

# CORRELATION BETWEEN MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY TRAITS AND MARITAL SATISFACTION AMONG MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS

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**ABSTRACT.** This article examines predominant masculinity and femininity traits among members of immigrant couples to establish which of these traits contribute to marital satisfaction. A non-probabilistic sample of the intentional type was used, comprised by 150 immigrants. Results show immigrants usually consider the positive aspects from both gender traits, judging masculine-type traits as predominant and describing themselves as positive androgynies. However, while men tend to lean towards the positive, women tend towards the negative. Regarding marital satisfaction, husbands are both content with the instrumental and emotional aspects. Wives reported only significant satisfaction with the instrumental aspect, thus reflecting lack of marital satisfaction. This indicated that positive masculinity traits have a negative correlation in the way women perceive the couple relationship.

**KEYWORDS.** Masculinity, femininity, marital satisfaction, immigration, couple.

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## INTRODUCTION

Differences found among men and women were originally believed to be “natural” and genetically determined (Díaz-Loving, Aragón and Sánchez, 1994: 180). According to this traditionalist perspective, what it is to be a man and what it is to be a woman are two opposite personalities within the same continuum, and from whose interaction adequate or appropriate relations between them are derived (Gilligan, 1982: 173). Based on this approach, literature has used different terms to refer to these extremes: instrumentality-expressivity, domination-subordination, and masculine vs. feminine, setting forth the existence of two distinct and separate worlds: the masculine one, known as “Masculinity”, and the feminine one, known as “Femininity” (Maldonado, García y García, 1994: 753).

Within the analysis of the traits termed masculinity-femininity, of the differences between features considered socially appropriate for both genders, and the expectations assigned to these worlds, different roles of specific function have been established and integrated to determine the internal dynamics of marital, family, and social life (Bustos, 1994: 755).

Rocha (2004:1) has made a thorough bibliographical review about how each “world” must behave and express itself, both individually (at an identity level) and socially (stereotypically). The author believes that, on a first approach, those with feminine traits have been appointed to perform a dependent, decorative, warm, expressive and sustaining role, with an interest towards others and rarely as an authority figure. On the other hand, those with masculine traits are described as independent, active, in leadership roles, assertive, rational, and oriented to instrumental activities. These scheme are still used today in gender analyses and differential studies.

A second approach, the Bipolar Model (Brehm, 1992:161), reaffirms the existence of two worlds which are never in contact, bipolarity being given by the theoretical impossibility for both masculine and feminine traits to be widely present and developed in a single individual. Thus, more masculinity involves less femininity and more femininity less masculinity. The use of this model today has been restricted as a result of social transformations, performed functions and tasks, and the context they are immersed in, giving way to the new term “androgyny” (Brehm, 199: 404; Hoffman, 2000: 476).

Based on the perspective that both gender traits are present within one person, Rocha (2004: 84) says that, far from being opposites, femininity and masculinity traits share similar features. That is, the same descriptor might be considered socially acceptable or not for a man and for a woman. In this regard, Brehm (1992: 136) and Hoffman (2000: 476) point out that with this dualistic approach, the hypothesis that men and women rank high and low in masculine and feminine traits may be accepted. The interaction or combination of these traits has



resulted in four ways to evaluate or identify marital dynamics and thus the level of perception of marital satisfaction. Positive Masculine, Negative Masculine, Positive Feminine, and Negative Feminine traits may be combined to give way to two further combinations, Androgynies and Undifferentiated, which describe a person with a high or low level of both masculinity and femininity, respectively.

Díaz-Loving, Rivera and Sánchez (2001: 134-137) carried out a study to examine socially desirable and undesirable traits in Mexican men and women, and obtained four factors which have been supplemented and reinforced with new traits (see Table 1).

