

“Marriage Is Scary” : A Deconstructive Look at Gen-Z’s Perspectives on Marriage

(Case Study of #MarriageIsScary Trend on TikTok Platform)

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Abstract. *The #MarriageIsScary phenomenon, widely discussed on social media, reflects Generation Z's fears and doubts about the institution of marriage. This study aims to reinterpret the meaning of marriage through a deconstructive approach based on Jacques Derrida's social deconstruction theory, focusing on Gen-Z's perceptions. Data were collected through documentation of netizens' comments in the form of screenshots responding to the trend on various social media platforms. Thematic analysis was conducted by categorizing data into initial codes, main themes, and sub-themes, visualized in a Sankey diagram. The results indicate that marriage is no longer perceived as the pinnacle of happiness but rather as a space filled with pressure, uncertainty, and burdensome social expectations. This study is further supported by literature reviews discussing Derrida's social deconstruction theory and shifts in marital values in the context of digital society. The research concludes that Gen-Z's fear of marriage represents resistance to the dominant normative narratives and idealization of marriage.*

Keywords : Gen-Z; Social Deconstruction; Norms; Marriage; #MarriageIsScary

Abstrak. Fenomena #MarriageIsScary yang ramai diperbincangkan di media sosial mencerminkan ketakutan dan keraguan generasi Z terhadap institusi pernikahan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji ulang konstruksi makna pernikahan melalui pendekatan dekonstruktif berdasarkan teori dekonstruksi sosial Jacques Derrida dengan fokus pada persepsi Gen-Z. Data diperoleh melalui dokumentasi komentar-komentar warganet dalam bentuk tangkapan layar (screenshot) yang menanggapi tren tersebut di berbagai platform media sosial. Analisis dilakukan secara tematik dengan mengelompokkan data ke dalam kode awal, tema utama, dan sub-tema yang divisualisasikan dalam diagram Sankey. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pernikahan dipersepsikan tidak lagi sebagai puncak kebahagiaan, melainkan sebagai ruang penuh tekanan, ketidakpastian, dan ekspektasi sosial yang membebani. Studi ini juga diperkuat oleh kajian literatur yang membahas teori dekonstruksi sosial Jacques Derrida, serta perubahan nilai-nilai pernikahan dalam konteks masyarakat digital. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa ketakutan terhadap pernikahan di kalangan Gen-Z merupakan bentuk resistensi terhadap narasi normatif dan idealisasi institusi pernikahan yang selama ini dominan.

Kata Kunci : Gen-Z; Dekonstruksi Sosial; Norma; Pernikahan; #MarriageisScary

PRELIMINARY

Society always lives, grows and develops over time. With all kinds of dynamics and problems in life in society, the social construction in it also changes. The social dynamics that occur in society cannot be separated from the changing values that grow in society. In today's digital era, technology is one of the main driving factors causing social change. The use of digital technology such as social media is considered very important in today's community life. Most people today set their standards of living based on the depiction of other people's lives uploaded in cyberspace or social media. TikTok is one of the most popular social media in Indonesia, ranking fourth with 73.5% of users, after Facebook with 81.6% and Instagram with 85.3% in January 2024.

TikTok has become a new technology platform for finding information and interacting with each other. TikTok itself appeared in 2016, where this social networking application prioritizes short video content with a duration of 15-60 seconds. The videos displayed are also equipped with various elements, such as music and editing effects to attract the attention of users. Although initially this application was considered less popular because the content in it was mostly dominated by dance. TikTok then developed into a broader trend, covering education, political media, and a place to share complaints. (Fikri Asy & Rizqy Amelia, 2024)

Generation Z prefers to interact through digital platforms rather than direct interactions, one of which is through the TikTok platform. Social media is the main place for them to share thoughts and emotions. The Marriage is Scary trend has begun to be widely discussed through online discussions and parts of its content that have gone viral on popular digital platforms such as TikTok. This digital interaction then gave rise to ideas and opinions about marriage that were widely spread and received a quick response.

