Assignment 9

The couple I chose to interview is Kane and Amanda Starrett. They have been together for a total of three years, and married for two. Before they married they were cohabitating. In this paper I will discuss their answers to the questions in a question and answer format and I will reflect on their answers and connect them back to the text.

**Question 1): Describe a typical day for you two?**

I started off by asking them to describe a typical day for them. Amanda answered that question by telling me that Kane leaves for work at 7 a.m., and she is left alone to take care of their two daughters. Taking care of their children is what she does for the day and when Kane comes home he does dishes and plays with the girl before it is time for their bed time. I asked her why specifically did he just do dishes and not some other chore, she responded to me that she can do everything else but dislikes doing dishes so he has to care of those.

**Question 2): How are decisions made between you two?**

Amanda answered that they both bring up the topic and they talk about it. However, Kane remained quiet and he shifted his body and let go of Amanda’s hand. I then asked how they made a big move from Des Moines to Roland. Amanda answered that it had been a topic that they had and on the table since they got married, and finally made it happen. She mentioned that she hated living in Des Moines. She really missed her family. Kane said he had just finally gave in.

According to the text, decision making is “a process that belongs to the family system, not an individual.” (Gavin, Bylund, Brommel, pg. 195) However, I don’t believe that with this family, this is true. Amanda is originally from Roland and moved to Des Moines to live with Kane. She hated it living there so she wanted to move back. Kane has all of this family and friends in Des Moines, and he also had a steady job. The decision to move, caused him to lose the job (which left them with no income) and he also left behind the only people he’s ever known. I believe that that decision to move back to Roland was an affective decision. According to the text, an affective decisions “relate to decisions made based heavily on emotions or feelings. (Gavin, Bylund, Brommel, pg. 195). Amanda made a decision that impacted her little family based on missing her family.

**Question 3): How did your parents deal with conflict?**

Kane answered that his parents were not together when he was growing up, but through stories he had heard that his parents were vicious when they were fighting. They would yell and put their hands on each other. They were usually under the influence something when this occurred. Amanda answered that her mother would just leave whenever there was conflict. She wouldn’t deal with the issue, she would just leave until the issue was gone.

**Question 3): Describe how you two deal with conflict?**

Amanda answered that they do some yelling and they say something they don’t mean. She usually tries to go somewhere quiet and color because it gets her mind off of things. Kane then mentioned that Amanda does most of the yelling and she also nitpicks at the little things that are wrong with their relationship and uses that against him. She often threatened to break up with him back when they were just dating.

Although Kane and Amanda don’t deal with conflict the same way their parents do, I think Amanda does disengage from the fights in a way that is similar to her mom. Amanda’s mom actually left the premise, whereas Amanda leaves the situation and colors. They both leave, just in different ways.

**Question 4): Who handles the money for the family?**

Amanda answered this question for both of them, stating that Kane holds on to the money. (It should be stated that he is the bread winner of the family) He holds on to the money and when I want something I ask for money. Under his breath, Kane made it known that she doesn’t ask that she demands.

Although Kane is the primary breadwinner for the family, Amanda seems to handle most of the money. One of McDonald’s five resources is Affective resources which is “who in the family nurtures others and how teach member in the family meets his or her needs for feeling loved or belonging to the system.” (Gavin, Bylund, Brommel, pg. 185) I think that because Amanda deals with issues of raising their children, nurturing them, and home maintenance she should be in charge of the way their economic resources are spent.

**Question: 5): What is your biggest source of conflict?**

Amanda answered for both of them stating that their biggest source of conflict is money and Kane’s “horrible family”. I noted that this upset Kane because he looked down and pursed his lips together. Amanda however gave a small laugh after saying it and looked over at Kane and seemed puzzled at his reaction.