TABLE 1  
Distribution by adjectives found in literature,  
related to one or other masculinity-femininity factor

POSITIVE MASCULINITY		POSITIVE FEMININITY	NEGATIVE MASCULINITY	NEGATIVE FEMININITY
Able	Autonomous	Kind	Rude	"Cry Baby"
Resolute	Assertive	Affectionate	Authoritarian	Gullible
Independent	Sociable	Warm	Wicked	Weak
Competitive	Brave	Sincere	Violent	Opportunistic
Reflexive	Vain	Calm	Conformist	Long-suffering
Successful	Persistent	Courteous	Haughty	Intolerant
Cultured	Resolute	Generous	Dominant	Coward
Trustworthy	Organized	Thoughtful	Conflicting	Subservient
Intelligent	Loyal	Helpful	Envious	Indecisive
Polite	Honest	Emotional	Arrogant	Fearful
Astute	Trustworthy	Polite	Abusive	Voluble
Motivated	Honest	Warm	Gossipy	Insecure
Provider	Self-sufficient	Sweet	Unstable	Manipulating
Enterprising	Hard-working	Understanding	Selfish	
Skilled	Steadfast	Caring	Dictatorial	
Organized		Patient	Vindictive	
		Selfless	Corrupt	
		Loving	Vindictive	
			Lazy	
			Stubborn	
			Ambitious	
			Gossipy	
			Liar	
			Whiner	

Note: Adjectives are indistinctly masculine or feminine. Reference: Carrillo, Cortés, Flores and Reyes, 2000; Díaz-Loving and Rocha, 2004; Polanco, 2004.



## Where

*Positive Masculinity.* These are traits favoring work performance, cognitive work, achievement and competitiveness. They are illustrated by adjectives considered abilities or “tools” to reach an established goal.

*Positive Femininity.* These traits are directed to the welfare of others, favoring community and interpersonal relations that incite group harmony. This is why they are considered communally affective and are socially desirable.

*Negative Masculinity.* These traits include instrumental-like traits that do not favor productivity, self-sufficiency and autonomy.

*Negative Femininity:* These are all traits of an affectionate nature that do not favor interpersonal relations nor social health.

Correlation by authors such as Brehm (1992: 137) and Hoffman (2000: 496) for both sexes reveal that having negative feminine or masculine traits is highly unfavorable for a couple to achieve marital satisfaction, whereas positive feminine and/or masculine traits are favorable. Likewise, other authors (i.e. Diener and Suh, 1999: 484; Veenhoven, 2002: 331) are of the opinion that marital stability is also influenced by factors external to a couple’s place of residence.

According to Díaz-Loving, Ruiz, Cárdenas, Alvarado and Reyes (1994: 138-139), cultural evolution itself has been responsible for women developing instrumental abilities, whereas men have strengthened their positive feminine traits, increasing their ability for emotional expression. This situation has been confirmed within the migration context. On one hand, women remain in their places of origin and face the need to endure a double parental role. Since their husbands are absent, they have to fulfill the duty of acting both as mother and father. On the other hand, because of the state of loneliness resulting from the migration process, men have had to learn how to express their emotions and work hard to create a change in their way of life while looking for better opportunities (Sánchez de la Barquera, 1997: 5). Nonetheless, just a few manage to find a job and another few manage to keep it, complying with other people’s expectations or with the requirements of the culture that has given them shelter (Finch, Catalano, Novaco and Vega, 2003: 188).

Díaz-Guerrero (1994) made a comparative study of the concept of respect both among Anglo-Saxons and Mexicans and found that, whereas the former describe a relation of respect as an impersonal relation between or among equals, the latter associate the term with the idea of obedience, protection and/or an extremely intimate relationship, to the point that it involves personal feelings. Based on this information, a differentiation between Mexican and American personality was made, with results showing that the latter tend to be more active in their way of coping with challenges and problems in life, preferring to modify the environment, society or other things. Aggressiveness, anger, disdain, determination, envy, hatred, pain, pride, individualism, competitiveness, a positive



attitude, and self-assurance are considered typical American traits. Mexicans, in turn, tend to make changes in themselves and act more passively when coping with daily problems. The mother's abnegation, the obedience of the children, self-sacrifice, submission, dependency, good manners, politeness, endurance, *concha*,\*\* shame, devotion, pleasantness, family-centeredness, pessimism, cooperation and fatalism may be considered sociocultural Mexican virtues.

The United States tend to produce active, independent, individualistic, autonomous, competitive, resolute, and achievement-oriented individuals who are also, to a certain extent, impulsive, tense, and aggressive, with an emphasis on strength, action, power, production and achievement. Whereas the Mexican kind will produce accommodating, obedient, affiliating, interdependent, cooperative and non-achievement oriented individuals, who are actually calm, approve socially of obedience, and are predisposed to subservience and corruption. Their most outstanding attributes include reason, rationality, thinking and intelligence.

