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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

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# The Mediator Role of Rejection Sensitivity Between Perceived Maternal Narcissism and Self-disclosure in Romantic Relationship

Haydeh FARAJİ <sup>a</sup> D Cemile BİLĞİŞ <sup>a</sup> D Zeynep DARÇIN <sup>a</sup> D

<sup>a</sup> Istanbul Aydın University, Istanbul, Turkey

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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#### **KEYWORDS**

Perceived maternal narcissism; rejection sensitivity; self-disclosure; romantic relationship

### **ABSTRACT**

The first aim of the study is to evaluate the relationship between self-disclosure in romantic relationships, rejection sensitivity and perceived maternal narcissism. The second one is to examine the mediating role of rejection sensitivity between perceived maternal narcissism and self-disclosure in romantic relationships. The Sociodemographic Data Form, the Level of Self-Disclosure in Romantic Relationship Scale (LSRRS), the Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (RSQ), and the Perceived Maternal Narcissism Scale (PMNS) were given to the participants. The analysis was done using the SPSS 25 program. The data were analyzed using regression analysis and Pearson correlation analysis. The study's results suggest that rejection sensitivity mediates the relationship between perceived maternal narcissism and each narcissistic trait perceived by the mother and self-disclosure in romantic relationships. It has been determined that traits of the mother with a narcissistic personality may cause rejection sensitivity in interaction with the child, and this can negatively affect the self-disclosure towards the romantic partner of the adult.

Being raised by a parent with narcissistic personality traits can have negative impacts on the child's life and cause permanent damage in adult life (Cusack, 2017; Määttä et al., 2020). Children with narcissistic mothers may be seen by their mothers as an extension of themselves (Wetzel & Robins, 2016). In such a relationship, the child can develop a belief that he/she should realize his/her mother's emotional needs and demands and meet them (Sukenick, 2001; Alpay, 2020). The fact that narcissistic parents interact with their children emotionally distant and with a low level of empathy can also reinforce this belief (Leggio, 2018; Alpay, 2020).

Rapoport (2005) states that parents with high narcissistic characteristics state that when their demands and needs are not met by their children, parents may arouse guilt in their children and punish them. Apter (2012) states that the child who feels unsuccessful in the face of the demands of the narcissistic mother may not be able to build his confidence in establishing close relationships on a solid basis and may experience a similar feeling of failure and inadequacy in his other relationships. The level of parental acceptance during childhood can either help or hinder a person's psychological adjustment, as well as either aggravate or lessen their anxiety about being intimate with other people (Arayıcı-İyiaydın et al., 2023). The experiences of the child in interaction with the caregiver and the messages they perceive, shaping individuals' beliefs about themselves and others, can also be an effective factor in the development of romantic relationships among adults (Xia et al., 2018; Jamison & Lo, 2021; Başçelik et al., 2022). Furthermore, it is stated that a child's negative experiences in their parent-child connection are linked to a decrease in their pleasant interactions with their

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR Haydeh FARAJİ, haydehfaraji@aydin.edu.tr, ORCID: 0000-0001-5306-6546, Istanbul Aydın University, Istanbul, Turkey

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romantic partner (McCarthy & Maughan, 2010; Jamison & Lo, 2021). In this regard, it is thought that the effects of the relationships of mothers with narcissistic personality traits with their children in adult life may also manifest in the child's romantic relationships.

The narcissistic mother may try to use her child to meet her unsatisfied desires and show approval to the child to the extent that she meets them; she may conditionally give interest and love to the child (Rappoport, 2005; Määttä et al., 2020). Conditional love given by parents increases rejection sensitivity (Downey et al., 1997; Faraji & Sucu, 2021). In addition, it is stated that the first rejection experiences may affect the future social interactions of the person (Özen & Güneri, 2018), and the adult's sensitivity to rejection may have an impact on their love relationships (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Faraji & Sucu, 2021). Experiencing intense feelings and the need for closeness in romantic relationships may cause a stronger sensitivity to rejection in these relationships (Özen & Güneri, 2018). Individuals who have high rejection sensitivity have some difficulties about trusting o their partner (Sommerfeld & Shechory Bitton, 2020). They also feel more lonely and perceive higher degrees of relationship threat (Nowland et al., 2018). Besides, it is stated when individuals have higher degrees of rejection sensitivity, they tend to have higher levels of intimacy fear (Faraji ve Tezcan, 2023).

