognized two subtypes of this personality trait namely, grandiose narcissism and vulnerable narcissism (Dickinson & Pincus, 2003; Hart et al., 2017; Jauk et al., 2017; Weiss & Miller, 2018). Grandiose narcissism refers to an individual with high self-esteem, aggrandized sense of ability and optimistic self-view while a narcissistically vulnerable person has fluctuant self-views, low self-esteem and highly facile beliefs about their competencies (Krizan, 2018). A study by McCain et al. (2016), proved grandiose narcissism shared a similar profile with narcissism depicted in SD3 as stated by Jones and Paulhus (2014) in developing the instrument. Therefore, the present

study will be focusing on grandiose narcissism in predicting intention towards infidelity.

There was only two research conducted in Malaysia in the association between infidelity and narcissism (Alavi et al., 2018; Ibrahim et al., 2019). Firstly, a study by Alavi et al. (2018) on young adults in Malaysia ranging from age 18 to 40 found that narcissism is the only trait in the dark triad that did not predict intention toward infidelity. One justification by the author is that mere sexual connection with another person does not satisfy the grandiose, superior and interpersonal arrogance nature of narcissism that could be fulfilled with an emotional connection beforehand.

Another study in Malaysia was conducted by Ibrahim et al. (2019) among 160 Malay students from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in predicting attitude towards infidelity. The result yielded a significant correlation between narcissism albeit the contribution is low.

These findings in Malaysia show a small to no correlation between narcissism and infidelity can be explained by McNulty and Widman (2018) that stated more specific domains are needed to assess infidelity such as the Sexual Narcissism Scale which has provided more consistent result in predicting infidelity.

Besides that, inconsistency in findings can be seen in Western countries. For example, a study among American undergraduate students with an average age of 21 depicted a strong correlation between narcissism and attitude towards infidelity (Shimberg et al., 2015). However, another study in the Czech Republic among undergraduate students with an average age of 24 failed to predict attitude towards infidelity (Uthaug, 2016). The result differs although both studies implemented similar instrument for both narcissism and infidelity which is Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988) and Attitudes Towards Infidelity Scale (Whatley, 2006) respectively. These findings show that cultural differences are the source of inconsistency as well as confuting McNulty and Widman (2018) that stated specific domain of narcissism instrument needed in predicting infidelity.

To summarize, grandiose narcissism will be assessed in this study as opposed to vulnerable narcissism. A limited study in Malaysia between narcissism and infidelity can be seen. Besides, the incongruency of findings in western countries indicated the importance of emphasizing cultural context. Therefore, the current study aims to examine the predictive effect of grandiose narcissism in predicting infidelity among married couples in the Malaysian context.

Theoretical Framework

Life History Theory

Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism are known as dark personality traits. These three specific traits are chosen as predictors in studying infidelity via the linkage provided by Life History Theory (LHT) specifically the fast life history strategy. LHT is a mid-level evolutionary biology theory that often adopted in psychological research in addressing the existence of energy trade-off, the variation of an individual trait along fast- slow continuum and the influence of early childhood environment in adapting fast or slow strategy (Chen et al., 2017; Nettle & Frankenhuis, 2020)

LHT discusses the strategic distribution of material and bioenergetic resources between somatic effort and reproductive effort (Figueredo et al., 2006). The focus in this study is the reproductive effort which refers to the allocation of resource that paramount for the mating effort which includes high reproductive rate and survival of the genes as opposed to the somatic effort that allocates resource in emphasizing survival of an organism which includes slow reproduction rate (Figueredo et al., 2006; Giudice et al., 2015). The strategic allocation of resources for the reproductive effort is called the fast life history strategy that practices high mating effort, have low self-control and exhibit behaviours that are socially undesirable (Furnham et al., 2013) due to unpredictable environment and high fatality risk (McDonald et al., 2012). In conjunction with that,

Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy have indicated a strong correlation to fast life history strategy (Jonason et al., 2017; Manson, 2020). Consistently, a cross-cultural study by Valentova et al. (2019) found that the Dark Triad trait is associated with high mating effort. Therefore, these findings suggest that individuals who are high in Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism are more likely to engage in infidelity by having multiple sexual partners due to primarily lack of self-control that rooted in their personality.

Conceptual Framework

In this study, there are three independent variables namely, Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy also known as the Dark Triad personality and intention towards infidelity as the dependent variable. LHT has provided a link between infidelity and Dark Triad personality trait through the fast life history strategy. This strategy emphasizes high mating effort that leads to having multiple sexual partners which leads to infidelity among married couples. A plethora of past studies has identified a robust correlation between the Dark Triad personality and infidelity (Alavi et al., 2018; Jones & Weiser, 2014; Sevi et al., 2020; Weiser & Weigel, 2015) but not among married couples. Therefore, this study aims to examine the predictive effect of three elements from Dark Triad personality (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy) in predicting intention towards infidelity as well as expanding Alavi et al. (2018) research among married couples as the only research in Malaysia that underscore the association between these variables.

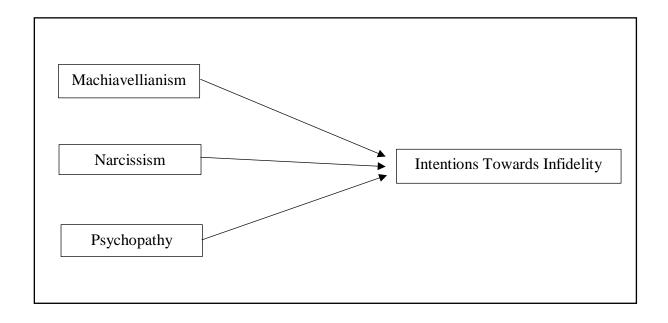


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework of A Study of Dark Triad Personality and Intention
Towards Infidelity Among Married Couples In Malaysia

Chapter III

Methodology

Research Design

This study was a cross-sectional study as the numerical data was collected from the participants, by using a quantitative research design (Bluman, 2009). Furthermore, it was a correlational study (Bluman, 2009), which is a type of research that studies the relationship between the variables as this study will be examining the correlation between Dark Triad personality and the intention towards infidelity amongst married couples in Malaysia.

Moreover, a self-directed online survey method was used to conduct this study (Bluman, 2009). The questionnaires were set by using Qualtrics. The anonymity of the survey protected the privacy of the participants, and only the social demographic information such as gender, race, age, relationship status was collected. The data collected from this study did not expose to any third parties other than the researchers and the supervisor.

Sampling Procedures

This study used a non-probability sampling method with a judgment sampling method also known as purposive sampling method to recruit the respondent needed. The purposive sampling method chooses the subject who is considered to be the most suitable position to provide the data needed for this study (Kumar, 2013). As this research aims to examine the relationship between the Dark Triad personality and Intention Towards Infidelity among married couples in Malaysia, hence it is suitable to use the purposive sampling method to collect the information needed for this study.

This study targeted the married couples' population in Malaysia. To be participants in this study, there were a few criteria that the participants needed to meet before being selected: (1) a married individual, (2) Malaysian, (3) a legally married certificate is registered under the Malaysia government, and (4) Heterosexual. Once the participant meets

all of the criteria, they were allowed to be part of this study. Individuals who did not meet the criteria of the study, such as single, widowed, divorced, or non-Malaysian were excluded from this study.