Literature indicates that the predominance of negative masculine or feminine traits between members of a couple results in a certain degree of psychological stress (Frone, Market and Yardely, 1997: 145), low self-esteem (Courmoyer and Mahalik, 1995: 17), anxiety and depression (Sharpe, Heppener, Dixon 1995: 3), obsessive-compulsive symptoms (Hayes and Mahalik, 2000: 118) and even difficulty to establish and maintain close relations, high levels of intimacy (Fischer and Good, 1997: 167) and marital adaptation (Campbell and Snow, 1992: 86-87), among others. In the case of those who have experienced the migration process, Vinokur, Price and Caplan (quoted in Finch et al. 2003: 181, 182) found that unemployment made individuals angry, irritated, critical, with a tendency to insult their spouse or partner.

Another study on the subject is that by Kanaiaupuni and Shwan (2000: 1314), who set out to find differences between relationships men and women establish, derived from what it implies and means to be man or woman within the immigration context. According to these authors, immigrant behavior is largely determined by biological sex, which is in turn rooted in family systems and society and has been established by them. Parrado and Flippen (2005: 627) say that the immigration process is consistently detrimental to the social bond and the interrelation among men and women, particularly in the case of women, because immigration makes them more dependent on their husbands while having at the same time to work in the reconstruction of those social bonds within and without their homes.

It is necessary to consider that the social context changes the perception, interpretation, and meaning of the traits differentiating both sexes, establishing in turn interaction guidelines between men and women. Thus an interesting

\*\*A word that can be best translated into English as a combination of shamelessness and indolence.



question would be which are the typical or ideal traits a man and a woman exhibit within a couple relationship as indicators that allow or prevent the couple to grow? This would permit us to learn whether interactions are easier or more complicated between people with similar or complementary masculinity or femininity traits. This question has been the guideline for this study, focused in a general way on a very specific population: immigrants and their partners.

The idea of growth will be analyzed here under the construct of Marital Satisfaction, considered as the product where masculine and feminine traits come together. The first aim of this study was to answer which the predominant masculinity and femininity traits between members of a migrant couple are. Based on this question, a second one would be answered: do men continue being culturally masculine and women culturally feminine? Lastly, we attempted to answer: which combinations of predominant masculine-feminine traits favor marital satisfaction in a sample of Mexican women who migrated to the United States.

### *Method*

The sample was comprised by 150 subjects (88 men and 62 women). All of them were in a permanent-partner relationship, understood as having lived together for at least a year. Of these subjects, 100 were legally married and 50 were cohabitating, all as immigrants. The extent of years married ranged from 1 to 33 years, with an average of 9.44 years (7.4 standard deviation). Sixty five percent (97) was in Miami, Florida and 3 percent (53) in Atlanta, Georgia. Ages ranged from 15 to 70 years, with a 32-year mean and 10 standard deviation. Schooling ranged from incomplete grammar-school studies to full university studies, with complete junior high and incomplete high school as a mean. Inclusion criteria for participants were: living at the time with their partner under the same roof and answering the applied instrument thoroughly. Sampling was non-probabilistic of the intentional type.

### *Instruments*

*The Polanco Scale of Gender Roles (2004:122-132) was administered.* The 47 traits that are initially included were pared down to 39 by discrimination analysis in graphic Liker-format with five answer-options ranging from Nothing (1) to Very Much (5). Total reliability was  $\alpha = .7605$ , composed of the following five dimensions, which account for 53.2 percent variance: Positive Instrumental ( $\alpha = .8808$ ), Affective Social Expressive ( $\alpha = .8982$ ), Normative Expressive ( $\alpha = .7997$ ), Expres-



sive Attributes ( $\alpha = .7378$ ) and Traditional Social ( $\alpha = .7355$ ). The instrument was administered in its entirety.

The *Multifaceted Inventory of Marital Satisfaction (MIMS)* by Cortés, Díaz-Loving, Reyes, Rivera, and Monjaraz (1994: 125) was also administered. From the original instrument in compound-Liker format, with 47 statements distributed into six factors accounting for 68.8 percent of variance, and with Cronbach alphas ranging from .86 to .92, three to five items were selected, with factorial loads over .40 per factor. The 20 resulting statements were distributed randomly into a 3-choice answer format: Much (3), Little (2) and Nothing (1). The short version of the instrument was used.

