

Conflicts between the advice-seeker and the daughter-in-law

Sociology



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Second, during Bernice's hospital visit when the advice-seeker gave birth, she once again reiterated that the pregnancy was just a ruse to tie her son down. The final straw for the advice-seeker was during the college graduation party of her husband. Bernice made reservations for everyone but the advice-seeker and her baby. And every time conflict happens, the advice-seeker will get the same answer from her husband, "I can't control my mother." The situation shows high consistency in Bernice's and Simon's behavior thus implying that the root cause of the conflict between the marriage is Bernice's behavior towards the advice-seeker. These situations also indicate low distinctiveness since, in different stimuli and events, Bernice has the same reaction towards her daughter-in-law. Bernice's behavior indicates clearly resentment towards her daughter-in-law and Simon's behavior indicates clearly that Simon hasn't come into terms that he should be supporting his wife and defending her and their marriage against her mother.

The situation shows high consensus, low distinctiveness, and high consistency. This leads to the conclusion that the marriage is continually being destroyed because of the behavior and actions of the mother-in-law and the husband's low response with his wife's need for support against her mother's behavior. The marriage may then really be saved if the couple will not encounter any more of the mother-in-law's behavior.

The second situation tells about how a woman wanted to help out her friend in dealing with his son (Dear Abby). The deep friendship between the woman and the father started from the time before they become widows. Through the relationship, they found strength and support with each other. The

concerned friend's behavior has high consistency. It has low distinctiveness since she was ready and willing to help in any other situation. It has high consensus, too, since most friends would do the same though it may vary from the involvement. This means, then, that the concerned friend's willingness to help out roots from the friendship that has been established even before the son arrived in the picture.

The third situation tells about a woman concerned about his boyfriend's speech and how her friends would react to him (Dear Abby). Hank's speech roots towards his lack of formal education. This indicates high inconsistency and high in distinctiveness. Hank's speech remained the same no matter who he is talking to and no matter what situation he is in. But this behavior is low in consensus since not all people who have no formal education has this kind of speech. This means that this is an internal behavior and shows that Hank does not presently have the skills to correct his speech alone. His girlfriend, then, could be the trigger for this change in his speech.