CISGENDER AND LESBIAN WOMEN’S OBSERVATIONS ON HETEROSEXUAL-LESBIAN FRIENDSHIP

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ABSTRACT

Cross-sex friendship became an essential part in an individual’s life and has emerged throughout the years. However, the friendliness of butch lesbians is prone to be misperceived by heterosexual women. Thus, this study aims; a. to ascertain if the perception of heterosexual women on the friendliness offered by lesbians is something driven by sexual interest, b. to determine whether the attitude of the heterosexual women towards lesbians is related to their perceived sexual interest, c. to determine the attitude of lesbians toward friendships with heterosexual women, and d. to identify the qualities of having a cross-sex friendship from the lesbians’ perspective. A total of 45 heterosexual females participated in the psychological experiment and 6 lesbians were interviewed. The scores of the heterosexual females were interpreted using a 3 x 2 Factorial Repeated Measures of ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) while the lesbians’ answers were analyzed through themes. Through the heterosexual women’s observations in the given treatments, the results showed that the misperception of cisgender women, mistaking a butch lesbians’ friendship for sexual interest, exists. Meanwhile, the responses of the lesbians disclosed comfortability with having both lesbian and heterosexual friends, recognition of misperceptions regarding their sexuality, and being able to accept and stay resilient, with the demand to be respected despite having rejection and misperception.
Keywords: heterosexual women, butch lesbians, friendships, sexual interest, misperception