

Abstract:

This thesis focuses on mapping the action of the multimedia technologies (MMT) on selected aspects of the partner relationship. In the theoretical part the particular components of the relationship (relationship satisfaction, trust, communication and leisure time) and their association with the usage of particular media by partners are described. For the research the mixed methods design was chosen, while in the quantitative part online questionnaire was used, which was filled in by 210 respondents. In the qualitative part semi-structured interviews with three couples were made. The outcome of this thesis is a description of the frequency and ways of using MMT, mapping effects on the relationship and overall evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of using MMT for the relationship.

The results showed that partners mainly use MMT to contact the other partner, mainly to express love. Mostly they use chat to contact each other, then phone calls and text messages. As a disadvantage of the mediated communication partners perceive the absence of nonverbal communication and presence of misunderstanding. To sum it up, the positive effects on the relationship are: frequent contact with partner, use of MMT to express love to partner, full attention from partner without use of MMT, use of MMT for spending time together. On the other hand, it seems to be negative for the relationship: less attention due to use of MMT, use of MMT to discuss serious topics, monitoring of partner, avoiding face to face conversation by use of MMT, excessive use of MMT and insufficient sharing regarding individual use of MMT.

Keywords:

Multimedia technologies, romantic relationships, relationship satisfaction, trust, mediated communication, partner's leisure time