

The Development of a Measure of Psychological Maltreatment of Women by Their Male Partners

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This study describes the initial development of a scale of measurement of psychological maltreatment of women by their male partners. The initial version of the scale was administered to 407 men and 207 women at intake into a domestic violence program. All 58 items of the scale were endorsed by a large enough number of subjects to warrant inclusion in the final instrument. Factor analysis revealed a similar factor structure for the men and women, with dominance-isolation and emotional-verbal abuse factors emerging from the analysis. Intracouple reliability for each item of the scale was examined for the subset of men and women who were cohabiting couples ($n = 28$). Unsurprisingly, the agreement of men's and women's reports was low, though the scores on the dominance-isolation subscale were significantly correlated.

A widely shared clinical observation is that men who physically and sexually abuse their partners also engage in a wide range of other abusive behaviors (Walker, 1979; Ganley, 1981; Nickle & Purdy, 1981). These behaviors have been alternatively characterized as nonphysical abuse (Hudson & McIntosh, 1981), emotional abuse (NiCarthy, 1986), indirect abuse (Gondolf, 1987), psychological abuse (Patrick-Hoffman, 1982), and mental or psychological torture (Russell, 1982).

Several conceptual frameworks for classifying the forms that nonphysical abuse takes have been proposed. For example, Sonkin, Martin, and Walker (1985) list six forms of psychological violence, including explicit threats of violence, implicit threats of violence, extreme controlling behavior, pathological jealousy, mental degradation, and isolating behavior. Russell (1982) and NiCarthy (1986) draw attention to the similarity of the behavior of batterers and the behaviors listed on Biderman's Chart of Coercion, which was included in an Amnesty International publication (1973) detailing techniques used in brainwashing pri-

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