Sample Size, Power, and Precision

A statistical power analysis using G-power was selected to calculate the sample size needed for this study (Faul et al., 2009) as it is cost-free and it had been improved in the area of regression and correlation analysis. To understand the correlation coefficient of this study, a journal article related to the research topic was used for our research. According to Alavi et al. (2018), the suggested correlation of determination of Dark Triad personality (i.e., Machiavellian, psychopathy, and narcissism) and intention towards infidelity was $R^2 = 0.39$ after calculating using. Thus, the effect size used in this study is 0.6393. Before proceeding to the calculation F-test test family with the type of power analysis of "A priori: Compute required sample size – given α , power, and effect size" is set before entering any data. As mentioned above the effect size for this study is 0.6393, which indicates a high level of effect size (Cohen, 1988) with $\alpha = 0.5$, power = 0.95, and together with three predictors. The results were shown to have a minimum amount of 32 respondents (refer to Appendix B) needed for this study with the actual power of 0.9564. To produce valid and generalizable results for this study, this study aimed to have a minimum of 100 respondents. Adding on, the consideration of possible missing or incomplete respondents, another 10% was added to the suggested number of participants needed for this study. Thus, this research aimed to recruit a minimum of 110 respondents.

Data Collection Procedures

To ensure the collected data confidentiality and anonymity, Qualtrics was used to create an online survey and collect data from the participants. An information sheet together with consent form was included in the first page of the survey question to inform the

participant about details of this study, private and confidentiality of the participant and length of the survey. This was to ensure that the participant have a clear understanding of this research and agree to participate in this study before responding to the survey question. There were 3 sections, which are the social demographic questionnaire, Short Dark Triad (SD3), and Intention Towards Infidelity (ITIS). The process of data collection was reviewed by the UTAR Scientific & Ethical Review Committee from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (U/SERC/201/2020). Before collecting the data, a pilot study was conducted to test the reliability of the instruments used in this study.

Before collecting for the actual data, the reliability of the instruments was tested by conducting a pilot study. There were 40 participants who involved in the pilot study. For actual data collection, a survey invitation link was shared through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and another social networking site to collect data. Participants were required to agree on a consent form which is included in the link before answering the survey question. After collecting the data needed for this study, the invitation link was closed and data was analysed using SPSS. A number of 37 participants who did not meet the requirement of this study or incomplete data were removed from this study before proceeding to run Multiple Linear Regression analysis using SPSS software. Hence, the data of the remaining 87 participants was the only ones that proceeded to the data analysis.

Instruments

Social Demographic Questionnaire

Social demographic questionnaire was used to collect participant's personal information such as age, gender, educational level, and relationship status.

Short Dark Triad (SD3)

SD3 was developed by Jones and Paulhus (2013). It is used to assess one's personality mainly Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism. SD3 consists of 27

items in total. Each subscale consists of 9 items. The scoring for this scale is using a Likert scale that ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). For Machiavellian subscale are item 1 to item 9 and narcissism subscale is item 10 to item 18, and the psychopathy subscale is from item 19 to item 27. Item 11, 15, 17, 20, and 25 are reversed score items. The total score of each of the subscales will need to average. The higher the score of each subscale, the higher the level of the traits (Moore et al., 2020). According to Alavi et al. (2018), it stated that the reliability of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy were, $\alpha = 0.79$, $\alpha = 0.75$, $\alpha = 0.73$ with the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value of 0.612, 0.544, and 0.625. The AVE value indicates that this construct has achieved convergent validity which is higher than 0.5. Other than that, the Composite Reliability (CR) of this construct range from 0.892 to 0.92 which indicates an appropriate indication of internal consistency of the construct as the value of CR > 0.7. Moreover, the discriminant validity for each of the variables in SD3 was found to have high discriminant validity with the value range from 0.738 to 0.851, showing that all three variable has its own unique construct.

Intention Towards Infidelity Scale (ITIS)

ITIS was developed by Jones et al. (2011) to measure one's behavioral intention towards infidelity. ITIS consisting of 7 items with a Likert scale that ranges from 1 (not at all likely) to 7 (extremely likely), which is supported by Alavi et al. (2018). The Cronbach's alpha of ITIS shows to have good consistency across different research was it ranging from 0.7 to 0.81 (Jones et al., 2011). The third item in the scale is reserved scored. The total score of all 7 items will need to average to assess the intention towards infidelity. The higher the score, the stronger one's intention towards infidelity (Jackman, 2014). The reliability of this scale was considered acceptable with α 0.81 and an AVE value of 0.623 which achieved convergent validity and Composite Reliability of 0.891 that indicate appropriate internal

consistency of the construct (Alavi et al., 2018). The square root of AVE of this construct was found higher than the other latent variables such as Machiavellians, psychopathy, and narcissism with the value of 0.79, indicating that discriminant validity for this construct was achieved.

Reliability

A pilot study was conducted to test the reliability of the scales. A total of 40 respondents involved in the pilot study. In contrast, 124 responses were collected for actual study, however there were only 87 respondents who had fulfilled the requirements and completed the questionnaires. Table 3.1 shows the result of reliability coefficients for the instruments of the study. According to Ursachi et al. (2015), the value of Cronbach's alpha between 0.6 and 0.7 is considered as acceptable, and a very good level of Cronbach's alpha is 0.8 or greater value. Hence, the Cronbach's alpha of all measurements was reliable as the values are higher than .06.

Table 3.1Reliability Coefficient for All the Measures Used

Measures		Cronbach's Alpha		
	No. of Item	Original Scale	Pilot	Actual
			Study (n=40)	Study (n=87)
Machiavallianiam	0	70		
Machiavellianism	9	.79	.629	.687
Narcissism	9	.75	.693	.634
Psychopathy	9	.73	.815	.741
Intentions Towards Infidelity	7	.81	.814	.783

Chapter IV

Results

Data Cleaning

A total of 124 samples were collected from this study. However only 87 of the responses were used in this study. 36 of the samples were removed from the study due to incomplete survey and some did not meet the criteria of the study stated. Moreover, when running Mahalonobi's value for influential case, case 80 was found to violate its benchmark, thus it was removed from the study.

Descriptive Statistic

From Table 4.1, it provides information regarding the age of the respondent of this study. The average age of the respondent involved in this study is 32.54 years old with standard deviation of 10.154. The table also shown that the highest frequency age of the respondent is 25 years old with the minimum age of 20 years old and maximum age of 62 years old.

A total of 87 married participants were collected in the current study. It has been shown that the number of males was lesser than female in this study with the total of 37 males (42.5%) and 50 females (57.5%). Furthermore, most of the respondents involved in this study were Chinese (83.9%), Malay (9.2%) followed by Indian (4.6%) and others (2.3%).

Table 4.1Age, Relationship Status, Gender, Race (N=87)

	n (%)	Mean	Standard	Min	Max
			Deviation		
Age	87	32.54	10.154	20	62
Relationship Stat	us				
Married	87 (100)				
Gender					
Male	37 (42.5)				
Female	50 (57.5)				
Race					
Chinese	73 (83.9)				
Malay	8 (9.2)				
Indian	4 (4.6)				
Others	2 (2.3)				

Table 4.2 shows the education level of the respondents in this study, 64.4% of the respondent reported that they had completed their bachelor degree. 11.5% of the respondent did completed their diploma level. For postgraduate degree respondent accounted for 9.2% and SPM level respondent accounted for 10.3% and lastly both respondent who completed their PMR and UPSR each consist only of 2.3%. No missing value was found for this section.

Table 4.2Educational Level (N=87)

	n	Percent	Valid Percent
Educational Level			
UPSR	2	2.3	2.3
PMR	2	2.3	2.3
SPM/UEC/IGCSE	9	10.3	10.3
Diploma/STPM/A-	10	11.5	11.5
Level/Foundation			
Bachelor's Degree	56	64.4	64.4
Postgraduate	8	9.2	9.2

Referring to the Table 4.3, most the respondent does not have children after their married (42.5%). 19.5% of the respondent reported that they have only one child in their family, 16.1% of the respondent responded having two children in their family, then followed by 13.8% of participant having 3 children in the family. The least number of children is 4 which consist only 5.8% of the total number of the respondent. 2.3% of the respondent did not respond to this question.