Generation Z is the majority of the generation that is now connected to technology, especially social media. Its shorter and more interesting content, such as short videos on TikTok, allows them to share and express themselves on various points of view about marriage. Issues such as domestic violence, infidelity, and domestic violence that are often shared on social media can trigger concerns about marriage. Content related to the fear of marriage has become a trend known as the *#MarriagelsScary* trend (Navya Mawardha et al., 2023)

This trend began to be widely discussed on various social media platforms, especially TikTok around the beginning of August 2024. The beginning of the emergence of this trend on TikTok began with an upload by a user who expressed their concerns and fears about marriage, especially from a woman's perspective. This phenomenon became a trend on the TikTok platform because many other users (netizens) responded to the upload and agreed with it, so that in the end the phenomenon became a trend on the TikTok platform.

Social media platforms like TikTok that are flexible and easy to use make it easy for users to create and share short content that highlights their concerns about marriage. Gen Z grew up in a digital era that is very different from previous generations. They are more open and transparent in sharing their thoughts and feelings through social media. The Marriage is Scary trend reflects the change in values that are more individualistic and independent among teenagers and young adults. They prioritize personal freedom and autonomy in their lives, which is sometimes interpreted as freedom from long-term commitments such as marriage.

TikTok as the main platform for generation Z serves not only as a source of entertainment but also as a tool for sharing experiences and forming views. TikTok's algorithm allows content related to *#MarriagelsScary* to go viral, thus reinforcing negative stereotypes and perceptions about marriage. This content often displays narratives of women's fear of commitment, creating certain standards for their life partners that can negatively impact the expectations and realities of relationships. The *#MarriagelsScary* trend is a direct example of this effect, where users share negative assumptions about marriage without considering more complex perspectives. Due to the free and broad space for creativity and opinion on TikTok, the *#MarriagelsScary* trend has received great attention from the public because it is closely related to the experiences or assumptions of users, as a result the trend continues to grow. A study Gaohan (2023) in (Fikri Asy & Rizqy Amelia, 2024) concluded that

TikTok with its algorithm plays a role in spreading biased information and reinforcing stereotypes, thus negatively impacting the formation of views among teenagers. Some of the main impacts of the emergence of the #MarriagelsScary trend include a change in perception of marriage which has changed the way society, especially the younger generation, views marriage.

Marriage is no longer a life goal to be achieved, but rather a major decision that needs to be thought through carefully. This creates awareness that marriage can be a source of fear and stress, not just happiness. In addition, with the abundance of content depicting fears related to marriage, people are becoming more open to discussing these concerns. Fears such as the possibility of divorce, domestic violence (DV), and dissatisfaction in relationships are common topics discussed, reducing the stigma around talking about problems in marriage.

RESEARCH METHODS

The data collection method in the article "Marriage Is Scary": A Deconstructive Review of Gen-Z's Perception of Marriage" was carried out through digital documentation in the form of screenshots of netizen comments on social media responding to the #MarriagelsScary trend. The comments were qualitatively thematic, starting from the initial coding process to identify the central issues that emerged regarding the institution of marriage among Gen-Z.

The results of the analysis are presented in the form of a Sankey diagram, which illustrates the flow of relationships between initial codes, main themes, and sub-themes visually, making it easier for readers to understand how Gen-Z's perceptions of marriage are formed, spread, and interconnected with each other in the digital realm. This research is also strengthened by a literature study as a theoretical basis for understanding the social construction of marriage and the dynamics of Gen-Z's perceptions of it.

The literature reviewed includes Jacques Derrida's deconstruction theory as the main approach in dismantling the dominant narrative around marriage, as well as sociological and psychological studies that discuss the tendency of commitment fear, changes in marriage values, and the influence of social media on the formation of public opinion. This literature study not only serves as an interpretive framework in analyzing comment data, but also as a comparison between theoretical discourse and field findings, thus producing a deeper and more contextual understanding of the #MarriagelsScary trend among Gen-Z.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Marriage

Marriage is a legal and social bond between two individuals recognized by religion and the state. According to Jarbi (2019) in the Penda's journal, marriage in Islamic law is a bond that regulates the relationship between men and women with elements that reflect sharia and social interests. Meanwhile, from a legal perspective, Tinuk Dwi Cahyani (2020) in his book Marriage Law states that marriage is a legal agreement between two individuals to form a family, including interfaith marriages that have certain legal consequences.