### *Procedure*

Without losing perspective of the fact that the purpose of this study was to assess immigrant couples, and considering that the interviewees were married and had been living at least together for a year, once the instruments were administered individually, the same sample was used to organize couples by gender-role combinations to determine their level of marital satisfaction.

### *Results*

A frequency analysis was performed to establish item-distribution and discrimination. Those items that did discriminate then underwent a Factorial Analysis by Main Components for both scales. In the first case, four factors were obtained, accounting for 48.61 percent of the variance total, with a factorial load over 1 (see Table 2).

Where:

The *Positive Masculinity* factor was comprised by all descriptors indicating that individuals have all the necessary tools, abilities and skills to be self-sufficient in life by being hard-working, good providers, brave, intelligent, competitive and competent when performing their role. Because of this they also described themselves as ambitious. They are additionally sensitive, polite, honest, forbearing and, above all, unselfish.

The *Positive Femininity* factor is comprised by all those adjectives which as a whole describe a person who gives themselves away in terms of emotion, and affectionate and sentimental bonding; for instance, being loving, caring, understanding, protective, loyal, faithful, kind, tolerant, respectful, friendly, and family-oriented.



TABLE 2  
Factors resulting from the Gender Role Scale for a sample  
of Mexican immigrants with partner

MASCULINITY		FEMININITY	
FACTOR 1 POSITIVE MASCULINITY N=14 X=3.8 S=.07 A=.885	FACTORIAL LOAD	FACTOR 3 POSITIVE FEMININITY N=11 X=4.14 S=.04 A=.863	FACTORIAL LOAD
Self-sufficient	.802	Loving	.788
Brave	.667	Caring	.784
Competent	.650	Understanding	.672
Ambitious	.633	Family-oriented	.655
Competitive	.616	Protective	.617
Intelligent	.556	Loyal	.547
Provider	.547	Faithful	.525
Hard-working	.532	Tolerant	.513
Forbearing	.507	Kind	.469
Polite	.489	Respectful	.413
Sincere	.487	Friendly	.397
Sensitive	.449		
Selfless	.430		
FACTOR 4 NEGATIVE MASCULINITY N=7 X=2.21 S=.58 A=.442	FACTORIAL LOAD	FACTOR 2 NEGATIVE FEMININITY N=6 X=2.33 S=.047 A=.726	FACTORIAL LOAD
Lazy	.755	Indecisive	.738
Selfish	.563	Fearful	.697
Opportunistic	.530	Insecure	.629
Sociable (Unsociable)	-.513	Unstable	.555
Gossipy	.507	Coward	.533
Motivated (Conformist)	-.460	Aggressive	.408
Pushover	.408		

Note: Adjectives with a negative load, as in the case of “sociable” and “motivated”, have an inverse interpretation; that is, a negative influence on the factor.

The factor of *Negative Femininity* includes adjectives describing a person who does not manage emotions easily, nor situations dealing with daily-life and couple-life. Some examples are faltering, fearful, insecure, unstable, coward, and aggressive.

The *Negative Masculinity* factor encompasses items related to people interested neither in themselves nor in their goals, nor in the welfare of the group they belong to. Adjectives that describe them are lazy, pushover, selfish, bully, unsociable, tattler, and conformist.

From the Factorial Analysis of the Marital Satisfaction Multifaceted Inventory, two factors were obtained that account for 78.16 percent of total variance, with a factorial load over 1 (see Table 3).



