Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

All Graduate Theses and Dissertations

Graduate Studies

5-1984

A Look at Some Grandfather Intergenerational Relationships As Perceived by Their Adult Children

Leonard E. Stout Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/etd



Part of the Family, Life Course, and Society Commons

Recommended Citation

Stout, Leonard E., "A Look at Some Grandfather Intergenerational Relationships As Perceived by Their Adult Children" (1984). All Graduate Theses and Dissertations. 2486. https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/etd/2486

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate Studies at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Graduate Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



A LOOK AT SOME GRANDFATHER INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AS PERCEIVED BY THEIR ADULT CHILDREN

by

Leonard E. Stout

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

Family and Human Development

Approved:
Major Professor
Committee Member
Committee Member
ean of Graduate Studies

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY Logan, Utah

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Glen Jenson for his continual support, enthusiasm, and assistance throughout this truly great learning experience. With gratitude, I extend my thanks for all the extra time and understanding he has given to me. I also appreciate an excellent reading and insightful suggestions of Jay Skidmore. A thanks also to Whorten Allen who participated in the development of this document.

I want my children to know how much I love them and appreciate all the extra work they have done in order to allow me the time to complete this much desired project. Finally, I give many thanks to my wife, Alaine, whose long hours of patient assistance has been very beneficial and brought us closer together.

Leonard E. Stout

TABLE OF CONTENTS

														P	age
ACKN	10MLI	EDGE	MENT	s.											ii
LIST	OF	TAB	LES.												V
ABSI	TRACT	г.													v
INTE	RODUC	CTIO	N AN	D ST	ATEM	ENT	OF	THE	PROB	BLEM					1
	Prob	lem													2
	Puri				•										4
			ions												5
REVI	EW (OF P	ERTI	NENT	LIT	ERA:	rure				•			•	6
	Rela	atio	nshi	n Be	twee	n Ge	ener	atio	ns						7
					Gran										8
					Styl										10
					ndch										13
					nd .										14
					rity			•		-			0	2	15
								•	•	•	•	•		•	16
							•	•	•		•	•		•	18
	Sumn	lary					•	•		•				•	10
METH	HODOI	LOGY													22
	0 1			c n-		J 4									22
	Sele	ecti	on o	i ke	spon	aeni	CS.		•	•	•			•	23
	Proc	edu	re.						•		•	•		•	23
			ent	_ :				•						•	24
	Anal	Lysi	s of	Dat	a .		•	•			•			•	24
RESU	JLTS	AND	DIS	CUSS	ION										26
	The	Adu	1t C	hild	Res	pond	dent								27
					le .										27
	Grar	ndfa	ther	Sam	ple										29
	Adul	+ C	hild	Per	cept:	ion	of	Rela	tion	shir	Wit	h			
		Gr	andf	athe	r.										31
	Adul	+ 0	hild	's P	erce	ntic	ns.	of C	rand	lfath	ner/				
	naal	Gn	ando	hild	Rel	atio	nnsh	in		100					37
	Cnar				hang				ns	-					41
	Urrai	+ha	cirer	Toot	ing a	and	Pos	117+0	,	•			2	3	42
	пурс	line	SIS	1626	Tild (and	1100	u1 cc	•	•					
SUMM	1ARY	AND	CON	CLUS	IONS										45
															46
			ions				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	47
	Limi	Ltat	ions			3		٠ _	•	٠,	•		•	•	47
	Reco	omme	ndat	ions	for	Fu	othe	r Re	sear	ch					48

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

						Page
REFERENCES						50
APPENDIX						54
VITA						58

LIST OF TABLES

	Tab	le	Pā	age
	1.	Selected Demographic Characteristics of Adult Children		28
	2.	Selected Demographic Characteristics of Grandchildren		29
	3.	Selected Demographic Characteristics of Grandfathers		30
	4.	Adult Child Perceptions of Relationship With Grandfather		31
	5.	Effects of Respondents' Sex on Their Perception of Their Relationships With Grandfather		32
	6.	How Grandfather's Age Affects the Respondent's Perception of the Quality of the Relationship .		33
	7.	How the Grandfather Helps the Adult Child		34
	8.	Ways Adult Child Wished Grandfather Were Different		34
	9.	Perceptions of Grandfather's Willingness to Sacrifice for Them		35
1	0.	Effects of the Respondents' Sex on Their Perceptions of Grandfather's Willingness to Sacrifice for Them		36
1	1.	Effects of Grandfather's Age on the Respondent's Perception of his Willingness to Sacrifice .		37
1	2.	Selected Grandfather/Grandchild Interactions Rated by Respondent		39
1	3.	Respondents' Rating of the Grandfather/ Grandchild Relationship		39
1	4.	Grandchild's Sex by the Respondent's Perception of the Grandchild/Grandfather Relationship .		40
1	5.	Grandfather's Age by the Respondent's Perception of the Grandfather/Grandchild Relationship .		40
1	6.	Adult Child Perceptions of Changing Behavioral		42

ABSTRACT

A Look at Some Grandfather Intergenerational Relationships

As Perceived by Their Adult Children

by

Leonard E. Stout, Master of Science

Major Professor: Dr. Glen O. Jenson Department: Family and Human Development

The purpose of this study was to investigate the quality of grandfather's relationships with his adult child and their oldest child. A questionnaire was used to obtain demographic data, determine some personality and interaction patterns that can be observed as the male adult develops in the parent and grandparent roles, and examine how specific variables affect grandfather relationships and behavior.

Data were gathered from 165 Utah State University students and their spouses, of which over 75% belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The results support good intergenerational relationships. Proximity of grandfather and extended family members was on the average 23 miles. The grandfather and adult child visited each other on the average of five times monthly. Grandfathers were seen as helpful, affectionate, and willing to sacrifice for the adult child if in need.

Insufficient data were gathered to support a conclusion that the quality of grandfather's relationship with either the adult child or the grandchild would be significantly related to grandfather age or the family member's sex.

Some trends suggest that females are more accepting of help from the grandfather. Also older grandfathers tended to be perceived to have a more positive relationship than their younger counterparts.

Perceptions of grandfathers' changing behavior over time indicated most grandfathers' behaviors remain stable. When change did take place, it was significantly more likely to be in the direction of increased warmth and nurturing behaviors.

(65 pages)

INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Today, a general shift in the population is taking place which affects the family structure. People are living longer which often results in parents spending over half of their lives in grandparent roles (Duvall, 1977). Grandparenthood is no longer confined to the later years of life. In Boyd and Oakes' (1969) study of adults over the age of 65, they found that 93% of their sample were either grandparents or great-grandparents. Kivnick (1982) found similar results in her study. She noted many grandparents under the age of 55, and some were in their 40's. The age at the time of marriage and birth of the first child was decreased generally over the last century (Nye & Berardo, 1973). When this trend is coupled with the decreased population and increased life expectancy, a situation exists where individuals are spending an increasing proportion of their lives in a grandparent role, to a decreasing population of young people.

Within the extended family the grandparent role is perhaps the major means by which the "launched" parent maintains relevant contact with the other family members.

Grandparenting is the next step for family members who have progressed through the childhood and childrearing roles. A feeling of family relatedness is associated with a healthy self-concept for the older individual (Butler & Lewis, 1976;

Sussman, 1974). Failure to accept oneself in the grandparent role is one major factor causing isolation of some older adults from the family (Neugarten & Weinstein, 1964).

Psychological acceptance and active involvement when the first grandchild is born is one way of preparing the middle-age individual and the family structure for the new grandparent role. The period between the biological onset of grandparenthood and retirement is the ideal time to start developing this new relationship and self-image. The ease and effectiveness of these transitions can have a profound impact on the level of satisfaction achieved during the latter half of one's life.

