RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTACHMENT STYLES AND CLUSTER B PERSONALITY DISORDERS AMONG ADULT MALES AND FEMALES DIAGNOSED WITH THE DISORDER IN QESHM ISLAND, IRAN

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Abstract: The current study attempted to examine the relationship between the three attachment styles (secure, anxious/ambivalent, and avoidant) and the four Cluster B personality disorders (borderline, antisocial, narcissistic, and histrionic) among males and females diagnosed with the disorder in the island of Qeshm, Iran. A total of 80 adult male and female patients diagnosed with Cluster B personality disorder, aged between 18 and 65 years, were referred by 28 otmail28ed28 centers, psychiatric clinics, and hospitals in Qeshm Island, Iran for participation in this research study. The participants were asked to complete the Adult Attachment Inventory (AAI) and the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI). Data analysis involved both descriptive and inferential statistics including reliability analysis, means, and standard deviations for the computed factors, GLM multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) to test for gender differences, and multiple regression analysis. The results revealed that none of the three attachment styles significantly predicted any of the four Cluster B personality disorders. Additionally, no overall gender difference was found in the seven variables combined. Implications, limitations, and avenues for future research are presented.

Keywords: attachment styles, cluster B personality disorders

Introduction
Attachment is considered an important etiological factor in the development of personality disorders (Timmerman & Emmelkamp, 2006). Bowlby (1969, 1982) suggested that psychopathology appears due to parental rejection and neglect in childhood. Psychoanalysts have accepted Bowlby’s perspective that attachment problems in early childhood can cause personality disorders (Khanjani, Hoseninasab, & Kazemi, 2014). The results of several studies suggest a relationship between attachment styles and personality disorders. For example, Brennan and Shaver (1998) posited that attachment style is a root cause of personality disorders. Furthermore, they reported a large overlap between attachment style and personality disorders that was later confirmed by other researchers (e.g., Meyer, et al., 2001 levy (2005).

On a related note, some empirical findings confirmed the relationship between borderline personality disorder and insecure attachment style (Sable, 1997; Nickell, Waudby, & Trull, 2002; investigated the relationship between attachment styles and personality disorders in individuals who were sexually molested in childhood. The results revealed that individuals with insecure attachment style referred to their parents as ‘non-caregivers’ and presented some symptoms of antisocial personality disorder. Timmerman and Emmelkamp (2006) investigated the relationship between attachment styles and Cluster B personality disorders in inmates and forensic patients and observed that most of the people in these groups reported having experienced ambivalent attachment style and less secure attachment style. More specifically, the study demonstrated a relationship between ambivalent attachment style and histrionic and antisocial personality disorders.

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