Parents with narcissistic personality traits may display an exploitative, controlling, and omnipotent attitude in their relations with their children (Wetzel & Robins, 2016). Authoritarian parental attitude is regarded as a critical element in the growth of rejection sensitivity (Özen & Güneri, 2018). However, Díez et al. (2019) state that perceived parental control is associated with avoidant and anxious behavior in adult romantic relationships. In light of this information, it is thought that the individual's perceived maternal narcissism and the anxiety and expectation of rejection may lead to dysfunctional expectations and evasion in intimate relationships, and this may affect the self-disclosure (SD) towards one's romantic partner. The aim of this study is to examine the mediating role of rejection sensitivity between perceived maternal narcissism and SD in romantic relationships and to evaluate the relationship between these three variables. The findings might be beneficial to show how previous relationships' shadow falls in today's relationships and show the importance of selecting psychotheraphical interventions for beliefs about rejection and insecurities about SD to help with conflicts in romantic relationships of adults.

## **Method**

## **Participants**

Relational screening was the model employed in this investigation. The adults in Turkey make up the study universe. Random sampling was used to choose the study's sample. There were 417 participants in all, 226 women (54.2%) and 191 men (45.8%), who voluntarily took part in the study and lived in Istanbul in 2022. Of the participants of the study, 141 (33.8%) were between the ages of 18-21, 143 (34.3%) were between the ages of 22-25, 57 (13.7%) were between the ages 26-30, 76 (18.2%) were 31 and over, 45 (10.8%) perceived their income as low, 323 (77.5%) perceived their income as moderate, 49 (11.8%) perceived their income as high. Of the participants of the study, 207 (49.6%) of mothers were primary school graduates, 118 (28.3%) were high school graduates, 81 (19.4%) were undergraduates, and 11 (2.6%) were postgraduates.

## **Data Collection Tools**

**Sociodemographic Data Form.** According to the study's objectives, the researchers developed the sociodemographic data form. It includes items that aim to question the age, gender, and educational degree of the participants and their mothers.

Perceived Maternal Narcissism Scale (PMNS). The Perceived Maternal Narcissism Scale (PMNS) consists of 32 items and was created by Alpay (2020) in order to measure the narcissistic features (control-manipulation, criticism-accusation, empathy deficiency, grandiosity pretentiousness and parentification-exploitation) perceived by the mother. For the entire scale, the Cronbach α value was. 94 (Alpay, 2020). In this study, it was found to be.95 for the total score, .90 for the empathy deficiency subscale, .85 for the grandiosity pretentiousness subscale, .88 for the criticism-accusation subscale, .84 for the control-manipulation subscale, .75 for the parentification-exploitation subscale.

Level of Self-disclosure in Romantic Relationship Scale (LSRRS). The scale was developed by Doğruyol & Uzun (2019) to measure adult individuals' levels of SD in romantic relationships. It consists of a total of 4 sub-dimensions and 25 items: openness, communication, sexual intimacy, and affection. The openness sub-dimension represents the person's openly sharing the situations about himself with his partner; the communication sub-dimension represents the communication of the person with the partner; the sexual intimacy sub-dimension represents the sexual intimacy with the partner, and the affection sub-dimension represents the emotional intimacy with the partner. The Cronbach  $\alpha$  value of the scale was reported as .94 (Doğruyol & Uzun, 2019). In this study, it was found to be.95 for the total score, .94 for openness, .88 for communication, .85 for sexual intimacy, and .80 for affection.

The Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (RSQ). The scale was created to determine the rejection sensitivity levels of individuals, is a single-factor scale (Downey & Feldman, 1996). The entire scale was adapted to Turkish by Erözkan (2004). The 18 items on the scale are intended to measure the anxiety experienced by individuals in interpersonal relationships in the face of rejection and their expectations about rejection. There is no reverse item in the scale. The total score of scale is between 18-108. The Cronbach  $\alpha$  value of the scale was reported as .83 (Erözkan, 2004). In this study, it was found to be was .92 for the total score.

#### **Procedure**

Initially, the scale information and required permissions were acquired. The research then began following the ethical committee of Istanbul Aydın University's approval. The measurement instruments, as well as the directions, were delivered to the people who voluntarily participated in the study via online platforms and face-to-face. No personal data was collected from the subjects.

## **Data Analysis**

The analysis was done using the SPSS 25 program. The normal distribution assumption, which is the first step in the analysis, was examined. The scale's and its subscales' kurtosis and skewness values were checked. Using the kurtosis and skewness coefficients, this assumption was evaluated. The normal distribution assumption satisfied because both of these coefficients fall within the -2 + 2 range (Leech et al., 2013). PROCESS 3.5 was used to examine intermediary roles.

### **Results**

Within the scope of the second aim of the study, the mediating role of rejection sensitivity (RS) in the relationship between level of self-disclosure in romantic relationship (LSRR) and perceived maternal narcissism (PMN) was examined. Table 1-6 presents the results of the regression analysis.

Table 1. Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the PMN to the LSRR

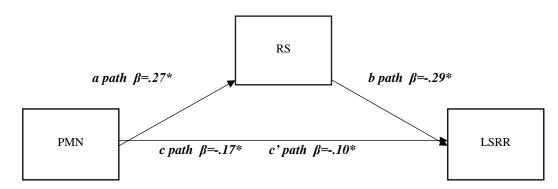
									Lower	Upper
M	Model		$R^2$	$\boldsymbol{B}$	SH	$\boldsymbol{B}$	t	$\boldsymbol{P}$	Bound	Bound
1	(Constant)	.29	.03	108.22	2.82		38.39	0.000	102.68	113.76
	PMN			-0.16	0.05	-0.17	-3.59	0.000	-0.25	-0.07
	(Constant)	.36	.09	117.49	3.20		36.69	0.000	111.20	123.78
2	PMN			-0.10	0.05	-0.10	-2.11	0.036	-0.19	-0.01
	RS			-0.25	0.05	-0.27	-5.51	0.000	-0.34	-0.16
	Indirect Effect (Mediator)			0.01	0.00				0.01	0.02

<sup>\*</sup>p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 1, it came to light that in the first model, the independent variable of the PMN accounted for 3% of the variance in the dependent variable score of the LSRR. RS was included as an independent variable in the model during the second phase. It was shown that the RS independent variable accounted for 6% of the variation in the dependent variable score's LSRR. It was determined, according to the findings, that the independent variables of the PMN and the RS accounted for %9 of the variance in the LSRR dependent variable score. The beta value of the PMN's independent variable dropped from -.17 to -.10 after the RS was added as an independent variable in the second phase. After using 95% confidence interval options

from the Bootstrapping analysis and 5000 resampling options, the bottom and higher limits did not contain 0 in the result, so controlling this fall in beta value. Based on an evaluation of the mediator role analysis data, it was concluded that partial mediation occurred.