Individuals first experience grandparenthood at the beginning of the life cycle, as grandchildren. Later as parents, they watch their own parents as grandparents to their children. Finally, they themselves become grandparents to the children of their children. (Kivnick, 1982, p. 59)

The large number of individuals involved with grandparenting for considerable lengths of time makes this phenomenon worthy of serious study.

Problem

In recent years the study of grandparenthood has received more attention by the social scientist. However, little data have been gathered concerning grandfathers in particular. Typically, when grandparenthood is studied, the focus tends to be on the grandmother. Benson (1968) noted that fathers were generally an unpopular subject for study.

This neglect of fathers is both difficult to understand and unfortunate, particularly if the assertion is correct that increasing numbers of men are investing more of themselves in the raising and nurturing of their children (Fein, 1976; Levine, 1976).

In each stage of life, father seemed to be the less favored parent by the younger family members (Maddox, 1963). Benson (1968) discovered fathers become more detached and isolated from the other family members as they grow older. Traditional masculinity has been described as anti-nurturant. Some typical adjectives describing the male role are domineering, logical, aggressive, and tough. Fasteau (1974) states that the male is seen as a functional machine that is mainly designed for work, not interpersonal relationships.

In order for the grandfather to feel accepting of his "new" role he must feel valuable to others within the family. Smart (1976) found that the older father must take on roles formally allocated to the mother and grandmother to remain relevant to other family members. Blood and Wolfe (1960) noted a shift towards increased affectional and companionship roles within the family relationships. Cavan (1962) commented that she saw the grandfather role as being slightly feminine. Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) felt the role was neuter in gender. Considering what could be a traumatic role transition required of older males to redefine their self-concept from "tough and domineering" to "slightly feminine," it is understandable that grandfathers tend to have more difficulty in developing and maintaining close

affectional relationships with family members.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to investigate the quality of grandfather relationships with his adult child and their oldest child. A questionnaire was used to:

(a) obtain demographic data, (b) determine some simulated personality and interaction trends that can be observed as the male adult develops in the parent and grandparent roles, (c) examine how specific variables might affect grandfather relationships and behaviors. This was an exploratory study which tested the following hypotheses:

- The quality of the grandfather/adult child relationships as perceived by the adult child is independent of the age of the grandfather.
- 2. The quality of the grandfather/adult child relationships as perceived by the adult child is independent of the sex of the adult child.
- 3. The quality of the grandfather/grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the age of the grandfather.
- 4. The quality of the grandfather/grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the sex of the grandchild.
- 5. The adult child's perceptions of how grandfather changes on specific behavior variables as he develops in the father and grandfather roles will remain unchanged.

Definitions

To avoid confusion when discussing the intergenerational family members, the following terms will be defined as such:

- 1. Grandchild: The oldest living child of the surveyed home and grandchild of the grandfather.
- 2. Respondent or Adult Child: The parent of the grandchild.
- 3. Grandfather: The elder family member, the father of the adult child, and the grandfather to the grandchild.

REVIEW OF PERTINENT LITERATURE

Grandfathering has the potential of being the primary role in the life cycle of the individual. The total years spent as a grandfather may well exceed the pregrandfather years (Duvall, 1977). Given the possible significance of the role, it is not surprising that in 1963 Maddox called the lack of interest in grandparent roles by social scientists a "scandal." In the last 20 years there has been a slow warming up to grandparents as a topic of study (Adams, 1971; Kivnick, 1982).

Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) studied 70 pairs of middle-class grandparents and found that over 30% were openly dissatisfied and experiencing a "lack of positive rewards" in the role. It was concluded that these dissatisfied grandparents were experiencing difficulty accepting themselves as grandparents. The researchers detected feelings of uncertainty in these grandparents which resulted from incongruent role expectations and conflicts with the grown child. The grandparents' discomfort was often intensified by the feeling of guilt for not wanting to be involved with the grandchildren.

Far too often the transition into the grandparenthood and later life cycle roles is accompanied by stress within the extended family (Hess, 1976). Bengston (1973) felt that society places great emphasis on the socialization of

the young child for the adult role while neglecting the adult's development into their future roles. The child is helped or even forced to develop the skills to "fit" into the developing family. The grandparent who fails to develop the needed skills to build the new relationships will experience a stifled relationship which may exhibit itself in the form of anything from mild conflict and stress to total isolation from the other family members.

Giving up former roles and adopting new ones is not easy. Bengston (1973) said of this task:

It behooves those who would someday be valued grandparents to cultivate a disposition accepting of change, able to relinquish the parental role to one's children, and enter into a new role with one's grandchildren. A role that supplements the parental role and in no way conflicts or competes with it; a role that satisfies both parents and grandparents; a role that the younger generation will favor; a role that will bring to the elderly the self-realization of being valued grandparents whom the generations will call blessed. (p. 213)

Relationship Between Generations

Kahana and Kahana (1970) studied grandparenting from the perspective of the grandchild. Three age groups of white middle-class children were interviewed to determine what age differences exist in the child's perception of their grandparents. All of the age groups reported more contact with the grandmother than with the grandfather. When asked which of the four grandparents were favored, the maternal grandmother was selected most often.

Being the maternal grandparent will not guarantee the most favored position. In a real sense this position is earned. Selections of "most favored" grandparent in Kahana's study was based on egocentric criteria in each of the three age groups studied. This was particularly evident in the four and five-year-old group. For them the grandparent won their favor because they had given them gifts and showed love for them. The eight and nine-year-olds also indicated that love and presents were the most attractive features of the relationship; however, they also thought the ability of the grandparents to mutually enjoy their games and activities was a strong asset. The 11 and 12-year-old group did not stress mutual enjoyment as often as the eight and nine-year-olds. Kahana and Kahana (1970) concluded that the older child did not feel as close to the grandparent as the younger children. They proposed that the decline in the relationship was partly due to poorer health and physical stamina on the part of the older parents, which physically limited their ability to share the older child's activities.

Benefits to the Grandparent

Grandparenting is a satisfying role for most middleaged and older persons. Neugarten and Wenstein (1964) in their study of 70 middle-class grandparent couples, identified some of the sources of satisfaction in the role.

Many grandparents felt a sense of satisfaction in the form of biological renewal as they saw themselves through

the young child, continue in the future. There was often a noble feeling of carrying on the family name. Grandparents also felt emotional fulfillment in the new relationship with the young child. They saw it as a chance to rectify mistakes they made with their own children. Some grandfathers especially found satisfaction in the emotional role with the grandchild which belonged solely to mother before. One father said: "I can be and I can do for my grandchildren things I could never do for my own kids. I was too busy with my business to enjoy my children, but my grandchildren are different. Now I have the time to be with them" (pp. 201-202). It is doubtful that the children are any different. However, the father has changed and outside demands in addition to the grandfather role are different.

A few grandparents in the study found satisfaction in providing knowledge and new experiences for the grandchild, thus building a stronger bond. These contributions included providing funds for future education or unique experiences by which the child may gain skills and knowledge.

Some grandparents identified strongly with the growing child and felt a sense of personal pride and accomplishment in the child's achievements. Through vicarious experiences the grandparent was able to experience things which they would not have otherwise been able to do.

Although most of the grandparents experienced some satisfaction, a third felt detached from the grandchild and thought the role had little effect on their personal lives.

