Author Note

The sources used for my research were:


Abstract

“The sibling bond has the distinction of being the most enduring and egalitarian connection of all family relationships. Unfortunately, although siblings play an important role in one another’s lives, relatively little is known about the communication that characterizes sibling relationships. This study investigated whether the interpersonal communication motives of siblings vary as a function of age or gender. Survey data was provided by 299 respondents aged 18 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65+. There were significant differences by both age and gender for several of the communication motives” (Fowler 1).

“Family stories work to construct family identity. Little research, however, has examined storytelling in families. This study examined storytelling content and process to assess the extent to which families jointly integrated or fragmented a shared sense of identity and how these discursive practices relate to family qualities. Results of a study involving 58 family triads indicate relationships between story theme (e.g., accomplishment vs. stress), person referencing practices (e.g., we-ness vs. separateness), and interactional storytelling behaviors (e.g., engagement, turn-taking). Moreover, story framing, perspective-taking, statements about selves-in-the-family, and identifying as a ‘‘storytelling family’’ emerged consistently as positive predictors of family satisfaction and functioning. The results offer a portrait of how families communicate identity and functioning in joint storytelling interactions and further position storytelling as a communication phenomenon worthy of consideration” (Kellas 1).
In the article *Motives for Sibling Communication Across the Lifespan*, by Craig Fowler is explained the differences in sibling relationships, specifically with age and gender. He noted at first just some common things to know about sibling relationships, like how they are the most enduring of them all, or that the older we get the less aggressive we are towards one another. The motivations for interaction was how he conducted his experiments. By pleasure, escape, relaxation, or obligation. He experimented with relationship of different ages and brother-sister, brother-brother, etc. duos. His results showed that there was not a big significance with the differences of age. With the genders however, it showed that relationships with sisters were more intimate or comfortable than just feeling like an obligation to those of brothers.

In the article titled, *Family Ties: Communicating Identity Through Jointly Told Family Stories*, by J.K. Kellas discussed the different themes of storytelling with families and how our culture, and individual identities grow and become who we are from there. It first explained how people are just made to tell stories, it’s part of our nature. They quoted a passage that broke down what it means to to recieve culture from your family, “Family stories are one of the cornerstones of family culture... . By their presence, they say what issues*/from the most public and predictable to the most private and idiosyncratic*/really concern a given family” (Stone, 2004, p. 17, emphasis in original)” (Kellas 367). They wanted to know what themes made up joint family storytelling. The results showed that the families with traditions and culture in the stories were able to communicate better. By offering turn-taking, engagement, and perspective-taking.

Both articles analyzed the interaction between families. The article written by Fowler was a little more precise in terms of who he was testing and how to get well rounded results. He was able to get subjects that were exactly to his fit or model for his experiment. Certain age group
and genders. Whereas Kellas was more about families in general, it’s hard to know how much culture or traditions a certain family has, not the easiest to measure. However I think they were both very informational. They both allowed one to see where relationships can be strengthened with families.

My personal experience with my family, or siblings especially has been what these researchers have concluded. I find that being a girl I have closer more intimate relationships with my sisters than with my brothers. Most of that might be that I’ve always shared a room with either one of my sisters so there was always a bond not just of roommates, but sister roommates. When my family does tell stories it’s usually at the dinner table. My dad will talk about his life in Mexico, and we always have input into the conversation. Either with our own experiences that are similar or contrasting. Which is like the turn taking, because my father is letting us talk as well, not being the only one in control of the conversation.
References