TABLE 3

Factors resulting from the Multifaceted Inventory of Marital Satisfaction  
for a sample of Mexican immigrants with partner

FACTOR 1 EMOTIONAL SATISFACTION N = 15 MEAN = 2.17 S = .004 A = .980	FACTORIAL LOAD
How often he/she kisses me.	1.019
The way he/she is interested in having sex.	1.001
How often he/she shows me the love he/she feels for me.	.991
The way we have fun as a couple.	.911
The sensitivity with which he/she responds to my emotions.	.888
How often he/she hugs me.	.859
The way in which he/she protects me.	.810
The way in which he/she talks with me.	.769
The way in which he/she shows me he/she understands.	.754
The diverse topics of conversation we have.	.737
The way in which he/she shows me he/she is interested in my problems.	.728
The way in which he/she shows support.	.662
The way in which he/she solves marital problems.	.630
How often he/she makes decisions concerning us both.	.618
The way in which he/she makes decisions concerning us both.	.617
FACTOR 2 INSTRUMENTAL SATISFACTION N=5 MEDIA=2.09 S=.016 A=.914	FACTORIAL LOAD
The attention he/she pays to our children.	.939
The way he/she treats our children.	.850
The way he/she participates in raising our children.	.757
The way in which he/she manages money.	.570
The way in which he/she proposes housework will be done.	.531

Where:

The *Emotional Satisfaction* factor refers to people who express their love for each other, who care for the other and are always trying to be there, showering affection and enjoying being with their partner. These items suggest, for instance, how often I am kissed, they way in which the other makes decisions that affect us both, the way my partner talks to me, how often he/she embraces me, his/her sensitivity towards my emotions, etc.

The *Instrumental Satisfaction* factor emphasizes the practical way of dealing with a couple-relationship. This has to do with daily behavior, starting with complying with the commitment of being really interested in the other person. Items in this factor included how much the other person minds the children, how he/she treats them, how money is allotted, etc. As may be seen, these items refer to a relation consisting solely in commitment.

Frequencies were then analyzed by factors to subdivide groups, based on the mean, according to positive or negative masculine-feminine traits and areas of



marital satisfaction, following a pure distribution (given by factors resulting originally from each of the scales used, or by factors resulting from the combination of previous factor). Within the latter, the following were added: *Positive Androgynies* (those who ranked high both in positive masculine and feminine traits), *Negative Androgynies* (those who ranked high both in negative masculine and feminine traits), and *Undifferentiated* (those whose description made it impossible to define a gender trend). This analysis was done separately for men and for women to find how the resulting seven factors were distributed and to answer the first question of this study. Based on content analysis and comparative analysis with relevant literature, we proceeded to answer the second question.

Chart 1 shows that the traits Mexican male immigrants employ to live with a partner in the United States are firstly of the Androgyny kind (47 percent). This means that they combine positive masculinity traits and positive femininity traits, which describes them as self-sufficient, success-oriented men who are at the same concerned about having a good relation with themselves and the others, and are loving, understanding and loyal. Secondly, there is a predominance of Negative Masculinity traits (11.8 percent), which describes them as people who do not care neither about themselves nor about others, who are not interested in fulfilling their goals, and who are also unsociable, intolerant, lazy, and pushover. In the third place are those described with Positive Masculine traits (10.6 percent), which are described as success-oriented and self-sufficient people. Finally, in a lesser proportion we find the men who describe themselves with Negative and Positive Femininity traits (both 8.2 percent). The former are those who do not have self-confidence and cannot make decisions on their own, revealing themselves to be fearful, hesitant and intolerant with their partner and those around them. The latter are men who cannot interact adequately, cannot make decisions, show themselves as insecure persons to other and have no interest in socializing. Lastly, there were men who showed no tendency to any of the six groups and were thus classified as Undifferentiated (5.9 percent).

CHART 1

Distribution of masculinity-femininity traits for immigrant men with a partner

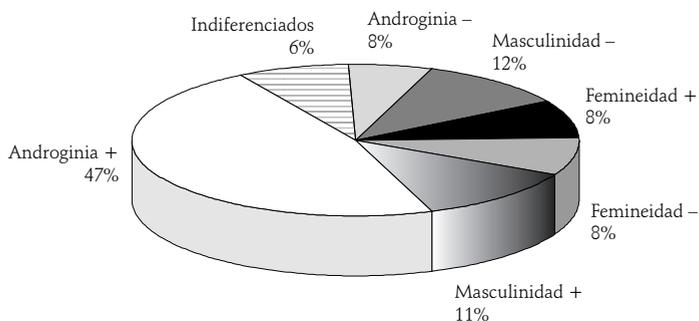
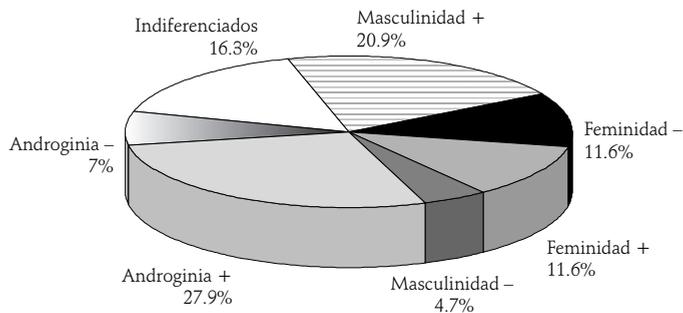