In addition, Arifin et al., (2021) in the Journal of Social Education, emphasized that marriage is a contract that contains legal provisions that allow sexual relations between legal partners in the eyes of the law and religion. In line with that, Widanarti, (2019) in the Diponegoro Private Law Review defines marriage as a legal relationship between a man and a woman that is recognized by law and has legal consequences for the rights and obligations of husband and wife and their children. Thus, despite the differences in perspective in understanding marriage, marriage is generally recognized as an institution that regulates a legitimate relationship between two individuals with certain rights and obligations in accordance with religious, legal, and social norms. The meaning of marriage in contemporary society is undergoing significant transformation, influenced by changes in social norms, individual autonomy, and the legal framework.

Marriage has various purposes depending on religious, cultural, and social perspectives. In Islam, marriage aims to form a *sakinah*, *mawaddah*, and *rahmah* family, where the husband and wife

complement and support each other in worldly life and the hereafter (Hidayat, 2021). In addition, marriage also functions as a means to maintain personal purity and avoid actions that are prohibited by religion (Zulkifli, 2020).

From a sociological perspective, marriage is a social institution that regulates relationships between individuals in society and ensures the continuity of offspring (Setiawan, 2022). Meanwhile, psychologically, marriage contributes to the emotional and mental well-being of individuals by creating a strong bond between partners (Rahmawati, 2023). Thus, the purpose of marriage is not only individual but also includes broader social and spiritual aspects.

Emile Durkheim stated that marriage is a form of social contract that regulates the relationship between individuals in society (Kussanti, 2022). In this view, marriage is not only a romantic relationship, but also functions to maintain social coherence and solidarity among members of society. Marriage is defined as a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman, which is socially regulated and has the aim of forming a happy and eternal family. Marriage has several main functions, namely as follows:

1) Family Formation

Marriage aims to form a happy and prosperous family. It creates a foundation for the relationship between husband and wife and helps in raising children (Malisi, 2022). According to (A Munib, 2022), in this context, marriage is defined as a physical and spiritual bond that legitimizes the relationship between a man and a woman, with the aim of creating a stable household.

The family plays a vital role in its own formation, serving as a basic social unit that undergoes a variety of developmental tasks. These tasks include establishing new routines, negotiating relationships with extended family, and adapting to societal changes. The family not only supports individual growth but also fosters the socialization of its members, especially children, who learn values and behaviors that shape future personality and interactions. (Savina & Smirnova, 2022)

2) Fulfilling Biological and Emotional Needs

In fulfilling biological needs, one of the main purposes of marriage is reproduction or having children. According to Rahmadani et al., (2020) families formed through marriage are expected to provide a safe and stable environment for children's growth. In addition, another function of marriage in the context of fulfilling biological needs is the satisfaction of physical needs such as sexual needs.

Another function of marriage is to fulfill emotional needs. In a marriage, couples provide emotional support to each other. This creates a sense of security and comfort, where each individual feels appreciated and loved (Singgani et al., 2024). Furthermore, Santoso (2016) explains that marriage also strengthens relationships between families, creating a wider social network. By getting married, two families join together into one unit, which can increase social support for couples and their children.

3) Maintaining Traditions and Social Values

From a sociological perspective, the family plays a role as the first and foremost agent in the formation of an individual's personal character. The most basic function is the socialization function. In their research, Savina & Smirnova, (2022) explained that the family is the main institution where children learn norms and values, influencing their character development. Children adopt experiences from previous generations, enhancing their socialization process. In the family are also taught or instilled principles that guide behavior and decision-making in society (Villalobos Pérez-Cortés, 2015).

