

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF IDENTICAL TWINS, SAME-SEX
FRATERNAL TWINS & SAME-SEX SIBLINGS CLOSE
IN AGE RELATIONSHIPS USING STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

RESEARCHER:

David C. Hall

DATE:

1988

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This study was performed at the Graduate School of Psychology of Fuller Theological Seminary and at the Veteran's Hospital in Loma Linda, California. David Hall, one of boy triplets, was training in clinical psychology. He did not furnish us with a final report; however, he was a speaker at the 1988 and 1989 NOMOTC Annual Conventions. He reported on his research findings at both sessions. We have closed this study with a report from his dissertation, "The Nature of Twins and Siblings Relationships," in *MOTC's Notebook*.

His subjects were identical twins, same-sex fraternal twins, and siblings, ages 15-25 years. The measure used to identify zygosity of twins were questions concerning physical stature, eye color, texture of hair, frequency of mistaken identity and the question, "How similar are you and your twin?"

The participants were asked, "Are you closer to your twin than to your mother?" Ninety percent (90%) of identicals responded that they were closer to their twin while 61% of the fraternal twins felt closer to each other than to their mother. Only 49% of same-sex siblings close in age answered in the affirmative. Because of the closeness of identical twins, their mothers may feel a sense of loss in maternal relationships with identicals.

RESULTS:

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of identical twins responded that they were intensely satisfied being an identical twin. Same-sex fraternal twins were less convinced. 72% said they would not change the fact they were fraternal twins; however, same-sex siblings were 90% satisfied with their relationships.

Other remarks made by Mr. Hall:

- A twin tends to feel more sympathetic with the other; whereas, same-sex siblings close in age don't feel this way.
- Fraternal twins appear to feel and fight their differences more than identicals.
- Identical twins don't usually complain of being ignored.
- Identical twins sometimes are in control of the family unit and have a major impact on the family unit.
- More fraternal twins and same-sex siblings are involved in blaming and sulking with mom.
- Identical twins have less hostile battles with mom.
- Fraternal twins tend to ignore parents more and be more independent from each other than identicals.
- Twins' families tend to have more stress.
- Mothers of twins need to nurture fathers and act as a communicative link between the father and the twins.

Both identical and fraternal twins stated, "Mom usually 'did her own thing'." Mom doing more and dad doing less!

In a sibling family, mom and dad do more things together and siblings "do their own thing."

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion Mr. Hall stated, "Twins tend to be closer to each other than to parents through their teens and young adult years. Siblings close in age tend to be closer to their parents." One participant summed up the question, "What is it like to be a twin?" The twin's answer was, "You have a friend for life."