They perceived the role "... as being empty of meaningful relationships" (p. 203). Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) interpreted the discomfort and lack of positive reward experienced by the grandparents as being caused by the "strain" of thinking of themselves as grandparents. It is likely that these parents had weak or no grandparent roles in their youth (Stinnett & Walters, 1977). Perhaps they have adopted the popular belief that grandparenting is synonymous with old age. Women especially feel uncomfortable when the role comes early. The benefits gained through the grandparent/grandchild relationships depends on the style of interaction and attitude of the grandparent.

Grandparenting Styles

Investigating the personal significance of grandparenthood, Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) derived the first multidimensional and conceptualization of the role. They identified five styles of grandparenting.

The <u>Formal</u> grandparents attempted to follow what they saw as the "proper" and traditional grandparent role. They took care not to interfere in the relationship between the grandchild and the parent. They didn't give advice, yet still maintained a constant interest in the grandchild. They specifically did not want any of the parental responsibilities.

The <u>Funseeker</u> grandparent maintained an informal and playful relationship with the child. Both participants in this relationship were self-indulgent. Lines of authority

were disregarded. Both the grandparent and grandchild assumed responsibility for the others enjoyment in the relationship.

The <u>Substitute Parent</u> style of grandparenting was usually assumed by the grandmother at the request of the parents. In this style the grandmother temporarily assumed the child-rearing responsibilities while the parents were working or otherwise away from the home. Nimkoff (1962) found that often when the mother worked, the grandmother took over some of the mother's duties. Boyd (1969) asserted that the surrogate mother role was weakened by both the mobility of the family and the growing reliance on day care centers.

Some of the grandparents in the Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) study saw themselves as $\underline{\text{Family}}$ $\underline{\text{Wisdom}}$ figures. These grandparents took on the role of dispensers of special knowledge and skills to the subordinate parents and children of the family clan.

The <u>Distant Figure</u> grandparents had infrequent and fleeting contact with the grandchild. They made brief appearances on special occasions such as Christmas and birthdays. Although these grandparents seemed interested in the grandchild, for various reasons they remained remote.

Over one-half of the grandparents adopted either the Distant Figure or Funseeker style of interacting with the grandchild. It is interesting to note that in both these styles authority was peripheral. The Distant Figure style

had an element of detachment, remoteness, and noninvolvement, while the Funseeker took on an intimate buddy position in which both the child and the grandparent were equal.

Kivnick (1982) also studied the meaning of grandparenthood to the grandparents. She identified five categories: Centrality: These parents found grandparenthood activities to be central in their personal lives, while past activities diminished in importance. They were serious about their roles as grandparents. Valued Elder: These grandparents viewed themselves as resource persons to the grandchild and were concerned with the regard in which the grandchild did or would remember them. Immortality Through Clan: These grandparents focused on their patriarchal responsibility, identification with grandchildren, and family immortality. Reinvolvement With Personal Past: These grandparents saw grandparenthood as a means by which they could relive past experiences through their grandchildren. These persons also consciously thought and wondered about their own grandparents. Spoil: These grandparents indulged their grandchildren as is stereotypically regarded as "spoiling."

Some researchers saw grandparents less an ally to the parents and more of a friend to the grandchild. They observed a radical shift from the traditional patriarchal/matriarchal relationships in which authority was central to the relationship. Boyd (1969) said: "Today, grandparents and great-grandparents are less likely to be awarded status

by virtue of kinship and tradition. Rather, they will earn status through successful reciprocity with the young people" (p. 32). For the relationship to be satisfying, both the grandparent and grandchild must be able to fulfill each other's needs. Duty and tradition are giving way to spontaneous relationships based on mutual satisfaction and caring.

Benefits to Grandchildren

Stinnett and Walters (1977) listed four ways the grandchild can benefit from interaction with the grandparent. First, the child can experience a greater sense of emotional security and family solidarity as they perceive themselves to be a valued part of the historical family organization. Second, the child can learn to accept and understand older persons which is also part of young children's anticipatory socialization for the older family role. Third, grandparents can contribute an added source of emotional stability in today's fast-paced technological society. Finally, grandparents can assist in the childrearing role as a surrogate parent.

Troll (1971) discovered that institutionalized children exhibited increased intellectual and social functioning when they interacted with a "foster" grandparent. Boyd (1969) found that when the father is not present in the home, a grandfather can provide a valuable sex role model for the male child.

The grandchild can develop greater appreciation for and an understanding of older persons in the family and society. Research suggests that positive attitudes in the young towards the elderly is related to a moderate contact with them (Stinnett & Walters, 1977). In addition, the grandparent provides the most viable source of anticipatory socialization for the future grandparent.

The Current Trend

In 1960, Blood and Wolfe noted a general shift in spousal relationships from that of traditional role performance orientation to an affection companionship based on sensitivity to and fulfillment of personal needs. This trend seemed to have generalized into other family relationships, including the grandparent/grandchild relationship (Cavan, 1962). Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) and UpdeGraff (1968) found grandparents were more permissive towards grandchildren than a generation ago. Crase and Hendrickson (1968) noted evidences which indicated grandparents were not only more permissive, but that the child also saw them as more responsive to their needs than their mother. Cavan (1962) characterized the modern grandparent roles to be both basically maternal. She also saw in the grandfather role the opportunity for the father to display tenderness and sentiment which is not often allowed in other male roles. Many other fathers report satisfaction in this new emotional relationship (Neugarten & Weinstein, 1964).

Lipman (1961) found in his study that the retired male had to redefine his social and familial role. Questions arose as retirement drastically curtailed his status as major provider. What changes need to be made to molify the strain created by retirement and how it affected the three generational family? Lipman found that among other things, successful family adjustments depended on the extent to which the new grandparent replaces their former self-concept with that of an expressive role in the home.

Power and Authority

Leonard Benson (1968) in his classic review of literature relating to fatherhood, noted that there was a positive relationship between power and authority centered on the father and his social distance from other family members. Apple (1956) noted that when a society assigns the grandparent to an authority position, they tend not to have free and easy relationships with the younger generation. These societies teach the grandchild to show deference and respect towards the grandparent. He further noted that among the 51 societies that he studied, when the grandfather was not in a position of authority, there tended to be a warm, egalitarian relationship between him and the grandchild.

The friendly equality of lower power relationships is evidenced in other studies. Nimkoff (1962) asserted that increasing permissiveness allowed the grandchild by the grandparent is the result of the declining authority within the family. Apple (1956) also noted that when the older

members of the family lose control of the family resources, they are replaced as the central figure upon which the other family members depend. The older parent seeks other ways in which to invaluate himself to the younger members. As the grandparents become more useful and helpful, the younger family members become dependent upon them for continuance of the relationship. Affection and companionship become the prominent feature of the interaction within the family. It was felt that increased caretaking responsibilities may thus be viewed partially as a response to reduced family authority.

Grandfatherhood

Comparatively little is known concerning the impact of father's transition into the grandparent role. Nearly all studies focusing on the postparental transition have addressed mothers. Few studies have actually interviewed fathers (Lowenthal & Chiriboga, 1972; Saunders, 1974; Lewis, Freneau & Roberts, 1979). Present research offers little information on the grandfather role. Some studies hint that the grandfather has no specific role. Balswick (1970) asserted that males are less capable than females of expressing or receiving companionship in marriage. Komarovsky (1964) feels that male socialization inhibits expressiveness. He taught that expressive interchange is part of the female role. Fasteau (1974) claims that the male is seen as a functional machine designed mainly for work, not for pleasure or interpersonal contact.

Traditional masculinity has been characterized as:
domineering, aggressive, logical, unsentimental, confident,
unemotional, stoic, and tough (Bardwick & Douvan, 1971;
Brannon, 1979; Chafetz, 1974; Cicone & Ruble, 1978).
Because of this, males tend to have more difficulty than
females in developing and maintaining close affectual
relationships with the other family members.