Figure 1. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of to the PMN to the LSRR



\*p<0.05

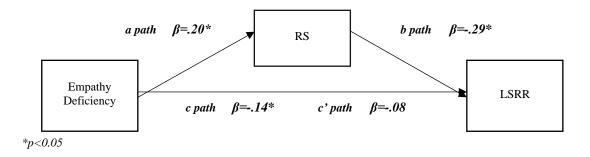
**Table 2.** Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of the Empathy Deficiency to the LSRR

									Lower	Upper
Mode	el	$\boldsymbol{R}$	$R^2$	$\boldsymbol{\mathit{B}}$	SH	В	$\boldsymbol{T}$	p	Bound	Bound
	Constant	.14	.02	104.84	2.41		43.42	0.000*	100.09	109.59
1	<b>Empathy Deficiency</b>			-0.47	0.17	-0.14	-2.78	0.006*	-0.80	-0.14
	Constant	.30	.09	116.06	3.02		38.47	0.000*	110.13	121.99
	<b>Empathy Deficiency</b>			-0.28	0.17	-0.08	-1.66	0.098	-0.60	0.05
2	RS			-0.26	0.05	-0.28	-5.83	0.000*	-0.35	-0.18
	Indirect Effect	•		-0.19	0.07	•			-0.34	-0.08
	(Mediator)									

\*p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 2, it came to light that in the first model, the independent variable of empathy deficiency accounted for 2% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. The RS mediator variable was incorporated into the model in the second stage. It was seen that the RS mediator variable accounted for 7% of the variance in the score of the LSRR dependent variable. It was observed that empathy deficiency and variables accounted for 9% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. In the second stage, with the addition of the RS mediator variable, the beta value of the empathy deficiency independent variable decreased from-.14 to -.8. This difference in beta value was found to be significant since the lower and upper limits of the total non-direct effect did not include zero. According to this result, it is determined that there is full mediation.

Figure 2. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Empathy Deficiency to the LSRR



**Table 3.** Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of the Grandiosity Pretentiousness to the LSRR

1		n	n?	D	CII	n	Tr.		Lower	Upper
IVI	lodel	R	$R^2$	В	SH	В	T	p	Bound	Bound
	Constant	.18	.03	106.41	2.32		45.79	0.000*	101.85	110.98
	Grandiosity			-0.77	0.21	-0.18	-3.63	0.000*	-1.19	-0.35
1	Pretentiousness									
	Constant	.31	.09	116.17	2.87		40.42	0.000*	110.52	121.82
	Grandiosity			-0.43	0.21	-0.10	-2.02	0.044*	-0.86	-0.01
	Pretentiousness									
2	RS			-0.25	0.05	-0.27	-5.45	0.000*	-0.34	-0.16
	Indirect Effect			-0.34	0.10				-0.54	-0.17
	(Mediator)									

<sup>\*</sup>p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 3, it came to light that in the first model, the independent variable grandiosity pretentiousness accounted for 3% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable LSRR. The RS mediator variable was incorporated into the model in the second stage. It was seen that the RS mediator variable accounted for 6% of the variance in the LSRR dependent variable score. It was observed that grandiosity, pretentiousness, and RS variables accounted for 9% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable LSRR. In the second stage, with the addition of the RS mediator variable, the beta value of the grandiosity pretentiousness independent variable decreased from -.18 to -.10. This difference in beta value was found to be significant since the lower and upper limits of the total non-direct effect did not include zero. According to this result, it is determined that there is partial mediation.

Figure 3. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Grandiosity Pretentiousness to the LSRR

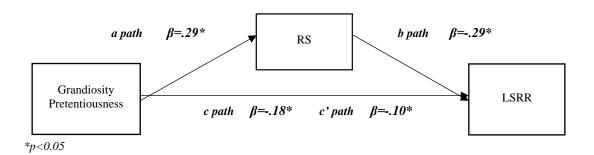


Table 4. Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of the Criticism-Accusation to the LSRR