Table 4.3Number of Children (N=87)

	Frequency	Percent
Number of Children		
Missing Data	2	2.3
0	37	42.5
1	17	19.5
2	14	16.1
3	12	13.8
4	5	5.8

Table 4.4 shown the duration of marriage in months among married couple in Malaysia. The mean duration of marriage (in months) among married couples is 65.81 months (SD=82.18), where the minimum duration of marriage was 6 months and maximum were 366 months. On the other hand, there were 30 missing data from the sample of this study. Thus, only a total of 58 valid data were used to run descriptive data for this section.

Table 4.4Duration of Marriage (In Months) (N=87)

	Valid	Missing	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Max	Min
Duration of								
Marriage (In Months)	57	30	65.81	29.00	15	82.18	366	6

Topic Specific Characteristic

Table 4.5 shown the frequency distribution of four variables, which include Machiavellianism, Narcissism, psychopathy and intention towards infidelity. All of the variables were calculated using SPSS to generate the mean, minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the variable. The mean for Machiavellianism was 3.56 (SD=0.511), whereby for Narcissism was 3.05 (SD=0.473), and psychopathy was 2.52 (SD=0.584). Last but not least, the mean for intention towards infidelity was 2.26 (SD=0.791).

Table 4.5

Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy and Intention Towards Infidelity

Variable	Mean	Min	Max	Standard	1	2	3	4
				Deviation				
1. Machiavellianism	3.56	2.44	5.00	.511	1			
2. Narcissism	3.05	1.89	4.11	.473	.21	1		
3. Psychopathy	2.52	1.44	4.11	.584	.46*	.32*	1	
4. Intention Towards	2.26	0.78	4.22	.791	26*	.27*	.55***	1
Infidelity								

^{*} *p* < .05. *** *p* < .001.

A Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was conducted to examine the relationship between Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellian, narcissism and psychopathy) and intentions towards infidelity in Malaysia. The table 4.3.1 showed the correlation of Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy) towards intentions towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. According to the Cohen's rule of thumb, correlation coefficient of 0.1 indicates weak association, 0.3 indicates moderate association and 0.5 indicates strong association. The results show that psychopathy, r(85)=.55, p<.001, strongly positively correlate with intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. Narcissism r(85)=.27, p=.012, shown to have significantly positive yet weak association with intention towards infidelity. Lastly, Machiavellian r(85)=.26, p=.014, was found to have significantly positive but weak association to intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Normality Assumption

Each of the variables in this study were checked for normality based on visual inspection (Histogram and P-P plot), skewness, kurtosis and normality test (Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk). For skewness and kurtosis, any value that range between ±2 is considered acceptable (Gravetter & Wallnau, 2014).

Machiavellianism

Machiavellianism was shown to be normally distributed with a bell-shaped curve that have slightly right skewed in histogram (refer to Appendix E) with the values plotted along the diagonal line in P-P plot (refer to Appendix I). The skewness and kurtosis value for Machiavellian are -0.175 and 0.091 (refer to Appendix D). The normality test for KS and SW test (refer to Appendix C) reported to be lower than 0.05, with p-value of 0.000 and 0.030, thus it indicates as significantly non-normal.

Narcissism

Histogram of Narcissism (refer to Appendix F) shown to have a bell-curve shape with a slightly skewed to the left while the P-P plot (refer to Appendix D) shows that the values fall within the diagonal line. As for skewness and kurtosis, both values are in acceptable

range which are 0.030 and -0.309 (refer to Appendix D). As for KS and SW test, both shown to have a p-value of 0.097 and 0.271 (refer to Appendix C) which indicates significantly normal as the p value exceed 0.05.

Psychopathy

Psychopathy was indicated as normal distribution from the histogram (refer to Appendix G) and P-P plot (refer to Appendix K). The skewness value of 0.266 and kurtosis value of -0.397 (refer to Appendix D) indicate that both values are in acceptable range. As for the normality test, Ks shown to have 0.009 while SW reported to have value of 0.125 (refer to Appendix C).

Intention Towards Infidelity

From the histogram (refer to Appendix H) shown normally distributed with slightly positively skewed and P-P plot (refer to Appendix L) also shown to have normal as all values fall within the diagonal line. As for value of kurtosis and skewness, the value shows to have - 0.525 and 0.427 which indicate acceptable. In both KS and SW test, both of the value reported to be 0.008 and 0.008 shows significantly non-normal.

Table 4.6Normality Test for Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy and Intention Towards
Infidelity and Skewness Kurtosis (N=87)

Variables	Mean	Standard	Skewness	Kurtosis
		Deviation		
Machiavellianism	3.559	0.511	-0.175	0.091
Narcissism	3.051	0.473	0.030	-0.309
Psychopathy	2.525	0.584	0.266	-0.397
Intention Towards	2.263	0.791	0.427	-0.525
Infidelity				

Influential Case

Three different statistic were used in detecting influential case in the data of this study

which are Mahalanobi's Distance, Cook's Distance and Leverage. According to Cook and Weisberg (1982), the cut-off value is 1 while for Leverage's value that thrice its value of 0.046 (Steven, 2002). Case 80 was found to be violate benchmark of Mahalanobi's cut-off value of 15, thus it was removed from this study. As for Cook's Distance and Leverage's value, none of the cases violate its cut-off value.

Multiple Linear Regression Assumption

Assumption of multiple linear regressed were also used to checked for linearity of residual, normality of residuals, homoscedasticity of residual, multicollinearity and independence of error before further data analysis.

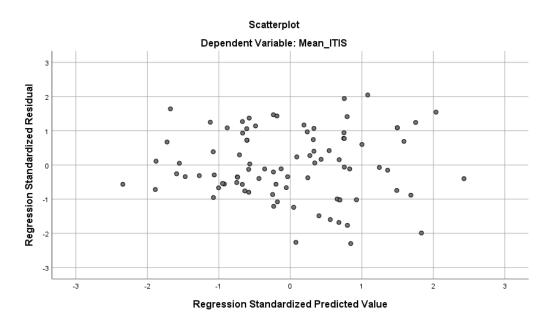


Figure 4.1 Plots of Standardized Predicted Values against Standardized Residuals

Normality, Linearity and Homoscedasticity of Residual

The figure above shows the assumption for linearity of residuals, and normality of residuals were met but not for homoscedasticity.

Multicollinearity Assumptions

From the result of the table 4.7, all indications show lack of collinearity between the

variables. Tolerance values of all the variables were all above the acceptable value of 0.5, which indicating low collinearity by Tabachnick and Fidell (2019). Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values for all the variables shown to have lower than 10 (Hair et al., 1995) which indicate low multicollinearity.

Independence of Error

Durbin-Watson reported a value of 2.382 which show the value is within the acceptable range of 1 to 3.

Table 4.7Collinearity Statistic and Durbin-Watson

	C	Collinearity Statisti	ic
	Tolerance	VIF	Durbin Watson
Machiavellianism	0.788	1.269	1.793
Narcissism	0.893	1.120	
Psychopathy	0.739	1.353	

Inferential Statistic

Multiple regression analysis was used to run the predictive effect of Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy) and intention towards infidelity among married couple in Malaysia. Using enter method, the result indicates that Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy) significantly predict intention towards infidelity among married couple in Malaysia. The Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy) explain significant amount of variance in intention towards infidelity among married couple in Malaysia (F(3,83)=12.654, p<0.001, $R^2=0.314$) The Cohen's f^2 effect size of 0.458, indicating a large effect size according to Cohen (1988).

H1: Machiavellianism positively predict intention towards infidelity amongst married couple in Malaysia.

Machiavellianism shown not significant result (β = 0.007, t= 0.071, p= 0.943) in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. The standard error of direct effect was 0.159 with 95 % confidence interval of -0.304 (lower bound) and 0.327 (upper bound). Therefore, the research finding did not support hypothesis 1.