Marriage plays a very important role in maintaining traditions and social values in society. Through rituals rich in meaning, strengthening social ties, and cultural education for the younger generation, marriage is one of the effective ways to maintain cultural diversity and the collective identity of a community (Sudrajat & Bayu Sufyan Tsauri, 2023).

In Indonesia, there are several laws that regulate marriage, including the following:

- 1) **Undang-Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 1974**
Regulates the legal requirements for marriage, age limits, marriage registration, rights and obligations of husband and wife, and the legal consequences of divorce.
- 2) **Undang-Undang Nomor 16 Tahun 2019 concerning Amendments to UU No. 1 Tahun 1974**
Changes the minimum age limit for marriage to 19 years for men and women to prevent child marriage.
- 3) **Peraturan Mahkamah Agung (Perma) No. 5 Tahun 2019 concerning Guidelines for Adjudicating Marriage Dispensation Applications**
Provides guidelines to judges in granting marriage dispensation for those who have not met the age limit for marriage.

In recent decades, the meaning of marriage in Indonesia has shifted significantly due to social, economic, and cultural changes. If previously marriage was understood as an institution aimed at forming a family, continuing the lineage, and implementing religious and social norms, now the perspective on marriage is increasingly diverse (Fauzatul Helmiyah & Varinia Pura Damaiyanti, 2025). The change in the meaning of marriage is triggered by the increasing awareness of individual rights in a marriage relationship. If previously marriage was seen more as an obligation, now many individuals view it as a choice that must be based on full awareness and emotional and financial readiness (Fauzatul Helmiyah & Varinia Pura Damaiyanti, 2025).

This is also related to the increasing divorce rate in Indonesia, which is often associated with the unpreparedness of couples to live married life.

Thus, the meaning of marriage in Indonesia continues to shift along with the changing times and mindsets of society. This deconstruction reflects increasingly complex social dynamics and the increasing freedom of individuals to determine their life choices.

#MarriagelsScary Trend

#MarriagelsScary trends emerged as an expression of concern about various aspects of married life, such as responsibilities, changes in personal life, and potential problems that may arise. This trend is starting to become popular on platforms like TikTok, where users share "what if" narratives depicting negative scenarios in marriage. For example, concerns about an unsupportive partner or potential conflict with in-laws (Nuha Khairunnisa, 2024).

This trend also reflects the shift in Gen Z's consumption culture, where symbolic values in relationships are emphasized over traditional norms (Harahap et al., 2024). According to Fikri Asy & Rizqy Amelia (2024), this trend has gained traction due to TikTok's algorithm, which amplifies content that resonates with users, leading to significant public interest in the topic. This phenomenon is characterized by videos that express fears and set high standards for potential partners, especially among women.

This trend encapsulates anxieties surrounding modern relationships, particularly fear of commitment and the pressures of societal expectations. It also illustrates the normalization of toxic relationship behaviors, which can exacerbate fears about commitment in relationships. Civila et al., (2023) argue that TikTok has been criticized for normalizing toxic relationship behaviors, as seen in videos that dramatize and romanticize abusive dynamics.

This normalization can lead to a distorted understanding of healthy relationships, further complicating the discourse on marriage among young people. As a result of this normalization, it ultimately gives rise to the idea that this trend has a strong contribution to the culture of fear surrounding marriage, affecting the willingness of young people to engage in long-term relationships (Zahrotun Nahla et al., 2024).

Factors causing fear of marriage in the Marriage is Scary series include negative experiences experienced by many people, especially women, such as domestic violence (KDRT) and divorce. The

high divorce rate in Indonesia, where 76% of divorce cases are filed by wives, shows that many women feel dissatisfied or uncomfortable in their marriages (Eka Febriani, 2024)). This reinforces the fear of entering into a long-term commitment.

In addition, social and economic changes also contribute to the fear of marriage. Gen-Z is now more focused on self-development and career. They see marriage as a potential barrier to achieving personal goals and the freedom they have enjoyed so far. The Marriage Is Scary trend has an impact on the behavior of young people, especially Gen-Z, who are changing their mindset and perception regarding the institution of marriage.