Johnson (1968) found in her study of 47 Utah adolescents and their 61 grandparents that a "viable" relationship existed between them. She also noted that the female family member had a more intense relationship with the grandfather. Female grandchildren (67%) tended to "strongly" value living in close proximity to grandfather more often than male grandchildren (35%). Also, grandmother more often than male grandchildren (35%). Also, grandfathers "strongly" prided themselves in the female grandchild's accomplishments (60%) as opposed to the male grandchild's accomplishments (24%).

Smart (1976) saw the grandfather taking on previously maternal roles in order to stay relevant in the family.

Some view the grandfather role as somewhat feminine or neuter in gender (Cavan, 1962; Neugarten & Weinstein, 1964).

Because of the adjustment necessary to feel positive about the grandparent role, success is achieved at different degrees.

In each stage of life, fathers tend to be the less favored parent by the younger family members. In addition, Benson (1968) found that fathers become more isolated and detached from other family members as they grow older.

Conversely, Boyd and Oakes (1969) asserted that grandfathers' interaction with grandchildren increases as socioeconomic status rises. Apple (1956) noted that when grandfather was not the breadwinner or in a position of direct authority, he tended to have a warm, egalitarian relationship with the grandchild. Blood and Wolfe (1960), as well as Cavan (1962), assert that the affection companionship roles based on sensitivity to individual needs are critical to successful family relationships in the modern family. Lipman's study (1961) showed that in order for later-life husbands to build meaningful and satisfying relationships, they had to replace their previous instrumental self-concept with a more expressive one. In Cohen's (1979) critical review of male sex role literature, it is suggested that the "masculine" sex role is deleterious to middle life adjustments.

Moving from the fatherhood to grandfather role is a dynamic process which takes place gradually over time. Large gaps still exist in the literature as to just what changes take place during these years.

Summary

Today, grandfathering is taking on new meaning within society. Life expectancy has increased resulting in many individuals spending a majority of their lives in this role to a decreasing population of grandchildren. Grandfathers are being recognized as a potent force in the family's development. There are still many unanswered questions as

to how the emerging grandfather population will be integrated into the modern family and society.

In the past grandparenthood has not been a highly researched aspect of the family. This is especially true for the grandfather role. Neugarten and Weinstein's (1964) study of grandparents found 30% of these individuals had a difficult time accepting the grandparent role. Whereas children are socialized to their role, older individuals are often unprepared both emotionally and experientially to make the transition from parent role to grandparent role. Individuals need to be able to accept their new life cycle role in order to be appreciated in the family (Bengston, 1973). Within the family system, grandchildren can share positive experiences with grandparents. However, relationships seem to deteriorate as the peer group becomes increasingly influential. This loss of closeness can be offset when ongoing communication between the generations is maintained.

Likewise, many mature parents find benefits from the grandparenting experience. Much satisfaction can come from feelings of biological renewal and emotional fulfillment resulting from close human contacts. An increased sense of purpose can be felt as one shares valuable knowledge gleaned from rich life experiences, and the opportunity to have a second chance to make up for mistakes made in previous childrearing years (Neugarten & Weinstein, 1964).

Grandparenting styles identified by Neugarten and Weinstein (1964) and Kivnick (1982) give informative data concerning "modes and styles" of grandparenting.

Grandparenting is changing from a patriarchal orientation to one that is more loose and permissive (Crase & Hendrickson, 1968). This new orientation allows grandparents to be more responsive to the grandchild's needs. Low power relationships tend to be warm and egalitarian (Boyd & Oakes, 1969). The entire family benefits from the grandparents' ability to provide stability and support for the childrearing processes. They also provide sex role models and are a viable source of anticipatory socialization for the young "future grandparents."

The grandparent role is an opportunity for the grandfather to display tenderness and sentiment not allowed before (Cavan, 1962). When the older male is required to adjust his self-concept from breadwinner to older family member, complex transition is necessary. The male role has discouraged nurturant behaviors and difficulty often arises when the grandfather realizes he must maintain close, meaningful relationships in order to remain relevant in the family (Smart, 1976). All considered, mutual giving and accepting between the generations can provide familial and personal satisfaction for the grandfather. Johnson (1980) found in her study that "viable," rewarding relationships existed between her adolescent sample and their grandfathers. These relationships tended to favor female grandchildren over

male grandchildren. She also recommended further study on grandfather relationship differences which may be caused by sexual or age differences.

The review of pertinent literature illustrates the lack of indepth research about the grandfather and his relationship within the family. This study was designed to increase the information known about grandfather and his relationships and behaviors within the intergenerational family.

METHODOLOGY

A survey research was used to investigate the quality of grandfather relationships within the extended family. A self-administered questionnaire was used to gather demographic data and information concerning the adult child's perception of their father's behaviors. The father's personality and interaction trends which occurred throughout the parent and grandparent roles as perceived by the adult child were obtained by the use of a Likert-type scale.

Selection of Respondents

Respondents for this study were obtained using accepted sampling methods of the married student population living in the Utah State University housing complex, commonly referred to as the Triads. This population was selected because of its accessibility to the researcher, homogeneity of age, and familial developmental stage.

Fifty percent of the family dwellings were chosen for the sample by canvassing all the odd numbered apartments. Each apartment was visited up to four times to enlist the cooperation of the residents.

Qualifying respondents met three stipulations:

(1) Each respondent was a parent, (2) Each respondent's father was still alive, and (3) The father was a citizen of the U.S. or Canada. The rationale for stipulation number

3 was to eliminate the high percentage of foreign students whose reponses could have had a confounding influence on the data due to cultural differences.

A total of 190 questionnaires were distributed and 175 collected. Fifteen questionnaires could not be collected, 11 questionnaires were not properly completed, and four respondents indicated that although their fathers were alive they had had no contact with them for an extended period of time and felt unable to provide meaningful information. Of the 190 questionnaires initially distributed, 165 were used for the study, resulting in a useable return rate of 81%.

Procedure

Each qualifying respondent was told about the questionnaire and how to complete it. The researcher instructed the respondent not to compare answers with their spouse. He/she was instructed that the questionnaire would be picked up the same time the following day. If the questionnaire was not completed at the appointed time, another date was made to pick it up later. Repeated visits were made until all possible questionnaires were retrieved.

Instrument

The data collected in this study was gathered by questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into five sections. Section I consisted of multiple choice and completion questions pertaining to the adult child's demographic data. Section II gathered demographic information

and perceptions of the family through multiple choice, completion and open-ended questions. Section III identified the adult child's perception of father's and mother's life satisfaction and familial behaviors through rank order questions and a Likert-type scale. Section IV asked questions pertaining to the adult child's perceptions of father's current behavior using a Likert-type scale. Section V used a Likert-type scale to determine the adult child's perceptions of father's current behaviors as compared with their perceptions of his behaviors when the respondent was a child. The questionnaire requested information from the respondent that goes beyond the scope of this study. The data collected will be used in future studies.

The questionnaire was developed by the researcher after an examination of grandfather literature and from discussion with professors and students within the Department of Family and Human Development at Utah State University. Five copies of the first draft were completed by fellow students within the department. Modifications were made and the revised questionnaire was retested by 25 student parents. These questionnaires were reviewed and analyzed. Additional changes were made before it was administered to the targeted population.

Analysis of Data

The majority of the statistical work was completed using the computer services at Utah State University.