H2: Narcissism predict intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Narcissism shown to have insignificant result (β = 0.102, t= 1.058, p= 0.293) in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. The standard error of the direct effect was 0.161 while 95% confident interval of -0.150 (lower bound) and 0.491 (upper bound). This finding does not support hypothesis 2.

H3: Psychopathy positively predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Psychopathy shown to have a significant predictive effect (β =0.516, t= 4.878, p< 0.001) in predicting intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. The standard error of the direct effect was 0.143 with 95% confidence interval of 0.414 (lower interval and 0.984 (upper interval). Thus, hypothesis 3 is supported.

Table 4.8

Multiple Regression Analysis in Short Dark Triad (i.e., Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy) and Intention Towards Infidelity

Predictors	F	\mathbb{R}^2	df	β	t	p	SE
Model	12.654	0.314	(3,83)				
Machiavellianism				0.007	0.071	0.943	0.159
Narcissism				0.102	1.058	0.293	0.161
Psychopathy				0.516	4.878	0.001	0.143

Chapter IV

Discussion

As opposed to the hypothesized predictive effect of Machiavellianism, this type of Dark Triad personality trait did not significantly predict intention towards infidelity in this study among married couples. This finding contradicts past studies on unmarried couples (Alavi et al., 2018; Brewer & Abel, 2015; Jones & Weiser, 2014). The incongruency in finding between married and unmarried couples could be explained by a recent finding among married Machiavellian individuals in Pakistan that shows a significant positive relationship with marital satisfaction (Gondal et al., 2020). In other words, married Machiavellian individuals tend to have higher marital satisfaction which could lessen the likelihood of having intention towards infidelity. However, due to the lack of research done on Machiavellianism among married couples, a strong conclusion cannot be drawn in explaining the reason behind this finding.

As for narcissism, the result of the present study failed to support the hypothesis where narcissism significantly predicts intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. This finding congruent with past research done in Malaysia (Alavi et al., 2018; Ibrahim et al., 2019) and the Czech Republic (Uthaug, 2016) on unmarried couples. One explanation for this result could be rooted in the fact that narcissist tends to self-enhance on agentic construct such as attractiveness and intelligence (Grijalva & Zhang, 2016). Similarly, a narcissistic individual tends to grasp attention from others by pairing up with those with the highly noticeable and attractive agentic trait (Foster & Twenge, 2011) in order to satisfy their grandiose nature. In other words, married individuals that scored high in the narcissism spectrum in this study very likely to be married to someone that they could trophy around. This situation could downregulate their intention towards infidelity. Hence, the result of this association could corroborate the consistency in finding between married and unmarried

couples.

The hypothesized positive predictive effect of psychopathy on intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia is supported in this study. The result is in line with past studies (Alavi et al., 2018; Sevi et al., 2020; Visser et al., 2010) among non-married couples. This finding can be explained that psychopath has tendencies to abandon their family and friends which also supported by the finding from Jones and Paulhus (2013) study. This is further supported by Weis et al. (2018) who found callousness in psychopathy prevents the formation of normal attachment in a romantic context with significant others which increases risk towards infidelity. Besides, Dean et al. (2013) found that risky decision-making tendencies could facilitate infidelity behaviour which significantly associated with secondary psychopathy. In other words, psychopaths have very little commitment in maintaining a romantic relationship regardless in a casual or married context leading to initiation of infidelity.

Theoretical Implication

The present study provides insight into the fast life history strategy proposed by

Figueredo et al. (2006) which has a robust correlation with the Dark Triad personality trait

(Jonason et al., 2017; Manson, 2020; Valentova et al. 2019) namely, Machiavellianism,

narcissism and psychopathy. Firstly, a married Machiavellian individual does not lean
towards having multiple sexual partners as theorized in life-history theory which suggests
that the fast life history strategy could only apply to Machiavellianism in a non-married
context. As for narcissism trait, both married couples in this study and non-married couples in
the past studies shown low to zero association towards having multiple partners in a romantic
relationship which could indicate that narcissistic individual does not practice fast life history
strategy. Lastly, psychopathy that has provided consistent result across married and
unmarried sample shows psychopath has a strong inclination towards reproductive effort as

well as practicing fast life history strategy as suggested by life history theory. Therefore, findings from this study are congruent with the theoretical idea of Life History Theory framework and further extend the theoretical framework to married couples.

Currently, there are only two studies in Malaysia that highlighted the relationship between the Dark Triad personality with infidelity albeit in a non-married context (Alavi et al., 2018; Ibrahim et al., 2019). Hence, the result from this study could contribute to the literature of marriage-related studies in the local context as well as filled the research gap in this field of study. In addition to that, the findings from this study could be a stepping stone for future researchers that are drawn to investigate personality factors that contribute towards infidelity behaviour among the Malaysian sample.

Practical Implication

In addressing the alarming divorce rate in Malaysia due to infidelity (Kumar, 2019), this study has shed new light concerning the Dark Triad personality trait among married couples in Malaysia. For instance, the most salient finding in this study where married Machiavellian individuals do not result in intention towards infidelity as unmarried couples did. In addition, narcissism has been depicted as a non-significant predictor of infidelity neither among married nor unmarried couples. Individuals with psychopathy personality are likely to infidel their partner and this result is similar across married and unmarried individuals.

Hence, marital practitioners such as marriage counsellors who provide services to married couples in Malaysia could take into consideration personality-related factors in assessing the infidelity-related issue. Meanwhile, the finding from this study also could serve as a source of reference for married couples to understand the possible factor of their partner's infidelity from the aspect of personality. Hence, the married couples would be more open to resolve the infidelity issue by attending counselling rather than deciding on divorce.

Limitations

There were a few limitations had been encountered when the present study was carried out. Firstly, social desirability bias might occur in the present study as the respondents might give socially desirable answers, instead of giving responses that mirror their true feelings (Grimm, 2010). Hence, the collected data might not reflect the actual condition.

Secondly, there were also some incomplete data found from the online survey. Some respondents skipped some questions that they were not willing to answer. The incomplete 37 responses were removed and more responses were collected to reach the minimum number of responses. An online survey method was chosen for this study due to this study was conducted during Malaysian Movement Control Order (MCO), in which a paper and pen survey could not be applied. However, the link sent to many target participants had been ignored, and this leads to a limited number of samples. The number of data collected through the online survey was less than the number of links sent.

Next, the representativeness of the sample did not reflect the Malaysian population. The sex percentages of citizens in Malaysia are approximately 50% for both males and females from the year 2015 to the year 2020 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020). The sex percentages of respondents in this study are approximately 43% for males and 57% for females. Moreover, the percentages of citizens population by ethnic groups are 69.6% for Malays, 22.6% for Chinese, 6.8% for Indians, and 1.0% for others (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020). The percentages of respondents by ethnic groups in this study are approximately 84% for Chinese, 9% for Malays, 5% for Indians, and 2% for others. Hence, the representativeness of the sample did not reflect the Malaysian population.

Recommendations

A few recommendations are suggested to improve the future studies. First of all, future researchers are suggested to enforce the anonymity of the study in the informed

consent by highlighting or bolding the keywords to prevent social desirability bias responses. By anonymous, the personal information of the respondents will not be revealed. Besides, the importance of the study should also be informed clearly to the respondents.

Secondly, future researchers are suggested to use a paper and pen survey to collect the data. Although the online survey is less time-consuming, the link sent to target participants might be ignored. By using a paper and pen survey, the researchers could ensure whether the target participants are willing to answer the questionnaires. The effectiveness of data collection will be improved through this method of data collection.