According to Pahlevi & Utomo (2024), TikTok's influence goes beyond romantic relationships, influencing broader social behavior among students, including narcissism and deviant behavior. Furthermore, Fikri Asy & Rizqy Amelia (2024) explain that videos related to this trend often highlight anxieties around marriage, contributing to a culture of high scrutiny regarding partner selection.

Jacques Derrida's Social Deconstruction on the Meaning of Marriage

The meaning of marriage in contemporary society is undergoing significant transformation, influenced by changing social norms, individual autonomy, and legal frameworks. This evolution reflects a shift from traditional views to more flexible and personalized interpretations of the marital relationship. The following section explores key aspects of this deconstruction. The meaning of marriage in contemporary society is undergoing significant transformation, influenced by evolving social norms, legal frameworks, and individual aspirations.

This shift reflects a broader detraditionalization of marriage, in which individual satisfaction and mutual fulfillment are prioritized over traditional roles and obligations. The changing dynamics of marriage are evident in the growing acceptance of alternative forms of relationships, such as consensual unions and same-sex marriage, that challenge conventional marital norms. This transformation is driven by a variety of factors, including advances in reproductive technology, social movements, and changing gender roles.

In the context of contemporary society, the meaning of marriage has undergone significant deconstruction due to social and cultural developments. Marriage is no longer seen as a sacred institution that is absolute, but is increasingly becoming an individual choice that can be negotiated. According to research by Elis Mila Rosa (2023), Derrida's deconstruction of marriage opens up space for reinterpreting the concept of women's obedience and silence in the traditional institution of marriage. In addition, research by Tajuddin & Soleh (2024) shows that marriage in the postmodern paradigm is better understood as a social contract that can be renegotiated according to changes in societal values.

The deconstruction of the meaning of marriage is also influenced by feminism and changes in gender roles. Ach. Rosidi Jamil & Ludfi (2023) highlighted that changes in the obligation of maintenance in marriage illustrate the flexibility of Islamic law in responding to social dynamics. On the other hand, research by Suciati & Puspita (2024) examined the social stigma against single women in social media, which showed a shift in society's perspective on marriage as a social norm that must be fulfilled.























In addition, changes in law and public policy also play a role in deconstructing the meaning of marriage. A study by Juni Beddu et al., (2024) showed that certain communities still maintain traditional marriage structures, while other communities adopt more flexible models, including recognition of non-traditional marriages. Thus, the deconstruction of the meaning of marriage in contemporary society reflects a shift from traditional norms to more dynamic and inclusive interpretations, influenced by developments in social values, law, and individualism.




























RESULTS AND DISCUSSION


The results of this study began with the process of categorizing netizen comment data that had been collected through screenshots from various social media platforms. The data categorization table presents a thematic structure consisting of initial codes, main themes, and sub-themes identified through thematic

analysis according to Miles and Huberman. This process allows researchers to trace the patterns of meaning that emerge from various responses to the #MarriagelsScary trend. Each comment was analyzed in depth to find hidden narratives that reflect the tension between social expectations of marriage and the emotional realities experienced by generation Z.

The following is a table of theme categorization based on analysis of netizen comments related to #MarriagelsScary posts or content on the TikTok platform.