Chart 2 shows predominant traits among immigrant women. A majority of them revealed Androgyny traits; that is, a combination of positive masculinity and positive femininity traits, leading to a description of success-oriented people with a goal in mind, but who are also loving, loyal, and understanding (27.9 percent). Secondly we find women that use Positive Masculinity traits; that is, they look for better opportunities in life, they are independent, hard-working and respectful (20.9 percent). In the third place, women who have no specific traits and are thus classified as Undifferentiated (16.3 percent), because they show both Positive Femininity traits (loving, kind) and Negative Femininity traits (dependent, unstable). In the fourth place there are, at the same time, women with positive and negative feminine traits separately, but in similar percentages (11.6 percent). In the fifth place, women who use Negative Masculinity traits (9.7 percent) and who describe themselves as aggressive, fearful and unsociable. Lastly, women who use more Negative Femininity and Masculinity traits, and who are dependent, fearful, aggressive and, simultaneously, unsociable, lazy, and opportunistic (see Chart 2).

CHART 2

Distribution of masculinity-femininity traits for immigrant women with a partner



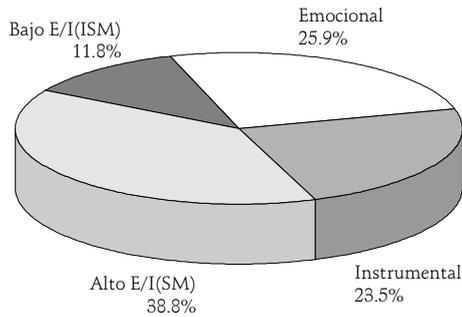
Regarding Marital Satisfaction, Chart 3 reveals that, to interact with their partner, a majority of immigrant men use a combination of Emotional and Instrumental bonds, leading them to perceive satisfaction in their marital relation; that is, they describe an interest in their relationship, while being loving, kind to their partner, and concerned about their children and the family's welfare (38.8 percent). In the second place there is a predominance of men whose marital bond is based on emotion and the expression and management of affection (25.9 percent). In the third place are those men whose marital relation is more instrumental than emotional, and whose concern revolves around keeping the family together, as a family commitment, supplying what is necessary for their children's education (23.5 percent). Lastly, the chart shows men who do not have a defined marital style of interaction, reporting low Instrumental and Emotional levels; that is, they are not involved in the relation emotionally nor financially, they



simply let time go by and do not work actively to keep and strengthen their life in a couple and/or family (11.8 percent).

CHART 3

Distribution by marital bonding factors for immigrant men with a partner



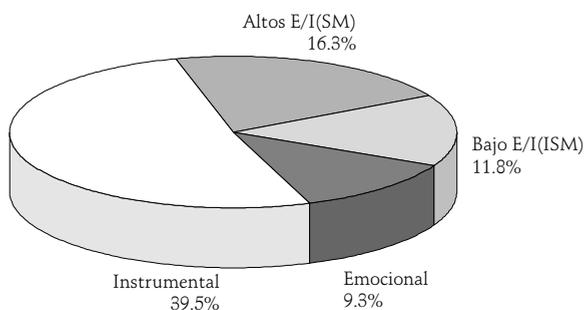
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Se modificaron los fragmentos del pay según su porcentaje ya que en el original no coinciden.

