

(Draft 2)

## RESEARCH ON ONLINE AND OFFLINE RELATIONSHIPS

## Research On Online and Offline Relationships

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## Introduction → centered

Relationships can be either online relationships or offline relationships. Online relationships can be defined simply as the condition of being related, in association or connected to another person solely on the <sup>I</sup>internet. Internet relationships can <sup>be</sup>comprised of interpersonal relationships involving two people who have met online. In most cases, ~~most of the~~ online relationships usually involve people who do not know each other. Different empirical studies have been carried out to identify what people make of online relationships. The studies done on online relationships are three, where two focus pivotally on the communication between the parties in relationship and the last study compares computer mediated communication and non-computer-mediated communication. It is apparent that intimacy plays a crucial role in making certain that both ~~an~~ online and offline relationships <sup>are</sup>is working between different parties. [Online relationships have been nurtured in a way that makes certain that the several perceptions concerning the relationships are evident in most of the online relationships. Both ~~the~~ offline and online relationships have ~~both~~ positive and negative effects on the people involved. Several modes of communication characterize online relationships, which include the use of emails for communication and the use of social networking sites. In the case of offline relations, instant messages and face-to-face communications are employed heavily. [This paper will present different researches and studies that have been carried out by different scholars concerning both offline and online relationships. Different schools of thought have argued that offline relationships have <sup>more</sup>the capability to nurture intimacy compared to online <sup>spelling</sup>relation. This school of thought has been disregarded by other intellects who have argued that ~~also~~ online relationships can nurture closeness and intimacy between couples.

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Where is your thesis statement?

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Empirical studies on online relationships → center  
(2002) ? not part of citation

Brian Butler and Robert Kraut present three crucial studies that have been carried out concerning the online relationships. The studies were based on two issues, which are the mode of communication and the comparison that is carried out on the computer-mediated communication and the non-computer mediated communication. In the mode of communication, the studies were based on non-internet relationships and internet relationships (Cummings & Butler, 2002).

## Internet relationships

It is perceptible that internet communication was first established to be a means of communication between government officials and military personnel. The internet became a mode of communication between people due to their ability to communicate easily and cheaply with different people around the globe cheaply. Internet relationships have been characterized as relationships involving people who do not know each other. Very few people in the online relationships know one another. Internet relationships have been exemplified with the presence of disclosure between the parties that are in the relationship. Personal disclosure plays an outstanding role in making certain that the sense of intimacy and closeness is present in a relationship. Existence of disclosure between two parties will result in a sense of trust between the two in an online relationship. This is contrary to the face-to-face relationships. It is extremely difficult to attain a sense of disclosure and trust between the two parties (Cummings & Butler, 2002).

## Non-internet relationships

These relationships are categorized as offline relationships. The parties involved in this kind of relationship use different means of communication. These methods include the use of face-to-face conversations and text instant messaging on the phones. Different scholars have

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argued that this is the best form of relationship that can attain sense of closeness and intimacy. This is simply because there are no chances of misrepresentations, <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ are evident in <sup>I</sup> ~~the~~ internet based relationships (Eysenbach, 2002).

Misrepresentation among people on the internet is exceptionally apparent in the early stages of the relationship. This is due to lack <sup>of</sup> ~~or~~ exceeding little commitment by the parties involved. The argument was presented by Ashley Madison, <sup>(CITE)</sup> who also went further to argue that <sup>I</sup> ~~the~~ internet could result <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ casual dating, which is unhealthy for a relationship. <sup>(CITE)</sup> <sup>I</sup> ~~Non-internet~~ relationships have been characterized <sup>by the</sup> ~~with~~ presence of high echelons of commitment among the parties involved. This is simply because, in face-to-face communication, the parties are able to clearly gauge the trustworthiness of a partner. In addition, the parties are able to express, wholly, their inner most emotions to one another, compared to ~~the~~ online relationships (Eysenbach, 2002).