Data Snippet	Initial Code (A)	Sub-Theme (B)	Main Theme (C)
 ver marriage is scary kayaknya cap buat wanita problematik, ketakutan trauma dan gak heran banyak wanita muda jadi janda 2024-08-09 Reply  27  — View 10 replies ▾	Conflict between norms and social reality	Fear of domestic conflict	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 d ak cuma takut diselingkuhin dan jadi korban kdrt   2024-08-09 Reply  8  — View 2 replies ▾	Fear of uncertainty	Fear of domestic conflict	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 NES marriage is scary, bayangkan lu pulang cape kerja liat rumah berantakan karena istri lu males dan malah ngabisin duit jalan2 bareng temennya 2024-08-13 Reply  1 	Fear of uncertainty	Emotional unpreparedness	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 That boy in the dream baru aja muncul diatas FYP, ada yg post jg cewek soal komenin marriage is scary, dia bilang "mayoritas yg ada ikut trend itu cuman takut suaminya gmn gmn bukan takut pas nikah gk bisa jd ibu yg baik" 2024-08-08 Reply  31  — View 2 replies ▾	Fear of uncertainty	Emotional unpreparedness	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 Wallflower Marriage is Scary versi cowok : takut gaji dari kerjaan gak cukup untuk muasin istri, anak dll. Marriage is Scary versi cewek : takut gak 'diratukan' dan dilayani dengan baik. See the difference?  2024-08-08 Reply  484  — View 50 replies ▾	Fear of uncertainty	Emotional unpreparedness	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 .Ramora Marriage is scaryy ,lu kerja mati matian buat istri lu bahkan uang gaji lu di ambil istri dan istri lu masi selingkuh  2024-08-09 Reply  	Fear of uncertainty	Emotional unpreparedness	Mental and emotional unpreparedness

 squidwhot marriage is scary klo endingnya kaya ortu gue 2024-08-11 Reply  	Traumatic family experiences	Family trauma issue	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 Ata kata gw mah mereka punya Daddy issues... peran ayah memang sepenting itu 2024-08-09 Reply  	Traumatic family experiences	Family trauma issue	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 bukan anak mamah gue takut sama pernikahan, karna gue lihat nasib ibu gue sendiri sih kaya gimana 2024-08-08 Reply  7  — View 2 replies v	Traumatic family experiences	Family trauma issue	Mental and emotional unpreparedness
 I LOVE CHESS marriage is scary marriage is scary lu kalau takut nikah ga usah nikah udh simple 2024-08-10 Reply  	Marriage is not an obligation	Marriage is not mandatory	Deconstructing the meaning of marriage
 N marriage is scary, yaudah kalo msih scary gausa marriage ribet 🤔 2024-08-09 Reply  5 	Marriage is not an obligation	Marriage is not mandatory	Deconstructing the meaning of marriage
 Sadull marriage is scary, padahal pernikahan itu salah satu bentuk ibadah, semoga kita di pertemuan sama pasangan yang sama sama ngerti dan saling support satu sama lain, AMINNNN 2024-08-08 Reply  1,330  — View 25 replies v	Conflict between norms and social reality	The shifting meaning of marriage	Deconstructing the meaning of marriage
 anotherdumpan Marriage is scary, nikah itu ibadah tapi di jadikan sebuah ketakutan. 2024-08-08 Reply  1,618  — View 54 replies v	Conflict between norms and social reality	Marriage is not mandatory	Deconstructing the meaning of marriage
 imaaa mari normalisasi jgn nikah dulu sebelum mapan 🤔 berlaku untuk cewe dan cowo. takut bgt ngebebanin orang lain 🤔🙏 2024-10-02 Reply  	Career and economic considerations	Focus on career	Individual readiness financially and emotionally
 neessa maka dari itu gue gamau nikah kalau blm kerja yg mapan dan selesai sama diri sendiri 🤔 2024-09-02 Reply  	Career and economic considerations	Focus on career	Individual readiness financially and emotionally

 <p>put gamau nikah sebelum finansial gue bagus pokoknya harus jadi pns dulu dan pokoknya ortu gue harus ngerasain gaji dari anak bungsunya dulu yaitu gue 2024-09-27 Reply</p>	Career and economic considerations	Focus on career	Individual readiness financially and emotionally
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Source: Processed by Researchers 2025

Based on the thematic codification table above, the results of the analysis that has been done will be visualized using the Sankey diagram shown below. The Sankey diagram is an effective tool for visually depicting data flow and relationships between variables. By using this diagram, we can clearly see how various elements interact with each other and contribute to the results of the analysis. This visualization not only makes it easier to understand, but also helps in identifying patterns and trends that may not be visible from the data table alone.