Statistical computations completed manually were computed

at least twice to insure accuracy. The null hypotheses were tested with the chi-square, Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance, and the Mann-Whitney rank sum test. The level of significance was set at .05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to investigate the quality of grandfather relationships with the adult child and their oldest child. A questionnaire was used to obtain demographic data, determine some simulated personality and interaction trends that can be observed as the male adult develops in the parent and grandparent roles, and examine how specific variables affect grandfathers' relationships and behavior.

The following hypotheses were examined:

- The quality of the grandfather/adult child relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the age of the grandfather.
- 2. The quality of the grandfather/adult child relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the sex of the adult child.
- 3. The quality of the grandfather/grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the age of the grandfather.
- 4. The quality of the grandfather/grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the sex of the grandchild.
- 5. The adult child's perceptions of how grandfather changes on specific behavior variables as he develops in the father and grandfather roles will remain unchanged.

Data were gathered using a questionnaire developed by the researcher. Frequency tabulations and contingency tables were constructed from which the data were analyzed using the Chi-square test for Association, Anova, and Mann-Whitney rank sum test. Significance level was set at p <.05.

The Adult Child Respondent

The 165 respondents in the study lived in the married housing at Utah State University. Each respondent was a parent to at least one child, and had a living father who was a citizen of either the U.S. or Canada. Table 1 summarizes the demographic data for the respondents.

Seventy-five respondents (45.45%) were male and 88 (54.55%) were female.

The dominant religion was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (78.25%). Protestants followed with 9.98% and Catholics at 8.9%. Only six respondents (3.8%) indicated an affiliation outside of these three religious groups.

Respondents' ages ranged from 17 to 35 years with a mean age of 23. For the most part, the respondents were young married couples who had only recently started their families.

Grandchild Sample

Because of the age of the respondents, families were small and grandchildren young. The targeted grandchild's age ranged from 12 years of age to under one year with a

Variable		<u>n</u>	%
<u>Age</u> (<u>N</u> = 159)			
To 20		18	11.33
21-25		77	47.42
26-35		64	41.25
$\underline{\text{Sex}}$ ($\underline{\text{N}}$ = 161)			
Male		73	45.45
Female		88	54.55
Religious Affilia	ation (N = 156)		
Catholic	Active	10	6.41
	Inactive	4	2.56
Protestant	Active	7	4.49
	Inactive	7	4.49
Mormon	Active	112	71.79
	Inactive	10	6.14
Other $(\underline{N} = 6)$		6	3.85

mean age of 1.5. Sixty-one percent of the children were male and 39% were female.

Table 2
Selected Demographic Characteristics of Grandchildren

Variable	n	90
$\underline{\text{Sex}} \ (\underline{N} = 161)$		
Male	99	61.49
Female	62	38.51
$\underline{Age} (\underline{N} = 161)$		
0 - 11 months	45	27.96
1 - 2 years	49	30.43
3 - 5 years	36	22.36
6 - 9 years	28	17.39
10+ years	3	1.86

Grandfather Sample

Grandfather ages in this study ranged from 44 to 77 years with the mean age being 52. For the purposes of analysis, the grandfather population was divided into three age groups: 40 to 49 years, 50 to 59 years, and 60 years and over. The middle age group accounted for 49% of the grandfathers.

Table 3
Selected Demographic Characteristics of Grandfathers

Variable		<u>n</u>	%
<u>Age</u> (<u>N</u> = 158	3)		
40 to 49 years	of age	45	28.48
50 to 59 years	of age	77	48.73
60+ years of a	ıge	36	22.78
Financial Star	ding (N = 161)		
Above average		76	47.20
Average		72	47.83
Below Average		8	4.97
Education (N Less than High		22	13.92
High school		53	33.54
Some college		29	18.35
Bachelor's		26	16.46
Master's Degre	e	15	9.49
Ph.D.		13	8.22
Religious Affi	<u>liation</u> (<u>N</u> = 157)	
Catholic	Active	8	5.10
	Inactive	7	4.45
Protestant	Active	11	7.01
	Inactive	17	10.83
Mormon	Active	77	49.04
	Inactive	19	12.10
Other		18	11.46

Adult Child Perception of Relationship With Grandfather

In order to evaluate grandfather's intergenerational relationships, the adult child was asked demographic particulars and personal feelings about grandfather. The respondents reported on the frequency of contacts within the last 30 days. This included telephone calls, letters, and personal visits. Contacts ranged from 0 to 25 with five contacts a month being typical. Respondents reported living from two to 2,000 miles from grandfather with a mean mileage of 23 miles. Most grandfathers lived within a short distance of their adult child making personal contact and continued interaction convenient.

The respondents were asked to rate on a Likert-type scale the overall perception of the relationship between the adult child respondent and the grandfather as summarized in Table 4. Forty-five percent of the sample felt their relationship with the grandfather was above average. Forty-five percent rated the relationship average, with 10% indicating a below average relationship.

Table 4
Adult Child Perceptions of Relationship With Grandfather

Rating	<u>n</u>	%
Above Average	73	45
Average	7 4	45
Below Average	16	10

Note: N = 163

The effects of age and sex on the rating of adult child/grandfather relationship are summarized in Tables 5 and 6.

A Kruskal/Wallis analysis of variance was performed to determine any significant differences. No significant differences were found between the sexes and the rating of the relationship.

Table 5

Effects of Respondents' Sex on Their Perception of Their Relationships With Grandfather

	Above A	verage	Aver	age B	elow A	verage	
Sex	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	. %	<u>n</u>	%	Totals
Male	38	50.0	28	36.84	10	13.16	76
Female	35	40.23	46	52.87	6	6.9	87
Totals	73		74		16		163

Note: N = 163

The computed Kruskal/Wallis Anova was not significant at the .05 level (χ^2 = .425) as summarized in Table 5. The null hypothesis was supported.

Rating the respondent's relationship with grandfather was also analyzed by the age of the grandfather, as indicated in Table 6. The computed Kruskal/Wallis Anova was also not significant at the .05 level $(\chi^2 = 1.903)$. The only trend noted was that the younger aged grandfathers were rated above average less often than the other two age groups.

Table 6

How Grandfather's Age Affects the Respondent's Perception of the Quality of the Relationship

	Above Average		Ave	Average Below		Average	
Age	n	%	n	%	n	%	Totals
+0 to 4	9 17	37.77	23	51.11	5	11.11	45
50 to 5	9 38	49.35	34	44.16	5	6.49	77
60 +	16	44.44	15	41.66	5	13.89	36

Note: N = 158

To get a better idea of the relationship patterns, the respondents were asked to list the two most important ways the grandfather helped them, as illustrated in Table 7.

Teaching and example type behaviors were listed most often. Love and compassion were the second most mentioned helping behaviors. Appreciation for help with the grandchild specifically was only listed 12 times out of the 277 responses.

Financial assistance was listed as a valuable way in which the grandfather helped. Responses in the Other category varied from: fixes things, let's me be independent, and gives moral support, to-helps by leaving me alone.

The adult child also identified ways in which it was wished the grandfather was different (see Table 8). A desire for father to be more loving (including communicative)

Table 7
How the Grandfather Helps the Adult Child

			Se	cond		_
How Holos		Important %		Important	Totals	
How Helps	<u>n</u>	***	<u>n</u>	70	TOTALS	_
Teach	79	52.67	40	31.49	119	
Love	36	42.6	35	27.56	71	
Financial Support	14	9.3	36	28.35	50	
Visits w/ Grandchild	6	4.0	6	4.72	12	
Other	14	9.3	5	3.30	19	

Table 8 $$\operatorname{\mathsf{Ways}}$ Adult Child Wished Grandfather Were Different

	M+	T		cond	
How Different	Most	Important %	Most	Important %	Totals
More Family Invovement	16	10.32	15	9.8	31
fore Loving	29	18.71	30	19.61	59
Less Angry, Bossy	24	15.48	12	7.84	36
Better Health	20	12.9	18	11.76	38
ocial-Emotional	10	6.45	8	5.23	18
ore Religious	13	8.39	5	3.27	18
ther	14	9.03	9	5.88	23
o Response	29	18.75	56	36.6	85

was the most common, first (18.71%) and second (19.61%) way respondents wished father were different. Less angry or bossy (15.48%) and better health (12.9%) were the next two most common changes desired. Twenty-nine and 56% failed to indicate any desired changes.