### Computer mediated communication and non-computer mediated communication → centered

Computer-mediated communication (CMC) is a form of communication where communication is carried out between people using computers that are connected via the <sup>I</sup> ~~internet~~. The forms of communications include instant messaging, <sup>ing</sup> ~~use of the~~ emails, and <sup>ing</sup> ~~the use of~~ chat rooms. <sup>(CITE)</sup> The use of computer-mediated communication has been categorized as one of the means of study in the relationship. <sup>unclear</sup> This is due to the effects that the interactions <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ on the people. The CMC has an impact on the relationships simply due to the modes employed in the communication. For instance, <sup>an</sup> in the case of instant message, ~~it is apparent that~~ the details of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ communication cannot be saved after the chat box is closed. This may affect the relationship negatively since there would no point of reference between the parties involved. This is contrary

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to text messages and emails. With text messages and emails, there is always a point of reference (Seed & German, 2008).

The consequences <sup>of</sup> ~~resulting from~~ both <sup>I</sup> ~~internet~~ and primary or non-<sup>I</sup> ~~internet~~ relationships

To make certain that their arguments <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>word choice</sup> ~~sanctified~~, the scholars <sup>must</sup> ~~had to~~ present evidence in terms of both <sup>the</sup> ~~positive~~ and <sup>the</sup> ~~negative~~ effects of the two kinds of the relationships. In the <sup>I</sup> ~~internet~~ or online-based relationship, it <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ noticeable that several negative impacts <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ present ~~from~~

Not on  
reference  
list

<sup>(CITE)</sup> ~~the experiments done by Cornwell~~. He alleged <sup>S</sup> that the online relationships result <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ casual dating, which usually has a negative ending, ~~This is simply~~ due to lack of maximum commitment among

the parties involved. Second, <sup>I</sup> ~~the~~ internet relationships <sup>often</sup> ~~result into~~ infidelity among people, ~~This is~~

~~simply~~ because married people or people in serious relationships may use the <sup>I</sup> ~~internet~~ to engage in extra relationships, <sup>in</sup> ~~resulting to~~ divorce. <sup>(CITE)</sup> Despite the negative effect, it is apparent that <sup>what is it?</sup> ~~it~~ has

also positive results. <sup>O</sup> ~~The~~ online relationships are sources of disclosure among the parties involved, <sup>ing</sup> ~~This ensures~~ that trust is nurtured among the parties, <sup>in</sup> ~~resulting to~~ closeness (Furht, 2010).

In the case of ~~the~~ offline relationship<sup>s</sup>, several impacts <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ evident. First, it <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ clear that chances of misrepresentation are eliminated between the two parties. This <sup>true</sup> ~~is~~ especially in the case of face-to-face communication, where two parties meet. <sup>(CITE)</sup> <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ obvious that the

parties involved could express their innermost feeling ~~as compared to online chatting~~. The

expression of inner feelings can be used to gauge the level of commitment between the parties

involved in the relationships. <sup>(CITE)</sup> The negative impact associated with offline relationship is lack of disclosure among partners. This is because of the hardship needed ~~in order~~ to create it (Ben-

Ze'ev, 2004).

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Conclusion → center

Relationships between different parties are nurtured and initiated by communication. The effectiveness of the relationship ~~solely~~ depends on the forms of communication<sup>I</sup> between the parties in the relationships. Online-based relationships have been achieved using the internet as the main <sup>mode</sup> ~~means~~ of communication. Communication can involve parties that do not know one another, but have a disclosure <sup>with</sup> ~~to~~ one another. In the case of offline relationships, the parties can communicate using face-to-face communication. In the case of offline relationships, the parties are known to one another and the gauging of commitment is easily identified.

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## References

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Cummings, J. N. Butler, B. (a) (2002). The Quality of Online Social Relationships. *Journal of Communication- ACM*, 45 (7), 103-108. — \*Do you physically have this journal? If not, include retrieval information

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