Chart 4 shows predominant traits among immigrant women in their marital relation. In the first case, the chart shows women who usually interact with their partner at an Instrumental Level (39.5 percent), corresponding to a description of people interested in their family's welfare and thus anything that is necessary to satisfy the basic needs of its members. Secondly we see women who do not have a clear idea of how to bond with their partner; that is, they do not worry about the financial resources and support of their home, nor for the social-affective welfare of their family (34.9 percent). In the third place are those women contrary to the previous ones, since they consider it is important to bond with their partner both at an Instrumental and Emotional level, expressing concern for the holistic welfare of the relationship and family, trying to make sure nothing gets in the way of the family members' welfare, amid means of expressing affection and showing love (16.3 percent). Lastly we have women who emphasize the role of the Emotional Bond in their couple-relationship, for whom everything is possible with love (9.3 percent).

CHART 4

Distribution of marital bonding factors for immigrant women with a partner





To summarize, data from Chart 1 show that the preponderant masculinity-femininity traits among immigrant couples are, in the “pure” sense, Positive Masculinity, Positive Femininity, Negative Femininity, and Negative Masculinity. The combination of these traits reveals that neither men nor women continue to be purely masculine or feminine (as the case may be). On the contrary, they take the positive aspects of both-gender traits. Culturally, both immigrant men and women describe themselves as Androgynous. It may also be seen that while men describe themselves Negative Masculine traits, women consider the Positive in this world as predominant.

Based on an analysis of the influence of cultural context and particularly the migration process on the way immigrant couples perceive and assess their interpersonal relations, charts 3 and 4 show a cultural change regarding the perception men and women have of their marital relationship. On the one hand, men report satisfaction in both the emotional and instrumental domains, followed by a substantial increase in expressivity and demonstration of emotions to their partner, while women firstly reported a significantly higher level of instrumental bonding and lack of marital satisfaction.

Furthermore, a variance analysis by gender was carried out for each of the resulting factors from the scales used. Tables 4 and 5 show that these factors, which were statistically and significantly different for immigrant men and women, included Negative Femininity; Masculinity-Femininity traits on one hand, and the factor of Emotional Satisfaction on the other. Table 4 reveals that women are the ones who usually adopt more Negative Femininity traits, tend to hesitate when deciding, and are insecure, fearful and unstable. Table 5 indicates that, within married life, men are the ones who look for an emotionally-laden bond with their partner and means of exchange through the manner and frequency of physical contact.

TABLE 4

Variance analysis by gender for each of the factors in the Polanco Scale of Gender Roles (2004) for a sample of Mexican immigrants with partner

GENDER ROLES OF	+ MASCULINITY	- MASCULINITY	+ FEMININITY	- FEMININITY
Men	X=53.15	X=15.23	X=44.66	X=13.46
Women	X=53.60	X=15.11	X=42.83	X=15.43
F(1/123)=	.054	.025	1.278	4.576
p=	.817	.874	.260	.035

Note: + Masculinity = Positive Masculinity, - Masculinity = Negative Masculinity, + Femininity = Positive Femininity, - Femininity = Negative Femininity



TABLE 5

Variance analysis by gender for each of the factors in the *Multifaceted Inventory of Marital Satisfaction* for a sample of Mexican immigrants with a partner

MARITAL BONDING OF	EMOTIONALITY	INSTRUMENTALITY
Men	X=33.8	X=9.37
Women	X=25.51	X=8.11
F(1/123)=	16.87	2.65
p=	.000	.106

Lastly, as a response to which combination of predominant masculine-feminine traits favor marital satisfaction in a sample of Mexican women who immigrated to the United States, a linear regression analysis was performed with the Inductor Method by gender, for the four resulting factors from the Gender Roles Scale. Marital Satisfaction was the dependent variable with its two characteristics, Emotional Satisfaction and Instrumentality. It should be mentioned that although this same procedure was followed for the three factors resulting from the combination of Positive Androgynies, Negative Androgynies, and Undifferentiated, results were not statistically significant, for reasons mentioned below. Prior to these regression analyses, Pearson's Product-Moment Correlations were performed by gender and factors.

Table 6 reports, in the case of men, a positive and significant correlation between positive femininity and, separately, negative femininity, both with the emotion marital bond. In the case of women, statistically significant correlations were found between negative masculinity and positive femininity, separately from the emotion marital bond, positive femininity and the instrumental marital bond.