M	odel	R	$R^2$	В	SH	В	T	р	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Constant	.18	.03	106.32	2.23		47.64	0.000*	101.93	110.70
1	<b>Criticism-Accusation</b>			-0.57	0.15	-0.18	-3.76	0.000*	-0.87	-0.27
	Constant	.31	.09	116.34	2.84		41.03	0.000*	110.77	121.92
	<b>Criticism-Accusation</b>			-0.34	0.15	-0.11	-2.25	0.025*	-0.64	-0.04
2	RS			-0.25	0.05	-0.26	-5.45	0.000*	-0.34	-0.16
	<b>Indirect</b> Effect			-0.23	0.07				-0.37	-0.11
	(Mediator)									

<sup>\*</sup>p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 4, it came to light that in the first model, the independent variable of criticism-accusation accounted for 3% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. The RS mediator variable was incorporated into the model in the second stage. It was seen that the RS mediator variable accounted for 6% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. Criticism-accusation and RS variables accounted for 9% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. In the

second stage, with the addition of the RS mediator variable, the beta value of the independent variable of criticism-accusation decreased from -.18 to -.11. This difference in beta value was found to be significant since the lower and upper limits of the total non-direct effect did not include zero. According to this result, it is determined that there is partial mediation.

Figure 4. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Criticism-Accusation to the LSRR

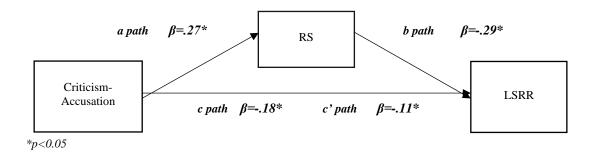


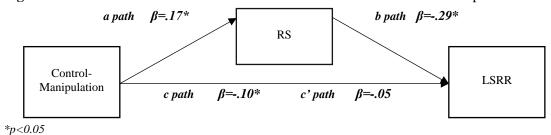
Table 5. Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of the Control-Manipulation to the LSRR

									Lower	Upper
Model		R	$R^2$	В	SH	В	t	p	Bound	Bound
Const	ant	.10	.01	103.74	2.68		38.70	0.000*	98.47	109.01
1 Contr	ol-Manipulation			-0.40	0.20	-0.10	-2.03	0.043*	-0.78	-0.01
Const	ant	.30	.09	115.36	3.22		35.82	0.000*	109.03	121.69
Contr	ol-Manipulation			-0.20	0.19	-0.05	-1.05	0.292	-0.58	0.17
2 RS				-0.27	0.05	-0.29	-6.00	0.000*	-0.36	-0.18
Indir	ect Effect			-0.20	0.07				-0.35	-0.08
(Med	iator)									

<sup>\*</sup>p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 5, it came to light that in the first model the independent variable of control-manipulation accounted for 1% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. The RS mediator variable was incorporated into the model in the second stage. It was seen that the RS mediator variable explained 8% of the variance in LSRR dependent variable score. Control-manipulation and RS variables accounted for 9% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. In the second stage, with the addition of the RS mediator variable, the beta value of the control-manipulation independent variable decreased from -.10 to -.5. This difference in beta value was found to be significant since the lower and upper bounds of the total non-direct effect do not include zero. According to this result, it is determined that there is full mediation.

Figure 5. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Control-Manipulation to the LSRR



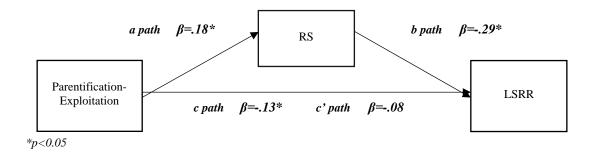
**Table 6.** Findings on the Mediator Role of the RS in the Prediction of the Parentification-Exploitation to the LSRR