Another recommendation for future researchers is to recruit a representative sample by using the quota sampling method. The quota sampling method is a non-probability sampling method in which the samples are proportional to the population being examined (Sharma, 2017). This recommendation is suggested as the quota sample guarantees the groups within-population are not over-represented (Sharma, 2017). Future researchers could recruit samples that represent the Malaysian population according to ethnic groups and genders. More samples can be recruited if the samples of a particular ethnic group or gender do not reflect the percentages of the population by ethnic groups and gender.

Conclusion

This study is aimed to examine the predictive effect of the Dark Triad personality (i.e., Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism) on intention towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. A quantitative research design was used to conduct this cross-sectional study. A number of 87 respondents participated in this study and the data was collected via Qualtrics, an online survey platform. The respondents were recruited by using the purposive sampling method and the data collected was analysed on SPSS by using Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). The questionnaires consisted of three instruments, which are social demographic information, Short Dark Triad (SD3), and the Intentions Towards

Infidelity Scale (ITIS).

From the results of the present study, Machiavellianism and narcissism failed to support the hypotheses that mentioned both of these Dark Triad personality traits significantly predict intentions towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia. In contrast, the result of psychopathy supported the hypothesis in which this Dark Triad personality trait significantly predicts intentions towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

To sum up, this study could be a reference for future researchers to assist them in conducting a similar study among married couples in Malaysia. Since there is a limited research on this topic in Malaysia, the present study had enriched the database that would benefit future research. Lastly, this study also provides more information for professionals to improve their understandings on infidelity issue from personality aspect.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Survey Questionnaire

The Dark Triad Personality Trait in Predicting Intentions

Towards Infidelity

Start of Block: Consent Form

Introduction

We would like to conduct a research study to examine Dark Triad personality in predicting intentions towards infidelity among married couples in Malaysia.

Procedures and Confidentiality

The following questionnaire will require approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. All information provided will remain as **private and confidential**. The information given willonly be reported as group data with no identifying information and only use for academic purpose.

Participation

All the information gathered will remain anonymous and confidential. Your information will not be disclosed to any unauthorized person and would be accessible only by group members. Participant in this study is voluntary, you are free to withdraw with consent and discontinue participation in anytime without prejudice. Your responses will be coded numerically in the

research assignment for the research interpretation. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact the researchers via noriko.chenhy@1utar.my (Chen

Hui Yi), keke2369@1utar.my (Cheah Al Kaid), or sharfudin@1utar.my (Muhamad Sharfudin bin Abdul Kader) if you have any inquires.

If you choose to participate in this project, please answer all the questions as honestly as possible and return the completed questionnaire promptly.

By signing this informed consent form, you are indicating that you understand the

nature of the research study and your role in that research and that you agree to participate in the research. Sincerely, Chen Hui Yi Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman Malaysia By signing this form, I am stating that I am at least 18 years old and that I understand the above information and consent to participate in this study. O I agree (1) O I disagree (2) **End of Block: Consent Form Start of Block: Demographic Questionnaire** 1. Gender: Male (1) Female (2) 2. Age: 3. Race: Chinese (1) O Malays (2) O Indian (3)

Others (4)

4. Educational Level:					
O Secondary Sc	:hool (SPM) (1)	1			
O Diploma (2)					
O Bachelor's De	egree (3)				
O Master's Deg	ree (4)				
O Doctoral Deg	ree (5)				
Relationship Status:					
O Single (20)					
O Married (16)					
O Widowed (1	7)				
O Divorced (18	3)				
O Separated (1	.9)				
End of Block: Demog	raphic Questic	onnaire			
Start of Block: SD3					
Instructions: Please represents you.	e read the follo	owing stateme	nts and choose th	e number that	best
1 (Strongly disagre (Strongly Agree)	e), 2 (Disagre	ee), 3 (Neither	Agree or Disagre	ee), 4 (Agree),	and 5
(Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
1. It's not wiseto tell your secrets. (1)	0	0	0	0	0

2. Generally speaking, people won't work hard unless they have to. (2)	0	0	0		0
3. Whatever it takes, you must get the important people on your side. (3)	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid direct conflict with others becausethey may be useful in the future. (4)	0	0	0	0	0
5. It's wise to keep track of information that you can use against people later. (5)	0	0	0	0	0
6. You shouldwait for the right time to get back at people. (6)	0	0	0	0	0
7. There are things you should hidefrom other people becausethey don't needto know.	0	0	0		0
8. Make sureyour plans benefit you, not others. (8)	0	0	0	0	0
9. Most peoplecan be manipulated.(9)	0	0	0	0	0

representsyou.

1 (Strongly disagree), 2 (Disagree), 3 (Neither Agree or Disagree), 4 (Agree), and 5 (Strongly Agree).

	Strongly sagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
1. People seeme as a natural leader.(1)	0	0	0	0	0
2. I hate beingthe center of attention.(2)	0	0	\circ	\circ	0
3. Many group activities tend to be dull without me.(3)	0	0	\circ	\circ	\circ
4, I know thatI am special because everyone keeps telling me so. (4)	0	0	0	0	0
5. I like to get acquainted with important people. (5)	0	0	0	0	0
6. I feel embarrassedif someone compliments me. (6)	0	0	0	0	0
7. I have been compared to famous people. (7)	0	0	0	0	0
8. I am an average person. (8)	0	0	\circ	0	\circ
9. I insist on getting the respect I deserve. (9)	0	0	\circ	0	\circ

Instructions: Please read the following statements and choose the number that best representsyou.

1 (Strongly disagree), 2 (Disagree), 3 (Neither Agree or Disagree), 4 (Agree), and 5 (Strongly Agree)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
1. I like to get revenge on authorities. (1)	0	0	0	0	0
2. I avoid dangerous situations. (2)	0	0	0	\circ	0
3. Payback needs to bequick and nasty. (3)	0	0	\circ	\circ	\circ
4. People often say I'm out of control. (4)	0	0	\circ	0	0
5. It's true thatI car be mean to others. (or Ienjoy having sex with people I hardlyknow.) (5)		0	0	0	0
6. People whomess with mealways regret it. (6)	S	0	\circ	0	0
7. I have never gotten into troubl with the law. (7)	e	\circ	\circ	0	0
8. I like to pickon losers. (8)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
9. I'll say anything toget what I want. (9)	0	\circ	\circ	0	0

End of Block: SD3

Start of Block: Intentions Towards Infidelity Scale

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you would be to do the following things. Use the scalebelow to answer the following questions.

- -3 (Not at all likely), -2 (Very unlikely), -1 (Unlikely), 0 (About as likely as not),
- +1(Likely), +2 (Very likely), +3 (Extremely likely)

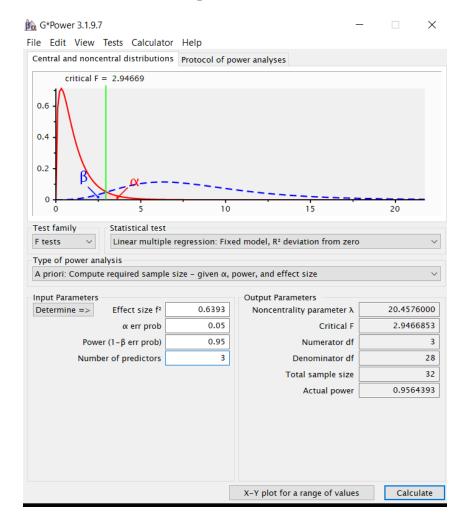
	Not at all likely (2)	•	Unlikely (4)	About as likely as not (5)	Likely (6)	Very likely (7)	Extremely likely (8)
1. How likely are you to be unfaithful to a partner if you knew you wouldn't get caught?(1)	:	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. How likely wouldyou be to a partner about being unfaithfulto them? (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. How likely wouldyou be to tell a partner you were unfaithfulto them? (4)	ю	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. How likely do you think you wouldbe get away with being unfaithfulto a partner? (5)	to		0	0	0	0	0

