



Relational Maintenance

- ◆ Sustain “relational definition” or the characteristics important to ongoing personal relationships such as control mutuality, trust, liking.
- ◆ Control mutuality– Degree of agreement as to who has the right to determine relational goals.
- ◆ Trust– Degree one risks self to the partner.
- ◆ Liking– Preference or choice for association.



Review of Theoretical Commitments Canary & Stafford

1. All mature relationships require maintenance or else they deteriorate.
2. People are motivated to maintain equitable relationships.
3. Efforts to maintain relationships vary according to the development of the relationship.



Review of Theoretical Commitments Canary & Stafford

4. Particular maintenance behaviors operate in isolation or combination with other types of maintenance behaviors to sustain various relational features.
5. Both interactive and non-interactive factors function to maintain personal relationships.



Review of Theoretical Commitments Canary & Stafford

6. Routine interaction differs from strategic interaction.
7. Equity is a central feature in assessing relational satisfaction.
8. People with an internal locus of control more likely to sustain desired relational definitions (than those with external).



Maintenance Strategies

- ◆ Positivity– cheerfulness, spontaneity, lack of personal criticism
- ◆ Openness– Direct disclosure about the relationship.
- ◆ Assurances– Statements of continuing involvement and caring.
- ◆ Social networks– Use of friends, family
- ◆ Sharing tasks– Household, favors, etc.



Predicting Control, Trust, Mutuality

- ◆ Among relational maintenance strategies, equity, or affiliation locus of control, which is/are the best predictors of control, trust, mutuality?
- ◆ Relational maintenance strategies came out among as strongest predictors: Positivity.