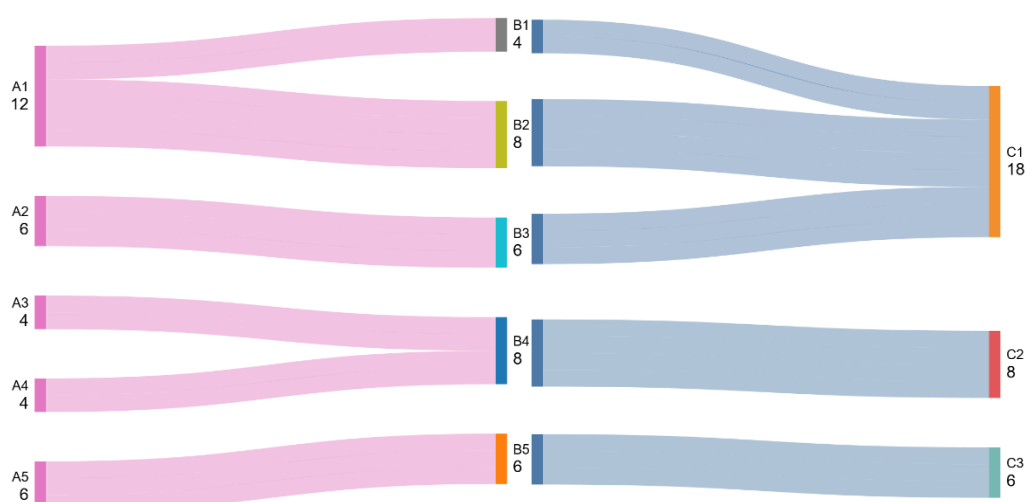


Figure 1. Sankey Diagram

Source: Processed by Researchers Using SankeyMatics 2025

Thematic Codification Information

Initial Code (A)		Sub Theme (B)	
A1	: Fear of uncertainly	B1	: Fear of domestic conflict
A2	: Traumatic Family experience	B2	: Emotional unpreparedness
A3	: Marriage is not an obligation	B3	: Family trauma issue
A4	: Conflict between norms and social reality	B4	: The shifting meaning of marriage
A5	: Individual readiness financially and emotionally	B5	: Focus on career
Main Theme (C)			
C1	: Mental and emotional unpreparedness		
C2	: Deconstructing the meaning of marriage		
C3	: Career and economics consideration		

Source: Processed by Researchers 2025

Analysis of the Sankey Diagram Based on Provided Coding :

The Sankey Diagram illustrates the flow and relationships between various themes related to perceptions of marriage, categorized into Initial Codes (A), Sub-Themes (B), and Main Themes (C). Here is the analysis:

1. Initial Code (A) to Sub-Theme (B) Flow

- **A1 (Fear of Uncertainty)** connects to **B1 (Fear of Domestic Conflict)**, indicating that individuals' apprehensions about unpredictability in life often manifest as concerns over potential conflicts within a marital relationship.
- **A2 (Traumatic Family Experience)** leads to **B3 (Family Trauma Issue)**, showing how past negative family experiences directly contribute to ongoing emotional baggage affecting marriage readiness.
- **A3 (Marriage is Not an Obligation)** aligns with **B4 (The Shifting Meaning of Marriage)**, reflecting modern views that challenge traditional norms, emphasizing marriage as a choice rather than a societal duty.
- **A4 (Conflict Between Norms and Social Reality)** also links to **B4**, highlighting the tension between societal expectations and contemporary realities, further reshaping perceptions of marriage.
- **A5 (Individual Readiness Financially and Emotionally)** branches into **B2 (Emotional Unpreparedness)** and **B5 (Focus on Career)**, demonstrating that personal readiness encompasses both emotional stability and economic priorities, with career often taking precedence.

2. Sub-Theme (B) to Main Theme (C) Consolidation

- **B1, B2, and B3** converge into **C1 (Mental and Emotional Unpreparedness)**, underscoring that fears, emotional instability, and past trauma collectively contribute to psychological barriers toward marriage.
- **B4** maps to **C2 (Deconstructing the Meaning of Marriage)**, capturing how evolving societal norms and individual beliefs are redefining the institution of marriage.
- **B5** feeds into **C3 (Career and Economics Consideration)**, emphasizing practical factors like financial stability and professional goals as critical determinants in marriage decisions.