5. How likely wouldyou be to hide your relationship from an attractive person youjust met? (6)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. How likely do you think you are to be unfaithfulto future partners?(7)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. How likely do you think you are to be unfaithful to your present or future husband orwife? (8)	0					0	0

End of Block: Intention Towards Infidelity

Appendices B

G*power Results



Appendix C

Normality Test

Tests of Normality

	Kolm	nogorov-Smir	nov ^a	Shapiro-Wilk			
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.	
Mean_M	.169	87	.000	.968	87	.030	
Mean_N	.087	87	.097	.982	87	.271	
Mean_P	.112	87	.009	.977	87	.125	
Mean_ITIS	.113	87	.008	.959	87	.008	

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Appendix D

Skewness and Kurtosis

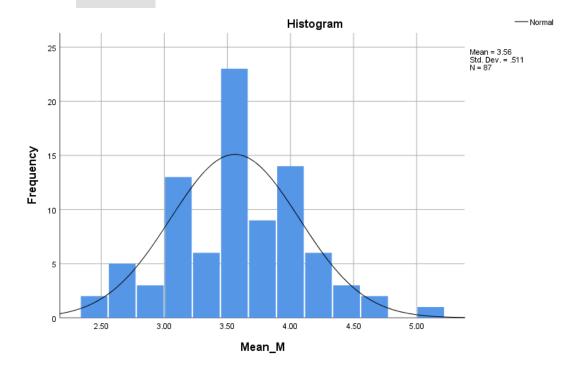
Descriptive

			Statistic	Std. Error
Mean_M	Mean		3.5594	.05478
	95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	3.4505	
	Mean	Upper Bound	3.6683	
	5% Trimmed Mean		3.5608	
	Median		3.6667	
	Variance		.261	
	Std. Deviation		.51099	
	Minimum		2.44	
	Maximum		5.00	
	Range		2.56	
	Interquartile Range		.78	
	Skewness		175	.258
	Kurtosis		.091	.511
Mean_N	Mean		3.0511	.05070
	95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	2.9503	
	Mean	Upper Bound	3.1519	
	5% Trimmed Mean		3.0563	
	Median		3.0000	
	Variance		.224	
	Std. Deviation		.47287	

	Minimum		1.89	
	Maximum		4.11	
	Range		2.22	
	Interquartile Range		.56	
	Skewness		.030	.258
	Kurtosis		309	.511
Mean_P	Mean		2.5249	.06258
	95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	2.4005	
	Mean	Upper Bound	2.6493	
	5% Trimmed Mean		2.5121	
	Median		2.5556	
	Variance		.341	
	Std. Deviation		.58370	
	Minimum		1.44	
	Maximum		4.11	
	Range		2.67	
	Interquartile Range		1.00	
	Skewness		.266	.258
	Kurtosis		397	.511
Mean_ITIS	Mean		2.2631	.08482
	95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	2.0945	
	Mean	Upper Bound	2.4317	
	5% Trimmed Mean		2.2368	
	Median		2.1111	
	Variance		.626	

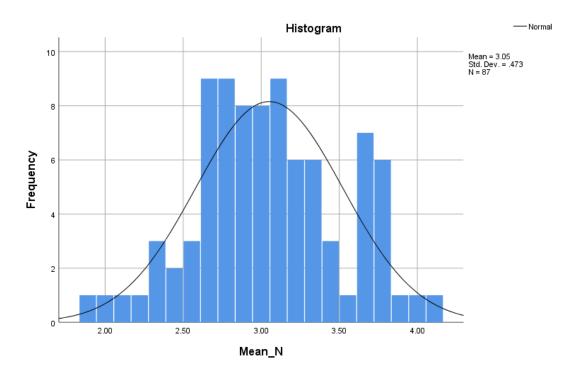
	Std. Deviation	.79116	
	Minimum	.78	
	Maximum	4.22	
	Range	3.44	
	Interquartile Range	1.22	
	Skewness	.427	.258
	Kurtosis	525	.511