TABLE 6

Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation for men and women between masculine and feminine traits and Emotional and Instrumental Bonding Styles in a sample of Mexican immigrants with a partner

MASCULINE AND FEMININE TRAITS	MARTIAL BONDING STYLES			
	INSTRUMENTAL		EMOTIONAL	
	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
- Masculinity	X= .059 (.59)	X= .255 (.10)	X= .152 (.16)	X= .399** (.00)
+ Femininity	X= .134 (.22)	X= .512** (.001)	X= .247** (.02)	X= .478**
- Femininity	X= .082 (.46)	X= -.058 (.73)	X= .224** (.04)	X= -.102 (.54)
+ Masculinity	X= .027 (.25)	X= .284 (.07)	X= .340** (.00)	X= .063 (.69)

Note: + Masculinity = Positive Masculinity, - Masculinity = Negative Masculinity,  
+ Femininity = Positive Femininity, - Femininity = Negative Femininity.  
\* p= .05, \*\* p= .001



TABLE 7

Linear Regression Analysis by Inductor Method by Gender in a sample of Mexican immigrants with partner. The Emotional and Instrumental factors of the Marital Satisfaction Scale have been used as dependent variable

PREDICTIVE MODEL	WOMEN		MEN
	DEPENDENT VARIABLE: MARITAL BONDING		
	EMOTIONAL	INSTRUMENTAL	EMOTIONAL
+ Masculinity	-.133	.051	.356
- Femininity	-.130	-.020	.411
+ Femininity	.506	.114	-.031
- Masculinity	1.363	.332	.151
F =	(4/36) 3.670**	(4/36) = 2.748***	(4/80) 3.53*
R =	.5619	.5069	.395
R <sup>2</sup> =	.314	.256	.156
B =	-8.337	4.485	8.770

Note: + Masculinity = Positive Masculinity, - Masculinity = Negative Masculinity,  
 + Femininity = Positive Femininity, - Femininity = Negative Femininity.  
 \*p = .011, \*\*p = .01, \*\*\*p = .04

Table 7 shows that positive masculinity tends to be a stronger predictor, both for men and women, of the type of marital bond, even if only at the level of expressing emotions, affection and feelings towards the spouse.

## DISCUSSION

According to the results we obtained from the responses to the Polanco Scale of Gender Roles (2004:122-132) and to the Multifaceted Inventory of Marital Satisfaction (1994:118-119) administered to Mexican immigrants with a partner, there are four Masculinity-Femininity prevailing traits among them: Positive Masculinity, Positive Femininity, Negative Femininity, and Negative Masculinity, exactly as literature has shown (Brehm, 1992: 136-137; Carrillo, Cortés, Flores and Reyes, 2000: 118-119; Díaz-Loving and Rocha, 2004: 87; Hoffman, 2000: 476; Polanco, 2004: 134-137).

An analysis of the combinations of these factors indicates that neither men nor women have a purely defined gender trait, as many of them have adopted the positive aspects of both traits. In cultural terms, immigrant women and men define themselves as Positive Androgynies.

Secondly, Negative Masculinity was the trait that predominated among men and Positive Masculinity did so among women, contrary to expectations found in classic literature about gender. This is so, according to Díaz-Loving et al. (1994: 138-139), because in spite of the fact that masculine and feminine traits are



clearly defined for men and women, the passage of time and cultural evolution have made women develop their masculinity as a result of their husbands migrating to the Northern side of the border and their need to fulfill the role of mother and father at the same time. As to the men, the result of the state of loneliness derived from the process of immigration has made them learn how to express their emotions, work hard to produce a change in their way of living and look for better opportunities (Sánchez de la Barquera, 1997: 5).

Regarding Marital Satisfaction, our results show that these couples have experienced a cultural change in their perception of their marriage relationship. Men report satisfaction with the emotional and instrumental bonding and have substantially increased their emotional expressivity and demonstrations to their partner. Women in turn report firstly greater instrumental bonding and secondly describe a lack of marital satisfaction because they have to work and fulfill a double or triple role (workers, wives and/or mothers). This situation leads to high stress indexes, with repercussions on marital dynamics and adaptation (Campbell and Snow, 1992: 86-87; Fischer and Good, 1997: 167). This also confirms what Brehm (1992: 136,137) and Hoffman (2000: 476) have found: positive masculine traits favor marital satisfaction among men, but not among women. In this study about couples, where one of the members is an immigrant, we found that "pure" positive masculinity was mainly reported among women.

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