									Lower	Upper
Model		$\boldsymbol{R}$	$R^2$	$\boldsymbol{B}$	SH	$\boldsymbol{B}$	t	p	Bound	Bound
	Constant	.13	.02	105.29	2.63		40.05	0.000*	100.12	110.45
1	Parentification-Exploitation			-0.74	0.28	-0.13	-2.70	0.007*	-1.28	-0.20
	Constant	.31	.09	116.64	3.18		36.68	0.000*	110.39	122.89
	Parentification-Exploitation			-0.46	0.27	-0.08	-1.72	0.085	-0.99	0.06
2	RS			-0.27	0.05	-0.28	-5.89	0.000*	-0.35	-0.18
	<b>Indirect Effect (Mediator)</b>			-0.28	0.10				-0.50	-0.11

\*p<0.05 PROCESS 3.5

After analyzing the data in Table 6, it came to light that in the first model the independent variable of parentification-exploitation accounted for 2% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. The RS mediator variable was incorporated into the model in the second stage. It was seen that the RS mediator variable accounted for 7% of the variance in the LSRR dependent variable score. Parentification-exploitation and RS variables accounted for 9% of the variance in the score of the dependent variable of the LSRR. In the second stage, with the addition of the RS mediator variable, the beta value of the parentification-exploitation independent variable decreased from -.13 to -.8. This difference in beta value was found to be significant since the lower and upper limits of the total non-direct effect did not include zero. According to this result, it is determined that there is full mediation.

Figure 6. Beta Coefficients of the Mediator Role of the RS in the Parentification-Exploitation to the LSRR



## **Discussion**

This study attempted to assess the mediating role of rejection sensitivity between perceived maternal narcissism and SD in romantic relationships and to evaluate the relationship between these three variables. Based on the study's findings, rejection sensitivity acted as a moderator between perceived maternal narcissism and LSRR. Similarly, Faraji and Sucu (2021) stated that negative experiences in the person's relationship with the caregiver may result in rejection sensitivity, which can lead to disruptive effects in romantic relationships. People who are more vulnerable to rejection typically report lower levels of perceived partner satisfaction, lower levels of closeness and relationship satisfaction, a higher risk of intimate partner violence (victimization-recurrence), higher levels of relationship concerns and conflict, jealousy, and lower levels of SD behaviors, according to Mishra and Allen's (2023) meta-analyses. These findings show that in the interaction between the mother, who has a narcissistic personality, and her child, the rejection experiences of the child may also manifest in adulthood, and this may affect the adult's SD in a romantic relationship.

The current study found that rejection sensitivity plays a mediating role between perceived maternal criticism-accusation and the LSRR. Kazmaz and Epli (2022) showed a negative significant relationship between perceived maternal hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, and openness, communication, and affection in the romantic relationship. Jamison and Lo (2021) stated that the perceived lack of love and approval from the parent is particularly influential in shaping romantic development. Trak (2016) states that as the attention and

closeness people receive from their parents decreases, their fear of not being able to receive the necessary support from romantic partners when needed increases. The results of this study indicate that openness, communication, affection, and the two perceived maternal narcissistic traits—empathy deficiency and control manipulation—have a negative and substantial association with one another. It was also discovered that openness, effect, communication, and rejection sensitivity have a substantial negative association.

The narcissistic parent may not be able to respond empathetically to the child's needs. Additionally, when their needs are not adequately met by the child, they may respond to the child with responses such as blaming, emotional withdrawal, and negative criticism (Rappoport, 2005). At this point, it may be possible for the child to think that the empathy he cannot get from the mother with narcissistic personality traits he will not be able to get from his romantic partner in adulthood. He might feel that if he talks about his wishes and needs, his partner may give negative answers, like his mother does. Therefore, he may avoid revealing himself.

Results of the study indicated that rejection sensitivity plays a mediating role between perceived maternal parentification-exploitation and the LSRR. Parentification is viewed as a form of relational trauma in which parents' self-absorbed demands are satisfied at the expense of the children's own needs for security, validation, support, and self-assurance (Schorr& Goldner, 2023). Unsuitable expectations of parents who parentificate their children cause children to feel inferior, which prevents them from developing a strong, independent sense of self (Goldner et al., 2019; Goldner et al., 2021). Therefore it can cause a tendency to hesitating about SD in romantic relationship. Likewise, Baggett et al. (2015) declare that individuals who had parentification experiences have less relationship satisfaction and more insecurity. Similarly, Goldner et al. (2019) found that rejection sensitivity has a full mediative role in parentification and impaired intimacy.