Appendix E Histogram of Machiavellianism



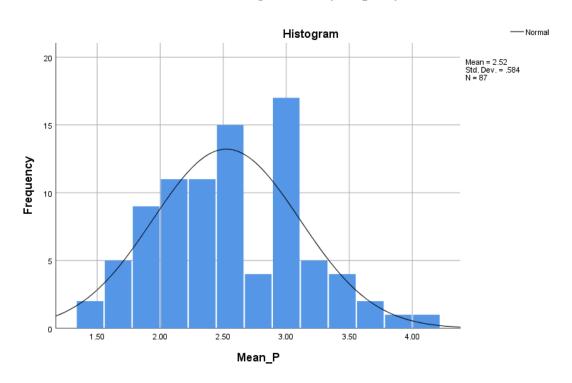
Appendix F

Histogram of Narcissism

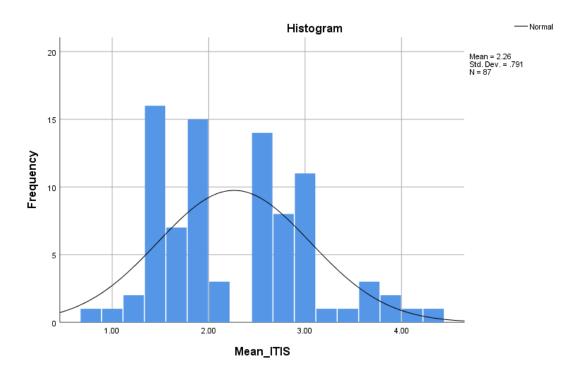


Appendix G

Histogram of Psychopathy

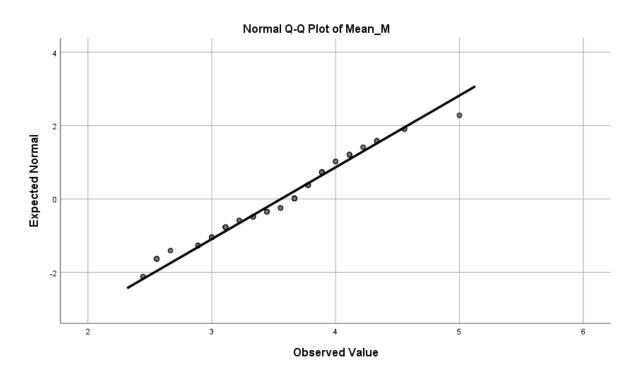


Appendix H
Histogram of Intentions Towards Infidelity



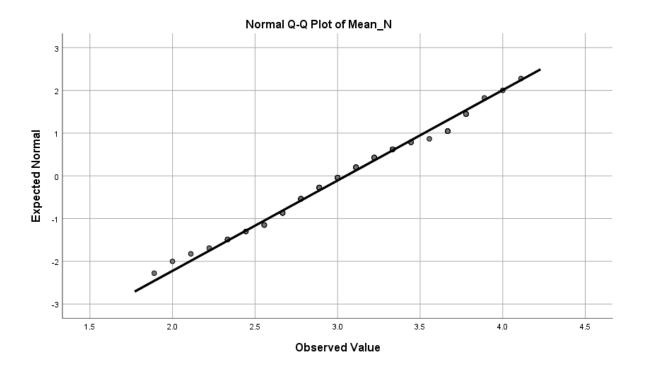
Appendix I

P-P Plot of Machiavellianism



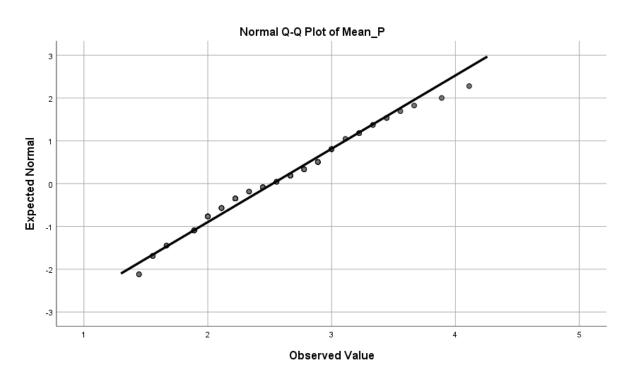
Appendix J

P-P Plot of Narcissism

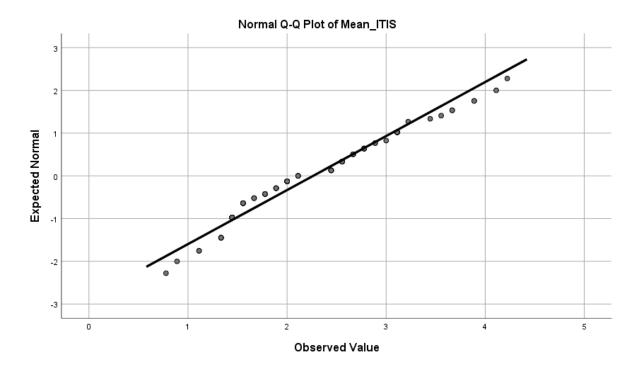


Appendix K

P-P Plot of Psychopathy



Appendix L
P-P Plot of Intentions Towards Infidelity



Appendix M

Ethical Approval



Re: U/SERC/201/2020

9 December 2020

Dr Chie Qiu Ting Head, Department of Psychology and Counselling Faculty of Arts and Social Science Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman Jalan Universiti, Bandar Baru Barat 31900 Kampar, Perak.

Dear Dr Chie,

Ethical Approval For Research Project/Protocol

We refer to the application for ethical approval for your students' research projects from Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology programme enrolled in course UAPZ3023. We are pleased to inform you that the application has been approved under <u>expedited review</u>.

The details of the research projects are as follows:

No	Research Title	Student's Name	Supervisor's Name	Approval Validity
1.	The Dark Triad Personality Trait in Predicting Intentions Towards Infidelity Among Married Couples in Malaysia	Cheah Al Kaid Chen Hui Yi Muhamad Sharfudin Bin Abdul Kader		9 December 2020 -
2.	Association Between Parent-Child Sexual Communication and Intention of Premarital Sexual Activity Among Youth in Malaysia: Sex Difference as a Moderator	Sasha Silva a/p Erolis Silva Tang Jia Hang Ong Qian Xing	Mr Tan Soon Aun	8 December 2021

The conduct of this research is subject to the following:

- (1) The participants' informed consent be obtained prior to the commencement of the research;
- (2) Confidentiality of participants' personal data must be maintained; and
- (3) Compliance with procedures set out in related policies of UTAR such as the UTAR Research Ethics and Code of Conduct, Code of Practice for Research Involving Humans and other related policies/guidelines.



Should the students collect personal data of participants in their studies, please have the participants sign the attached Personal Data Protection Statement for records.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Ts Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman

Chairman

UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee

c.c Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science Director, Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research



UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELLING

UAPZ 3023 Final Year Project II

Quantitative Research Project Evaluation Form

TURNITIN: 'In assessing this work you are agreeing that it has been submitted to the Universityrecognised originality checking service which is Turnitin. The report generated by Turnitin is used as evidence to show that the students' final report contains the similarity level below 20%.'

Project Title: The Dark Triad Personality in Predicting Intention Towards Infidelity Among				
Married Couples in Malaysia				
Supervisor Mr. Ten Soon Aug				
Supervisor: Mr. Tan Soon Aun				
Student's Name:	Student's ID			
1. Cheah Al Kaid	1. 17AAB03070			
2. Chen Hui Yi	2. 17AAB01754			
3. Muhamad Sharfudin bin Abdul Kader	3. 18AAB04771			

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please score each descriptor based on the scale provided below:

- **1.** Please award 0 mark for no attempt.
- **2.** For criteria **7**: Please retrieve the marks from "Oral Presentation Evaluation Form".

1. ABSTRACT (5%)	Max	Score	
	Score		
a. State the main hypotheses/research objectives.	5%		
b. Describe the methodology:	5%		
Research design			
Sampling method			
Sample size			
 Location of study 			
 Instruments/apparatus/outcome measures 			
Data gathering procedures			
c. Describe the characteristics of participants.	5%		
d. Highlight the outcomes of the study.	5%		
e. Conclusions, implications, and applications.	5%		
Sum	25%	/25%	
Subtotal (Sum/5)	5%	/5%	

Remark:

2. METHODOLOGY (25%)	Max Score	Score	
 a. Research design/framework: For experiment, report experimental manipulation, participant flow, treatment fidelity, baseline data, adverse events and side effects, assignment method and implementation, masking. (*if applicable with the study design) For non-experiment, describe the design of the study and data used. 	5%		
 b. Sampling procedures: Justification of sampling method/technique used. Description of location of study. Procedures of ethical clearance approval. (Provide reference number of approval letter) 	5%		
 c. Sample size, power, and precision: Justification of sample size. Achieved actual sample size and response rate. Power analysis or other methods (if applicable). 	5%		
 d. Clear explanation of data collection procedures: Inclusion and exclusion criteria Procedures of obtaining consent Description of data collection procedures Provide dates/duration of recruitment repeated measures or follow-up. Agreement and payment (if any) 	5%		
 e. Explanation of instruments/questionnaire used: Description of instruments 	5%		

	Effective fr	om Oct 2020
Scoring system		
 Meaning of scores 		
Reliability and validity		
Subtot	tal 25%	/25%
Remark:		
3. RESULTS (20%)	Max	Score
	Score	
a. Descriptive statistics:	5%	
 Demographic characteristics 		
 Topic-specific characteristics 		
b. Data diagnostic and missing data:	5%	
 Frequency and percentages of missing data. (if applicable) 		
 Methods employed for addressing missing data. (if applicable) 		
 Criteria for post data-collection exclusion of participants. 		

5%

5%

20%

Subtotal

/20%

Data transformation (if applicable).
c. Appropriate data analysis for each hypothesis or research objective.

Defining and processing of statistical outliers.

d. Accurate interpretation of statistical analyses:

Analyses of data distributions.

Criteria for imputation of missing data.

• Accurate report and interpretation of confidence intervals or statistical significance.

- Report of *p* values and minimally sufficient sets of statistics (e.g., *dfs*, *MS*, *MS error*).
- Accurate report and interpretation of effect sizes.
- Report any problems with statistical assumption

•	Report any p	roblems v	vith statistical	assumption

Remark:

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION (20%)	Max Score	Score
 a. Constructive discussion of findings: Provide statement of support or nonsupport for all hypotheses. Analyze similar and/or dissimilar results. Rational justifications for statistical results. 	8%	

/100%

/100%

/100%

b. Implication of the study:	4%		
•	4%		
• Theoretical implication for future research.			
Practical implication for programs and policies. Polyment limitations of the study.	40/		
c. Relevant limitations of the study.	4%		
d. Recommendations for future research.	4%		/200/
Subtotal	20%		/20%
Remark:			
5. LANGUAGE AND ORGANIZATION (5%)	Max	S	Score
	Score		
a. Language proficiency	3%		
b. Content organization	1%		
c. Complete documentation (e.g., action plan, originality report)	1%		
Subtotal	5%		/5%
Remark:			
6. APA STYLE AND REFERENCING (5%)	Max Score		Score
	Score		
a. 7 th Edition APA Style	5%		/5%
Remark:			
*ORAL PRESENTATION (20%)		Score	
	Student	Student	Student
	1	2	3
Subtotal			
Sustom	/20%	/20%	/20%
Remark:	, 20, 10	, 20,0	72070
PENALTY	Max		Score
	Score		
Maximum of 10 marks for LATE SUBMISSION (within 24hours),	10%		
or POOR CONSULTATION ATTENDANCE with supervisor.			
*Late submission after 24hours will not be graded			
	Student	Student	Student
	1	2	3
**FINAL MARK/TOTAL			
	/1.000/	/1000/	/1.000/

***Overall Comments:	
Signature:	Date:

Notes:

- 1. Subtotal: The sum of scores for each assessment criterion
- 2. FINAL MARK/TOTAL: The summation of all subtotal score
- 3. Plagiarism is NOT ACCEPTABLE. Parameters of originality required and limits approved by UTAR are as
 - (i) Overall similarity index is 20% or below, and
 - (ii) Matching of individual sources listed must be less than 3% each, and
 - (iii) Matching texts in continuous block must not exceed 8 words

Note: Parameters (i) – (ii) shall exclude quotes, references and text matches which are less than 8 words. Any works violate the above originality requirements will NOT be accepted. Students have to redo the report and meet the requirements in SEVEN (7) days.

