

Rhetorical Analysis of “The Psychology of Break-up Sex...”

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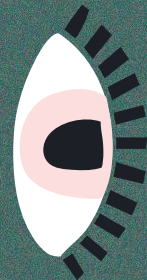




Table of contents

01

Intro & Summary of
“The psychology of
breakup sex...”

02

Quantitative
Research Approach

05

Logos

03

Values & Belief of
Discipline

04

Ethos & Lack of
Pathos

06

Passage Analysis



01

Intro & Summary of “The Psychology of Breakup Sex...”



What is “break-up sex”?



Operational Definition →
ensures study can be replicated

Break-up sex is operationally defined as sexual intercourse with a previous ex partner that occurred specifically within the first two weeks following the termination of the committed relationship.

WHY?

- Two-week mark → experience sadness due to end of relationship
 - Four-week mark → tend to engage in sex with a NEW partner
- THUS... limiting to two-weeks following breakup accounts for confounding variables + ensures emotional distress is NOT a motivational factor for engaging in sex





Introduction



Guiding Theory

Contrary to popular culture expressing the “benefits” of participating in breakup sex, the authors challenge this message by doing research as to how past break-up sex experiences made individuals feel and how people predicted they would feel about it in the future.

- Very little research done in this particular area

Findings/Results

Study 1: hypothesis that women would rate feeling bad about themselves was supported. Between men and women, men feel best after breakup sex and would have breakup sex for different reasons than women.

Study 2: reasons as to why people have breakup sex.

The top three reasons were: “sex is fun” (29 nominees), “I miss sex (26 nominees), and “want to get back together” (23 nominees)

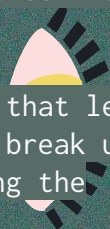
Methods


Two different studies:

1. Focused on how previous break up sex experiences made individuals feel + how they predicted they would feel in the future

- 11 items were further used to access whether there were gender differences between men and women.

2. The motivational factors that lead men and women to engage in breakup sex and how they differ among the two sexes





02

Quantitative Research Approach





Quantitative Research Approach



- Quantitative research permits researchers to quantify a problem with numerical value.
- A summary is then taken from that numerical data
- The primary ways the authors establish credibility and present evidence regarding the negative effects of break up sex was by conducting two quantitative research.

Moran et al.

5

Table 1. Gender Differences for 11 Breakup Sex Questions.

Questions	Men M (SD)	Women M (SD)
1. How was your relationship before you had breakup sex	3.52 (1.29)	3.41 (1.37)
2. How was your relationship after you had breakup sex	3.04 (1.27)	3.58 (1.38)**
3. How did you feel after	4.88 (1.75)***	3.51 (1.68)
4. I would have breakup sex with someone less attractive than me	4.51 (1.98)*	3.95 (1.67)
5. I would have breakup sex if my partner broke up with me	4.69(1.76)***	3.78 (1.83)
6. I would have breakup sex if it was mutual	5.55 (1.38)**	4.88 (1.63)
7. I would have breakup sex if I broke up with my partner	4.71 (1.77)**	3.97 (1.77)
8. I would have breakup sex if I still loved my partner	5.81 (1.55)	5.60 (1.51)
9. I would partake in sexual behaviors I normally wouldn't	4.08 (1.80)***	3.07 (1.74)
10. I would use breakup sex a tool to show them what they were missing	3.91 (2.24)	4.04 (2.03)
11. I would feel bad after having breakup sex	3.34 (1.83)	4.41 (1.73)***

*p < .05. **p < .005. ***p < .001.

Table 4. Gender Differences and Previous Breakup Sex Experiences Means.

	Men M (SD)	Women M(SD)	Have Had Breakup Sex M(SD)	Have not Had Breakup Sex M(SD)
Relationship Maintenance	2.81 (.90)	2.83 (.99)	2.87 (.91)*	2.58 (1.1)
Hedonism	3.43 (.76)***	3.10 (.94)	3.41 (.75)***	2.56 (1.1)
Ambivalence	2.30 (.82)**	2.10 (.72)	2.23 (.74)**	1.99 (.84)

Note. Higher numbers mean more higher ratings for that subscale, standard deviations in parentheses.

*p < .05. **p < .010. ***p < .001.



03

Values & Beliefs of Discipline





Values & Beliefs of Discipline



4 Goals of Psychology

1. Describe
2. Explain
3. Predict
4. Change



Value building upon previous research studies to expand our understanding of real-life phenomena and their implications on society

Future Directions and Limitations

The present studies were conducted to investigate an unexplored avenue of research within ex-sex research, specifically to understand how individuals feel about and why they engage in, breakup sex. Although these findings are novel, there are several issues that should be addressed in future research. First, participants were mainly White individuals from the United States. Future research should begin to examine whether this postbreakup behavior is an American phenomenon, and the extent to which other cultures throughout the world engage in this postbreakup behavior. Understanding this postbreakup in non-WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic) societies is of particular importance. Although traditional societies like the !Kung San and the Ache broke up with romantic partners ([Hill & Hurtado, 1996](#); [Howell, 1976](#)), in other societies, where individuals having multiple committed partners is culturally sanctioned, people may be more likely to simply turn attention to a different mate instead of breaking up ([Henrich et al., 2012](#)). Future research should attempt to further understand these differences to gain a more nuanced understanding of the influence of culture on human mating psychology.