Findings obtained from the results of the current research show that rejection sensitivity plays a mediating role between perceived maternal grandiosity, pretentiousness, empathy deficiency, control manipulation, and LSRR. A mother with narcissistic characteristics may approach the child's feelings and needs with a low level of empathy and can try to provide omnipotence and control over the child (Rappoport, 2005; Wetzel & Robins, 2016). Çardak et al. (2012) state that children of parents with authoritarian attitudes have higher rejection sensitivity than other children. Sar et al. (2020) show overprotection and overcontrol as categories of childhood trauma in the Turkish Childhood Trauma Questionnaire. Mahoney et al. (2016) stated that parents with narcissistic personality traits see their children as extensions of themselves and do not fulfill their parenting roles; they state that as a result of this, an insecure attachment pattern may develop in the child. People with low trust in their romantic partners can open themselves up to their partners less easily (Sprecher & Hendrick, 2004). Children of narcissistic mothers are raised in an environment where they hear things like men cause problems in life and that she is the only person they can rely on, and they carry an internal fear of their current partner turning into a mother (Lyons et al., 2023). Díez et al. (2019) showed that perceived parental control is associated with avoidance and anxiety in adult romantic relationships. When in a romantic relationship, it's stated that those with high rejection sensitivity exhibit higher anxiety and avoidance (Hafen et al., 2014). The mother, who displays narcissistic personality traits, tries to control the child's behavior according to her own desires and needs and gives the child's love and approval only when these wishes and needs are met. It is thought that the repetitive experience of this situation may create a rejection sensitivity in the adult individual against negative comments or unmet demands that may come from his romantic partner. In order to cope with this sensitivity of rejection, the person may not be open about himself to his romantic partner, hide his feelings, and avoid establishing physical or social intimacy. The finding from the current study that rejection sensitivity fully mediates the relationship between the emphaty deficiency and control manipulation and the SD in romantic relationship supports this assumption. Additionally, Giovazolias and Paschalidi (2022) stated rejection sensitivity could be adequate in the emergence of fear of closeness by increasing interpersonal anxiety and that maternal acceptance is a protective factor.

## **Conclusion**

The role of rejection sensitivity in regulating the connection between perceived maternal narcissism and SD in romantic relationships was explored in this study. It has been determined that rejection sensitivity plays a mediation function between perceived maternal narcissism and SD in a romantic relationship. It has been determined that features of the mother with narcissistic personality traits such as empathy deficiency and

control-manipulation can create rejection sensitivity in interaction with the child, and this can negatively affect the SD towards the romantic partner of the adult. In light of these results, in psychotherapeutic interventions where the SD in romantic relationships is studied, it is thought that schema therapy methods such as parental restructuring for perceived maternal narcissism and cognitive techniques for the evaluation of negative automatic thoughts, intermediate beliefs, and core beliefs for rejection sensitivity will be beneficial.

## **Limitations & Future Studies**

It is thought that future studies using the longitudinal method will provide the opportunity to evaluate more comprehensively the effect of the experiences that occur in the interaction between the child and the mother on romantic relationships in adulthood. However, it is recommended to include mothers who have been diagnosed with narcissistic personality disorder in future studies in order to be able to compare the perceived maternal narcissistic characteristics with healthy controls and to find the opportunity to compare the mother's narcissistic characteristics perceived by the child and the ones who determined by psychiatric evaluations.

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Conflicts of Interest: No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

**Data Availability:** The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

**Ethical Disclosure:** The research then began following the ethical committee of Istanbul Aydın University's approval, dated 27.05.2022 and numbered 2022/09.

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