The diagram reveals a multidimensional view of marriage readiness, where emotional, societal, and economic factors interplay. Traditional norms are increasingly questioned (**C2**), while personal preparedness whether emotional (**C1**) or financial (**C3**) plays a pivotal role in shaping attitudes toward marriage. Without visual data on flow widths or quantities, the analysis assumes equal weightage for all connections. Further quantitative insights could strengthen the interpretation. The Sankey Diagram effectively visualizes complex, interconnected themes, demonstrating how individual experiences and societal shifts collectively influence contemporary perspectives on marriage.

This Sankey diagram illustrates the flow of thought or factors that influence a person's view of marriage. First, there are several basic things that are the causes, such as fear of uncertainty (A1), traumatic family experiences (A2), the assumption that marriage is not an obligation (A3), conflict between social norms and reality (A4), and considerations of financial and emotional readiness (A5). These factors then develop into more specific sub-themes, such as concerns about household conflict (B1), emotional unpreparedness (B2), family trauma (B3), changes in the meaning of marriage (B4), and focus on career (B5).

Ultimately, all of these sub-themes fall into three main themes. First, mental and emotional unpreparedness (C1), which includes fear, trauma, and concerns about household relationships. Second, changes in the meaning of marriage (C2), where marriage is no longer seen as an obligation,

but something flexible. Third, career and economic considerations (C3), where many people prioritize financial stability before getting married.

From this diagram, it can be seen that the decision to marry is not only influenced by one thing, but by many factors, both from within such as emotions and trauma, and from outside such as social pressure and economic demands. This shows that marriage today is becoming more complex due to various challenges and changes in values in society. The Sankey diagram shows how the meaning of marriage is no longer seen as something fixed or obligatory (A3 and A4), but rather shifts (B4) towards a more flexible understanding (C2). This is very much in line with Derrida's theory of deconstruction, which states that meaning in society is never stable or absolute, but can always be dismantled and reinterpreted.

1. Dekonstruktion of the meaning of marriage

Derrida rejects the concept of "single truth". In the diagram, it can be seen how the old norm ("marriage is an obligation") is questioned (A3) because it conflicts with social reality (A4). This is an example of deconstruction: the meaning of marriage is "dismantled" from traditional values to something subjective (for example: "can be postponed for the sake of a career" or "is not the only way of life").

2. The Influence of Trauma and Fear

Derrida also emphasizes that personal experiences (such as family trauma/A2) influence how we interpret social institutions. The diagram shows how bad experiences (B3) change people's perceptions of marriage, from being considered sacred to being colored by doubt (C1).

3. Shifting Priorities (Career vs. Marriage) Deconstruction theory sees that the hierarchy of values (e.g., "marriage is more important than career") can be reversed. In the diagram, the focus on career (B5/C3) proves that the meaning of "success" is no longer synonymous with marriage, but can mean individual achievement.

Overall, the respondents involved in this survey are a reflection of TikTok netizens who are highly influenced by the development of digital culture and are open to changes in values and views, especially related to marriage, relationships, and gender roles in modern society.

CONCLUSION

From the results above, several common threads emerge that show how marriage is no longer seen as a sacred institution that brings happiness, but rather as a source of anxiety, economic pressure, and relational uncertainty. In the perspective of Jacques Derrida's deconstruction, this statement reveals how marriage, which was originally considered a sacred and stable institution, has experienced a dismantling of meaning, where the traditional hierarchy (happiness vs. suffering) is reversed to become a source of anxiety, economic pressure, and relational uncertainty. This process shows that the meaning of marriage is not fixed, but continues to shift (*différance*) depending on the material context and subjectivity, thus eroding its dominant narrative as an "ideal life goal". This deconstruction reveals the fragility of the social construction of marriage, emphasizing that the institution is not a universal truth, but rather the result of negotiations that are always open to reinterpretation.

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