Sacrifice, which was defined as a "willingness to give considerable time and money when really needed" was investigated as an indicator of the quality of the relationship. Table 9 shows the adult child's perceptions of grandfather's willingness to sacrifice for them and their own willingness to sacrifice for the grandfather.

Table 9

Perceptions of Grandfather's Willingness to Sacrifice for Them

Rating	<u>n</u>	8
Strongly Agree	129	75.5
Agree	28	17.6
Disagree	9	5.7
Strongly Agree	2	1.3

Note: N = 159

Overall, the responses were strongly positive. Ninety three percent agreed that the grandfather would be willing to sacrifice. Only about 7% disagreed.

A Chi-square test was performed to determine if there was a significant difference between the sex of the adult child and the grandfather's willingness to sacrifice. Because of the low cell count in the disagree and strongly disagree categories, they were combined as illustrated in Table 10. The data were significant at $\chi^2(2,\underline{N}=159)=2.83$, p <.05.

Females (85.23%) perceived the grandfather to be more willing to sacrifice for them than males. It appears that females may be more readily accepting of help than males. Therefore, they may perceive the grandfather to be more willing to help them.

Table 10

Effects of the Respondents' Sex on Their Perceptions of Grandfather's Willingness to Sacrifice for Them

Agree	%	Agr n	%	<u>n</u>	sagree %	Totals
9 61	+.47	19	25.00	8	10.53	76
5 85	5.23	9	10.23	4	4.55	88
4 75	5.61	28	17.07	12	7.32	
	5 85	5 85.23	5 85.23 9	5 85.23 9 10.23	5 85.23 9 10.23 4	5 85.23 9 10.23 4 4.55

Note: N = 164

Respondents were also asked to indicate on a Likerttype scale their individual willingness to sacrifice for
grandfather. Eighty-one percent of the sample strongly
agreed, 17% agreed, and only two fell in the disagree
category. When respondent's willingness to sacrifice was
analyzed by sex of the respondent and age of grandfather,
the computed Chi-square test was not significant at the .05
level nor were there any noteable trends present.

Table 11

Effects of Grandfather's Age on the Respondent's Perceptión of His Willingness to Sacrifice

		Strongly Agree		ee		mbined sagree	
Age	<u>n</u>	8	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	Totals
40 to 49	22	71.1	10	22.2	3	6.66	45
0 to 59	62	80.5	10	13.9	5	6.48	77
30 +	26	70.7	8	21.5	3	3.10	37
Totals	120		28		11		

Note: N = 159

Adult Child's Perceptions of Grandfather/Grandchild Relationship

The adult child rated on a Likert-type scale his/her perceptions of selected grandfather and grandchild interactions. The data as summarized on Table 12 paint a

picture of a grandfather who is often affectionate towards the grandchild and enjoys mutual activities such as walks. They tend to be good friends and the grandfather shows patience towards the younger family member. Grandfather limits the use of authority while interacting with the grandchild.

The overall rating of the grandfather/grandchild relationship is shown in Table 13.

The dyadic relationship was rated high with 90.38% perceiving the relationship to be average or above. Only 9.61% indicated a below average grandfather/grandchild relationship. The only difference between the below average rated grandfathers and other grandfathers was that the below average grandfathers live a mean average of 822 miles away from the grandchild as opposed to sample mean average of 23 miles.

The effects of the sex on the grandchild and grandfather relationship are illustrated in Table 14. When a Kruskal/ Wallis Anova was performed there was no significant difference at the .05 level.

Table 15 represents the data gathered on the effects of the grandfather's age on the rating of the grandchild and grandfather relationship. The computer Kruskal/Wallis Anova test was not significant at $\chi^2(2,\underline{N}=155)=3.16$, p>.05.

Although not significant, the grandfathers in the two older age groups had relationships that were rated higher than younger grandfathers. This trend seems to be supported

Table 12

<u>Selected Grandfather/Grandchild Interactions Rated by</u>
Respondent

	Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Agree	
Interaction	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	n	8	n	%
Grandfather enjoys walking grandchild	.61	39.35	65	41.94	20	12.90	9	5.81
They are best of friends	.37	24.67	66	44.0	43	28.67	4	2.67
Grandfather would never get angry	15	9.38	41	25.63	95	59.38	9	5.63
Grandfather always expects grandchild to obey	. 7	4.52	42	27.10	97	62.58	9	5.81
Grandfather often shows affection to grandchild	.65	41.67	73	46.79	13	8.33	5	3.21

Table 13

Respondents' Rating of the Grandfather/Grandchild

Relationship

Rating	<u>n</u>	%
Above	62	40.0
Average	78	50.38
Below Average	15	9.68

Table 14

Grandchild's Sex by the Respondent's Perception of the Grandchild/Grandfather Relationship

	Above Average		Average		Below Average		
Sex	<u>n</u>	0/0	<u>n</u>	- %	<u>n</u>	8	Totals
Female	38	40.0	48	50.5	9	9.5	95
Male	24	38.7	31	50.0	7	11.3	62

Note: N = 157

Table 15

Grandfather's Age by the Respondent's Perception of the Grandfather/Grandchild Relationship

	Above Average		Average		Below Average		
Age	n	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	8	Totals
40 to 49	13	20.96	25	56.82	6	13.64	44
50 to 59	34	50.48	35	46.05	7	9.21	76
60 +	15	24.19	18	51.43	2	5.71	35
TOTALS	62		78		15		

Note: N = 155

by data gathered when respondents were asked to respond to the statement: Grandfather and my oldest child are "best of friends." Younger grandfathers were less likely (25%) to be found in the agree column as opposed to the older age groups (43% and 32%, respectively).

Grandfather's Changing Behaviors

Table 16 summarizes the adult child's rating of grandfather's changing behavior. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they perceived the grandfather to exhibit more, the same, or less of 15 current specific behaviors than when the respondent was a young child. For the purposes of analysis, responses were recategorized in three different groups. The first group's responses indicated behaviors which had become more positive, i.e. the grandfather had become more loving, more interested, or less defensive, less irritable. In Group two the responses included behaviors which had remained unchanged. The responses from Group three indicated more negative behaviors had evolved, i.e. the grandfather is less loving, less interested, more defensive, more irritable.

Most responses were in the unchanged category (56.46%) while 36.59% indicated the grandfather was becoming more positive and 6.95% rated him less positive. The data were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney/U test and the results were significant, \underline{p} <.05. When change was indicated, it was strongly in the positive direction for all variables except

Table 16

Adult Child Perceptions of Changing Behavioral Qualities of Grandfather

Total Responses	Percentile
859	36.59
1325	56.46
163	6.95
	Responses 859 1325

Note: Total Responses: 2,347

for the "motherly" behavior. No correlation was found between "motherly" responses and either increased negative or positive responses. It is likely that there was confusion over what "motherly" behavior for a father consists of.