The current samples were also disproportionately comprised of women. Although this is common in

Discussing Limitations in Research Papers

- Not a representative sample of population
- Gender → Comprised of mainly women
- Culture → Comprised of mainly White individuals

- GOAL: make suggestions for future studies → EXPANDING knowledge



Values on Ethical Principles



Minimising the risk of harm

Research should never harm participants.

Benefits > Risks



Obtaining informed consent.

Participants should understand that they are participating in research and what the research requires of them.



Protecting anonymity and confidentiality

There's a legal responsibility to protect the data you collect from participants.



Avoiding deceptive practices

Researchers should not be misleading participants about an experiment's purpose, conditions, or procedures.

If unavoidable, it is necessary to debrief participants as soon as possible.



Providing the right to withdraw

Participants should not be pressured or coerced in any way to try and stop them from withdrawing.

Place Importance on Replication of Studies!!



04

Ethos & Lack of Pathos



Ethos & Lack of Pathos



Ethos

About James Moran, Ph.D.

- Social and Sexual Health Psychologist
- Research focuses on how:
 - Our health impacts sexual behaviors and desires
 - Threat of Infectious Disease
 - Singlehood & Alcohol Intake Impact Our Sexual Behaviors
- Education credentials, knowledge on the topic & experience in the field make him qualified to conduct research + report findings
- IMPORTANT to establish credibility of researcher + study itself
 - Without credibility & integrity findings are not considered to be significant



Lack of Pathos

- Article was not trying to persuade, but rather describe + explain findings
- Lush & Descriptive Language can have heavy emotions which counters establishment of ethos
 - Would potentially seem unprofessional



05

Logos





Logos



- Statistics & Probability
 - Breakup study used multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA)
- Visual tables & Graphs
 - Researchers DO NOT use statistics to prove, but rather suggest significance

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A 2 (Long-term Relationship History) \times 11 (Breakups Sex Questions) mixed-model repeated measures multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA) was performed with the social desirability score included as a covariate. The MANCOVA was not significant, $F(11, 119) = .847$, $p = .584$, $\eta^2 = .041$, and revealed that social desirability did not have an effect, $F(11, 119) = .979$, $p = .463$, $\eta^2 = .047$.

women. As can be seen from the table, men tend to be receptive to breakup sex regardless of the relevant factors involved (i.e., partner attractiveness or who initiated the breakup), whereas women tend to report that they feel worse after engaging in breakup sex.





06

Passage Analysis



Passage Analysis

Logos and ethos are being shown in yellow. These are the statistical sentences which state if the question is statistically significant. The evidence also shows ethos because it shows that the researchers know how to correctly format it.

The eight questions that showed significant gender differences were as follows: "How was your relationship after breakup sex occurred," $F(1, 212) = 8.394, p = .004, \eta^2 = .04$, "How did you feel after breakup sex," $F(1, 212) = 31.344, p = .001, \eta^2 = .13$, "I would have breakup sex with someone who was less attractive than me," $F(1, 212) = 4.781, p = .030, \eta^2 = .022$, "I would have breakup sex with someone who broke up with me," $F(1, 212) = 12.385, p = .001, \eta^2 = .056$, "I would have breakup sex with someone if the breakup was mutual," $F(1, 212) = 8.712, p = .004, \eta^2 = .040$, "I would have breakup sex if I broke up with my partner," $F(1, 212) = 8.397, p = .004, \eta^2 = .039$, "I would participate in sexual behaviors I normally wouldn't," $F(1, 212) = 15.268, p = .001, \eta^2 = .068$, and "I would feel bad about myself after having breakup sex," $F(1, 212) = 17.503, p = .001, \eta^2 = .077$. Table 1 displays the means and standard deviations for the aforementioned questions for men and women. As can be seen from the table, men tend to be receptive to breakup sex regardless of the relevant factors involved (i.e., partner attractiveness or who initiated the breakup), whereas women tend to report that they feel worse after engaging in breakup sex.

Passage Analysis Continued...

The green highlighted section shows the neutral word choice the researchers use. In psychology, a single study can't prove anything so researchers use phrases like "showed significance" or "tend" to show patterns noticed from the data. Because of this lack of pathos in writing, it comes off more professional which helps with the researcher's ethos.

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Passage Analysis Continued...

The orange is the interpretation of the data. While it is reporting on how women feel worse after having break-up sex compared to men, it doesn't try to infer anything because you can't assume causality from a survey. Instead the researchers show there was a correlation between gender and feelings after sex. This adds to their ethos because they know how to correctly interpret data.

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Thank you for listening!

