

**Abstract:**

Close relationships fulfil the need of an individual to start and keep close relationships with other people. These are main basic needs of a human being. Partnership, family and friendship are all considered to be close relationships. We can find common elements among them but also there are specific differences. Intimacy is by all means one of the main components of close relationships and this work is focused on it. We mention knowledge which can be found in literature, emphasis is put on foreign sources.

This work shows results of prototypical study of the term intimacy, which reveals layman structure of this term and offers, apart from traditional definitions, a different view of the subject, especially the contrasts which are typical for close relationships in partnerships, family relationships and friendships.

We mention subtypes of intimacy which are also referred in foreign literature. We describe these subtypes of intimacy and we present results of a study of different subtypes of intimacy in partnership.

This work tries to explain the term intimacy and point out in which way it could go in further research on this subject. Results are compared with foreign literature but also bring new insights.

**Key words:**

Close relationships, intimacy, partnership, prototypical approach, prototypic scale