Hypothesis Testing and Results

Hypothesis 1 stated: The quality of the grandfather/
adult child relationship as perceived by the adult child is
independent of the age of the grandfather. The hypothesis
was tested in the null form. Findings indicate that the
grandfather and the adult child's relationship is rated
average or above in most cases and this rating is stable
within each age group. The only suggestion of difference
was the younger aged grandfather's tendency to be rated
above average less often than the older groups. This trend

was also evident in the grandfather's and adult child's willingness to sacrifice significant time and money if the other really needed it. Again in the younger category, both the grandfather and respondent were rated as being less willing to sacrifice for each other than their older counterparts. Insufficient evidence was found to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 2 stated: The quality of the grandfather/
adult child relationship as perceived by the adult child is
independent of the sex of the adult child. The hypothesis
was tested in the null form. Males rated the relationship
above average more often than females. Females perceived
their willingness to sacrifice for grandfather and
grandfather's willingness to sacrifice for them, to be
higher than males. While the relationship trends are noted,
only one test was significant. More females strongly agreed
that the grandfather would be willing to sacrifice for them.
Insufficient evidence was found to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 3 stated: The quality of the grandfather/ grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the age of the grandfather. The hypothesis was tested in the null form. Although trends suggest that younger grandfathers had less positive relationships with the grandchild, the data were not significant. The grandchildren in this study tended to be young ($\underline{M} = 1.5$ years). Young grandfathers tended to be paired with young grandchildren. Both members of the dyad have had limited

experience together and consequently may be perceived to have lower rated relationships. Insufficient evidence was found to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 4 stated: The quality of the grandfather/ grandchild relationship as perceived by the adult child is independent of the sex of the grandchild. When testing this hypothesis in the null form, no significant differences could be found or noteable trends observed. Insufficient evidence could be found to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 5 stated: The adult child's perceptions of how grandfather changes on specific behavioral variables as he develops in the father and grandfather roles will remain unchanged. A Mann-Whitney rank sum test was applied to test the null hypothesis and the rank sum of the positive and negative behaviors were equal in elevation. In 14 out of the 15 tested behaviors, grandfathers were perceived to be engaged in increasingly more positive behaviors as they moved into the grandfather role. The null hypothesis was rejected, (p <.05 non-parametric).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Respondents in this study were young (\underline{M} age = 23 years). Eighty-five percent were from the L.D.S. faith which is dominant in the area. The grandfathers in this study had a mean age of 52 years and lived from two to 2,000 miles from the respondent. The mean distance was 23 miles. Most lived close enough to make five visits a month.

Most of the adult child respondents (94%) reported their overall relationship with the grandfather to be average or above. The most regularly reported ways grandfathers helped were: (a) Teaching/example,

(a) Extending love/understanding, (c) Giving financial support, (d) Visits with the grandchildren.

Examination revealed ways in which the adult child wished the grandfather were different: (a) More loving/communicative, (b) Less bossy/angry, (c) Better health, (d) More religious. Most grandfathers (93%) were perceived to be willing to sacrifice for the adult child if they were in need.

On the whole, grandfather/grandchild behaviors were described by the respondent as mutually affectionate and willing to share in activities. Variations in the data result from such variables as: proximity of grandfather, inexperience or available time of grandfather, and age of the infant grandchild. Ninety percent of the respondents

indicated grandfather/grandchild relationship was average or above. All the "below average" rated grandfathers (10%) lived in an excess of 800 miles from the respondent.

Grandfather behaviors were perceived to become significantly more positive over time. Increased negative behaviors occurred six times less often than increased positive behaviors. Fifty-six percent of the grandfather behaviors had remained stable. Five behaviors that changed most in a positive direction were: (a) More loving, (b) Less critical, (c) Less bossy, (d) Listens more, (e) Less demanding. Behaviors that changed the most in a negative direction were: (a) Less happy, (b) More powerful,

(c) Less motherly, and (d) More defensive.

Conclusions

The results affirm that grandfathers maintain a strong, positive relationship within the intergenerational family. The adult child respondents perceive the grandfather to be a viable relevant and valuable member of the extended family. Relationships were generally rated as mutually satisfying. While there was no conclusive evidence found to support a hypothesis stating that the quality of the adult child/grandfather relationship would very by the age of grandfather or sex of the adult child, significant difference was reported in the female adult child perception of the grandfather's willingness to sacrifice for her.

There was no evidence to support a hypothesis that the perceived grandfather/grandchild relationship would vary by

age of the grandfather and sex of the grandchild. However, the trend was for younger aged grandfathers to be found in the above average category less often than their older counterparts.

Fifty-six percent of grandfathers' behavior were perceived to have remained unchanged. However, when change did occur, it was significantly more likely to be in a positive, relationship-building direction.

This research shows that grandfather relationships with the adult child and grandchild can be positive and beneficial, giving support and continuity to the intergenerational family.

Limitations

Due to the small amount of information on grandfather relationships, generalization of the results are limited by the following:

- 1. The research instrument was developed and used for the first time in this study.
- 2. Because of the young age of the 165 adult child respondents, there was no means to examine the older adult child's perception of the "more experienced" grandfather.
- 3. Religious dominance of the L.D.S. faith may have produced higher grandfather relationship ratings because of the religion's emphasis on maintaining strong family relationships. Grandfathers may be valued differently by another population.

- 4. The above average, average and below average scale used in Section III of the questionnaire does not provide an adequate array of choices for accurate measurements and requires the respondent to make vague judgements about ill-defined averages.
- 5. All of the data gathered about the three generations were from the perspective of the adult child. Grandfathers were not surveyed directly, nor was there any information from the grandchild.
- 6. There was no effort to analyze marital status of grandfathers.

Recommendations for Further Research

One of the least researched member of the intergenerational family is the grandfather. Additional research and education would be helpful to better understand and facilitate high quality grandfather relationships. Some further areas of research suggested are:

- 1. Do younger grandfathers suffer from less positive intergenerational relationships?
- 2. What pregrandparent and grandfather variables affect the relationship quality?
- 3. How do the grandfather and grandmother roles and behaviors interact to influence the quality of the grandfather's relationships?
- 4. Did grandfathers who exhibit high quality intergenerational relationships receive positive anticipatory socialization from other family members? And if so, from

whom?

5. How does the grandfather's marital status affect the perceptions of his relationships and behaviors?

- Adams, D. L. (1971). Correlates of satisfaction among the elderly. The Gerontologists, 11, 64-68.
- Apple, D. (1956, Aug). The social structure of grandparenthood. American Anthropologist, 58, 656-663.
- Balswick, Jack O. (1970, May). Effect of spouse companionship support on employment success. <u>Journal of Marriage</u> and The Family, <u>32(2)</u>, 212-222.
- Bardwick, J., & Douvan, E. (1971). Ambivilence: The socialization of women. In B. Gornick & B. Moran (Eds.),

 <u>Women in a sexist society</u> (pp. 251-268). New York:

 American Library.
- Bengston, Vern L. (1973). <u>The social psychology of aging</u>. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc.
- Benson, L. (1968). <u>Fatherhood</u>: <u>A sociological perspective</u>.

 New York: Random House, Inc.
- Blood, R. O., & Wolfe, D. M. (1960). <u>Husbands and wives:</u>

 The <u>dynamics of married living</u>. New York: Free Press.
- Boyd, R. R. (1969). The value of grandparent: A changing social role. In Wilma Donahue, et al. (Eds.), <u>Living in the multigenerational family</u> (pp. 59-60). Ann Arbor, MI: Institute of Gerontology.
- Boyd, R., & Oakes, C. G. (1969). <u>Foundations of practical</u> <u>gerontology</u>. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.