^{*}The marks of "Oral Presentation" are to be retrieved from "Oral Presentation Evaluation Form".

^{**}It is compulsory for the supervisor/examiner to give the overall comments for the research projects with A- and above or F grading.

Action Plan of UAPZ 3023 (group-based)Final Year Project II for Jan & May trimester Cheah Al Kaid, Chen Hui Yi, Muhamad Sharfudin bin Abdul Kader

Supervisor's Name: Mr. Tan Soon Aun

Task Description	Duration	Date/Time	Supervisee's Signature	Supervisor's Signature	Supervisor's Remarks	Next Appointment Date/Time	
Methodology, Data Collection & Data Analysis	W1-W2	27 February 2021 6pm	A Chr Dino	.	See comments in the report	11 March 2021 11:30am	
Finding & Analysis Discuss Findings & Analysis with Supervisor Amending Findings & Analysis	W3-W6	11 March 2021 11.30am 11 March 2021 12pm	A CA	.J	See comments in the report	22 March 2021 3pm	
Discussion & Conclusion Discuss Discussion & Conclusion with Supervisor Amending Discussion & Conclusion		22 March 2021 3pm 22 March 2021 4pm		.}	See comments in the report		
Submission of first draft*	Monday of Week 10						
Amendment	W10						
Submission of final FYP (FYP I + FYP II)*	Monday of W11	final submission to supervisor					
Oral Presentation		Oral Presentation Schedule will be released and your supervisor will inform you					

Notes:

- 1. The listed duration is for reference only, supervisors can adjust the period according to the topics and content of the projects.
- 2. *Deadline for submission can not be changed, one mark will be deducted per day for late submission.
- 3. Supervisees are to take the active role to make appointments with their supervisors.
- 4. Both supervisors and supervisees should keep a copy of this record.
- 5. This record is to be submitted together with the submission of the FYP II.

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman			
Form Title:	Sample of Submission S	heet for FYP/Dissertation/Thesis	
Form Number : FM-IAD-004	Rev No: 0	Effective Date: 21 June 2011	Page No: 1 of 1

FACULTY/INSTITUTE* OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
Date: 29 March 2021
SUBMISSION OF FINAL YEAR PROJECT /DISSERTATION/THESIS
It is hereby certified that Cheah Al Kaid (ID No: 17AAB03070) has completed this final year project/ dissertation/ thesis* entitled "The Dark Triad Personality in Predicting Intention Towards Infidelity Among Married Couples in Malaysia
under the supervision of Mr. Tan Soon Aun Department of Psychology and Counselling Arts and Social Science Supervisor)* from the Department of
Faculty/Institute* of
I understand that University will upload softcopy of my final year project / dissertation/ thesis* in pdf format into UTAR Institutional Repository, which may be made accessible to UTAR community and public.
Yours truly,
Name: Cheah Al Kaid
*Delete whichever not applicable

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman			
Form Title: Sample of Submission Sheet for FYP/Dissertation/Thesis			
Form Number : FM-IAD-004	Rev No: 0	Effective Date: 21 June 2011	Page No: 1 of 1

FACULTY/INSTITUTE* OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN	
Date: _29 March 2021	
SUBMISSION OF FINAL YEAR PROJECT /DISSERTATION/THESIS	
It is hereby certified that Chen Hui Yi (ID No: 17AAB01754) has completed this final year project/ dissertation/ thesis* entitled "The Dark Triad Personality in Predicting Intention Towards Infidelity Among Married Couple under the supervision of Mr Tan Soon Aun (Supervisor) from the	s in Malaysia
under the supervision of Mr Tan Soon Aun Department of Psychology and Counselling , Faculty/Institute* of Arts and Social Science , and (Co-Supervisor)* from the Department of , and ,	
Supervisor)* from the Department of, Faculty/Institute* of	
I understand that University will upload softcopy of my final year project / dissertation/ thesis* in pdf format into UTAR Institutional Repository, which may be made accessible to UTAR community and public.	
Yours truly,	
Name: Chen Hui Yi	
*Delete whichever not applicable	

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman				
Form Title: Sample of Submission Sheet for FYP/Dissertation/Thesis				
Form Number : FM-IAD-004	Rev No: 0	Effective Date: 21 June 2011	Page No: 1 of 1	

FACULTY/INSTITUTE* OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
Date: 29 March 2021
SUBMISSION OF FINAL YEAR PROJECT /DISSERTATION/THESIS
It is hereby certified that Muhamad Sharfudin bin Abdul Kader (ID No: 18AAB04771) has completed this final year project/ dissertation/ thesis* entitled "The Dark Triad Personality in Predicting Intention Towards Infidelity Among Married Couples in Malaysia under the supervision of Mr. Tan Soon Aun (Supervisor) from the Department of Psychology and Counselling , Faculty/Institute* of Arts and Social Science and (Con-
Department of Psychology and Counselling , Faculty/Institute* of Arts and Social Science , and (Co-Supervisor)* from the Department of, Faculty/Institute* of
I understand that University will upload softcopy of my final year project / dissertation/ thesis* in pdf format into UTAR Institutional Repository, which may be made accessible to UTAR community and public.
Yours truly,
Name: Muhamad Sharfudin bin Abdul Kader
*Delete whichever not applicable

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman			
Form Title: Supervisor's Comments on Originality Report Generated by Turnitin for Submission of Final Year Project Report (for Undergraduate Programmes)			
Form Number: FM-IAD-005	<u> </u>	Effective Date: 01/10/2013	



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Full Name(s) of	CHEAH AL KAID
Candidate(s)	CHEN HUI YI
	MUHAMAD SHARFUDIN BIN ABDUL KADER
ID Number(s)	17AAB03070
	17AAB01754
	18AAB04771
Programme / Course	BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONOURS) PSYCHOLOGY
Title of Final Year Project	The Dark Triad Personality in Predicting Intention Towards Infidelity
	Among Married Couples in Malaysia

Similarity	Supervisor's Comments (Compulsory if parameters of originality exceeds the limits approved by UTAR)
Overall similarity index: 5%	
Similarity by source Internet Sources: 3 Publications: 2 Student Papers: 1	
Number of individual sources listed of more than 3% similarity: -	

Parameters of originality required and limits approved by UTAR are as follows:

- (i) Overall similarity index is 20% and below, and
- (ii) Matching of individual sources listed must be less than 3% each, and
- (iii) Matching texts in continuous block must not exceed 8 words

Note: Parameters (i) - (ii) shall exclude quotes, bibliography and text matches which are less than 8 words.

Note Supervisor/Candidate(s) is/are required to provide softcopy of full set of the originality report to Faculty/Institute

Based on the above results, I hereby declare that I am satisfied with the originality of the Final Year Project Report submitted by my student(s) as named above.

Soon Aun		
Signature of Supervisor	Signature of Co-Supervisor	
Name: Tan Soon Aun	Name:	-
Date: 22 March 2021	Date:	