- Brannon, R. (1979). The male sex role: Our culture's blueprint of manhood, and what it's for us lately. In D. David and R. Brannon (Eds.), The Forty-nine percent majority: The male sex role (pp. 193-205). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.
- Butler, R. N., & Lewis, M. (1976). Aging and mental health.

 St. Louis, MO: The C. V. Mosby Company.
- Cavan, R. S. (1962). Self and role adjustment during old age. In A. M. Rose (Ed.), <u>Human behavior and social process</u>: <u>An interactionist approach</u> (pp. 64-79). Boston, MA: Houghton-Mifflin, 1968.
- Crase, D., & Hendrickson, N. (1968). Maternal grandmothers and mothers. Journal of Home Economics, 60, 181-185.
- Chafetz, J. (1974). Masculine/feminine or human. Itasca,

 IL: Peacock.
- Cicone, M., & Ruble, D. (1978). Beliefs about males.

 <u>Journal of Social Issues</u>, 34(1), 5-16.
- Cohen, J. F. (1979, Oct.). Male roles in middle life.

 The Family Coordinator, 465-471.
- Duvall, E. M. (Eds.) (1977). <u>Family development</u>. Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippencott Co.
- Fasteau, M. (1974). The male machine. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Fein, R. A. (1976). Men's entrance to parenthood. The Family Coordinator, 25, 341-347.
- Hess, B. B. (Ed.) (1976). Growing old in America. New Brunswick, N.J.

- Johnson, N. P. (1980). <u>Grandfather</u>: <u>An intergenerational</u>
 <u>view</u>. Unpublished master's thesis, Utah State University,
 Logan, Utah.
- Kahana, B., & Kahana, E. (1970). Grandparenting from the perspective of the developing grandchild. Developmental <u>Psychology</u>, 3, 98-105.
- Kivnick, H. Q. (1982). Grandparenthood: An overview of meaning and mental health. Gerontologist, 22, 59-66.
- Komoravsky, M. (1964). <u>Blue collar marriage</u>. New York: Random House.
- Lewis, R. A., Freneau, P., & Roberts, C. L. (1979, Oct.).

 Fathers and the postparental transition. The Family

 Coordinator, 514-520.
- Levine, J. A. (1976). Who will raise the children? New options for fathers and mothers. New York: Lippincott.
- Lipman, A. (1961). Role conceptions and morale of couples in retirement. Journal of Gerontology, 16, 267-271.
- Lowenthal, M. F., & Chiriboga, D. (1972). Transition to the empty nest. Archives of General Psychiatry, 26, 8-14.
- Maddox, G. (1963). Activity and morale: A longitudinal study of selected elderly subjects. Social Forces, 42, 195-204.
- Neugarten, B. L., & Weinstein, K. K. (1964). The changing

 American grandparent. <u>Journal of Marriage and the Family</u>,

 26, 199-204.
- Nimkoff, M. F. (1962). Changing family relationships of older people in the United States during the last fifty

- years. In Tibbits, C., & Donahue, W. (Eds.), <u>Social and psychological aspects of aging</u> (pp. 141-153). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Nye, I., & Berardo, F. M. (1973). The family, its structure and interaction. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.
- Saunders, L. E. (1974). Empathy communication and the definition of life satisfaction in post-parental period.

 Family Perspectives, 8, 21-35.
- Smart, R. C. (1976). Sons or daughters: cross-cultural survey of parental preferences. <u>Family Coordinator</u>, 27(4), 490-491.
- Stinnett, N., & Walters, J. (1977). Relationships in marriage and family. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co.
- Sussman, M. B. (1974). Source book in marriage and the family, 4th Edition (1971). Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co.
- Troll, L. (1971). The family of later life: A decade review. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 33, 263-290.
- Updegraff, S. G. (1968). Changing role of the grandmother.

 <u>Journal of Home Economics</u>, 60, 177-180.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

GRANDFATHERING

SE	CTION I (Informa	tion about you)		
1.	Your age 2. Marital Status: a. Married b. Divorced c. Separated d. Remarried e. Other '		5.	(Are you active? Yes No)
SEO	CTION II (Information of the Your Father's a	age		ily or origin) 10. Financially Father is:
2.	His highest lev	el of education	n	a. Wealthy
3.	How far does he	e live from you	?	b. Above average
4.	My father's re	ligion is		c. Average
	(Is he active?	ligion is Yes No)	-	d. Below Average
5.	How many grande	children does he	e hav	e? e. Poor
. SEC	in community a: Father Both Father's main v My Mother's rei Is she active: I am emotional Mother Fathe	fairs: Mother_ vocation: ligion is ? Yes No_ y closer to my: er Both Equal	Ту	12. Indicate the number of contacts you have had with your parents in each of the following ways during the last 30 days: Father: Phone Letter Face to Face Mother: Phone Letter Face to Face Face to Face
6. 7.	My parent's sati marriage is My children's re Father is Please rank the most like to do	sfaction with t	my ities	. Above Average Average Below Average . Above Average Average Below Average is Above Average Below Average is Above Average Average Below Average . Above Average Average Below Average . Above Average Average Below Average in the order you think your Father would cal Work / b. Read or watch T.V. / Iren / d. Engage in sports and recreation

Please list the 2 most important ways 1.(most important way) 2.(2nd most important way)	your father helps you as a parent:
9. What are 2 ways you wish your father 1.(most important way) 2.(2nd most important way)	was different?
SECTION IV (How your father behaves toda	y)
Indicate if you Strongly Agree (SA), Agr Disagree (SD), with each of the followin	ee (A), Disagree (D), or Strongly g statements:
1. I would be willing to sacrifice signi help my father if he really needed it 2. My father would be willing to sacrifi money for me if I really needed it 3. My father has a tendency to be insens 4. My father is pleasant to be around 5. My father is pleasant to be around 5. My father is always trying to get me his way	
SECTION V	
My Father shows More, (the) Same, (or) Less of these behaviors TODAY than when I was a child.	My Mother shows More, (the) Same, (or) Less of these behaviors TODAY than when I was a child.
Loving. More Same Less Happy More Same Less Critical More Same Less Bossy More Same Less Interested More Same Less "Motherly" More Same Less "Motherly" More Same Less "Motherly" More Same Less Thoughtful More Same Less Fun More Same Less Fun More Same Less	Loving . More Same Less Happy . More Same Less Critical . More Same Less Bossy . More Same Less Interested . More Same Less "Motherly" . More Same Less Thoughtful . More Same Less Fun . More Same Less Patient . More Same Less Patient . More Same Less Accepting . More Same Less Accepting . More Same Less Defensive . More Same Less

VITA

Leonard E. Stout

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: A Look at Some Grandfather Relationships as Perceived by Their Adult Children

Major Field: Family and Human Development

Biographical Information:

Personal Data: Born Napa, California, March 6, 1947, son of Francis Earl and Olive Stout; married Alaine G. Stout December 28, 1968; eight children--Allen, Deidre, Chandler, Amanda, Phillip, Caterina, Adam, and Anjelene.

Education: Attended elementary schools in Long Beach, California; graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach in 1965; received Bachelor of Science Degree from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, with a major in Child Development and Family Relations in 1976; 1984 completed the requirements for the Master of Science degree at Utah State University, Logan, Utah with a major in Family and Human Development.

Professional Experience: 1979-83 Safety Engineer and Human Resource Specialist, Great Salt Lake Mineral and Chemical Corporation, Ogden, Utah; 1977-78 taught Family Life classes at Utah State University, Logan, Utah; 1977-78 completed internship in counseling at L.D.S. Social Services, Logan, Utah.