

Navigating Relationships: The Influences on Asian American Women

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Introduction:

This research is meant to understand the experiences of female Asian Americans dating interracially and to gain insight into how they navigate dating outside of their race while learning about any consequences or barriers they face. Additionally, because most of the studies done on Asian American interracial relationships are now outdated, it is important to look at what has shifted. One semi-structured focus group was conducted, data was transcribed verbatim and coded using thematic analysis. I compare and contrast the important themes that emerge to comprehend their experiences. The implications for this research include the ways in which Asian American women deal with outside pressures while navigating relationships.

Research Questions:

1. What are female Asian American's dating preferences today?
2. How do Asian Americans talk about any outside influences (e.g. family, friends, cultural expectation) that affect their decisions to date interracially?

Participants:

- N = 3
- Age range: 18-23
- Self-identifying racial makeup: Chinese (1), Filipino (2)
- Self-identified as second-generation women

Findings:

- Mutual agreement within participants that personality was most important
- Importance placed on parental approval and a hard set of rules from parents
- Value placed on their friends' opinion of partner, and had a supportive place where they did not have to operate within a rule system

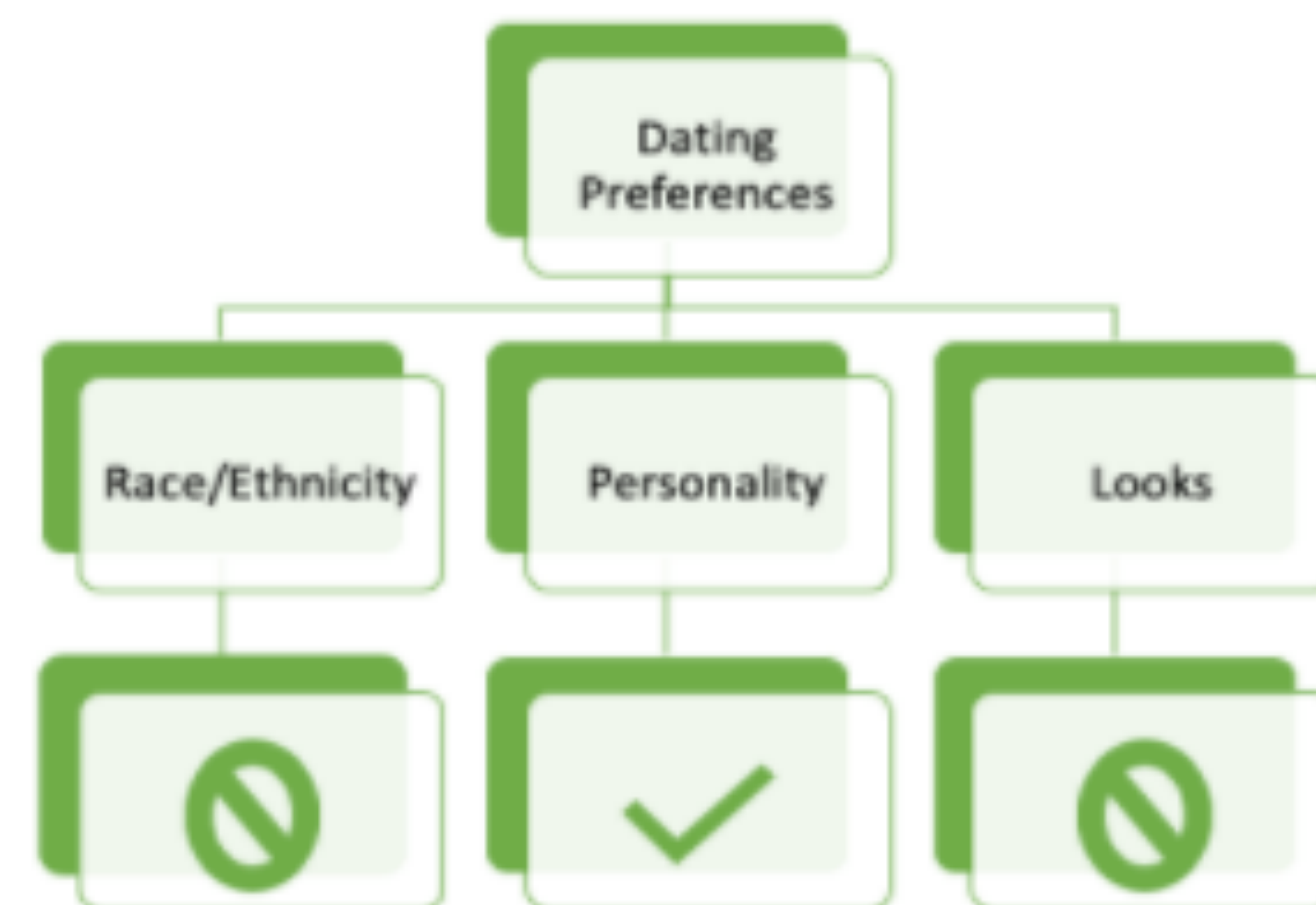


Figure 1: Female Asian American ideologies about dating

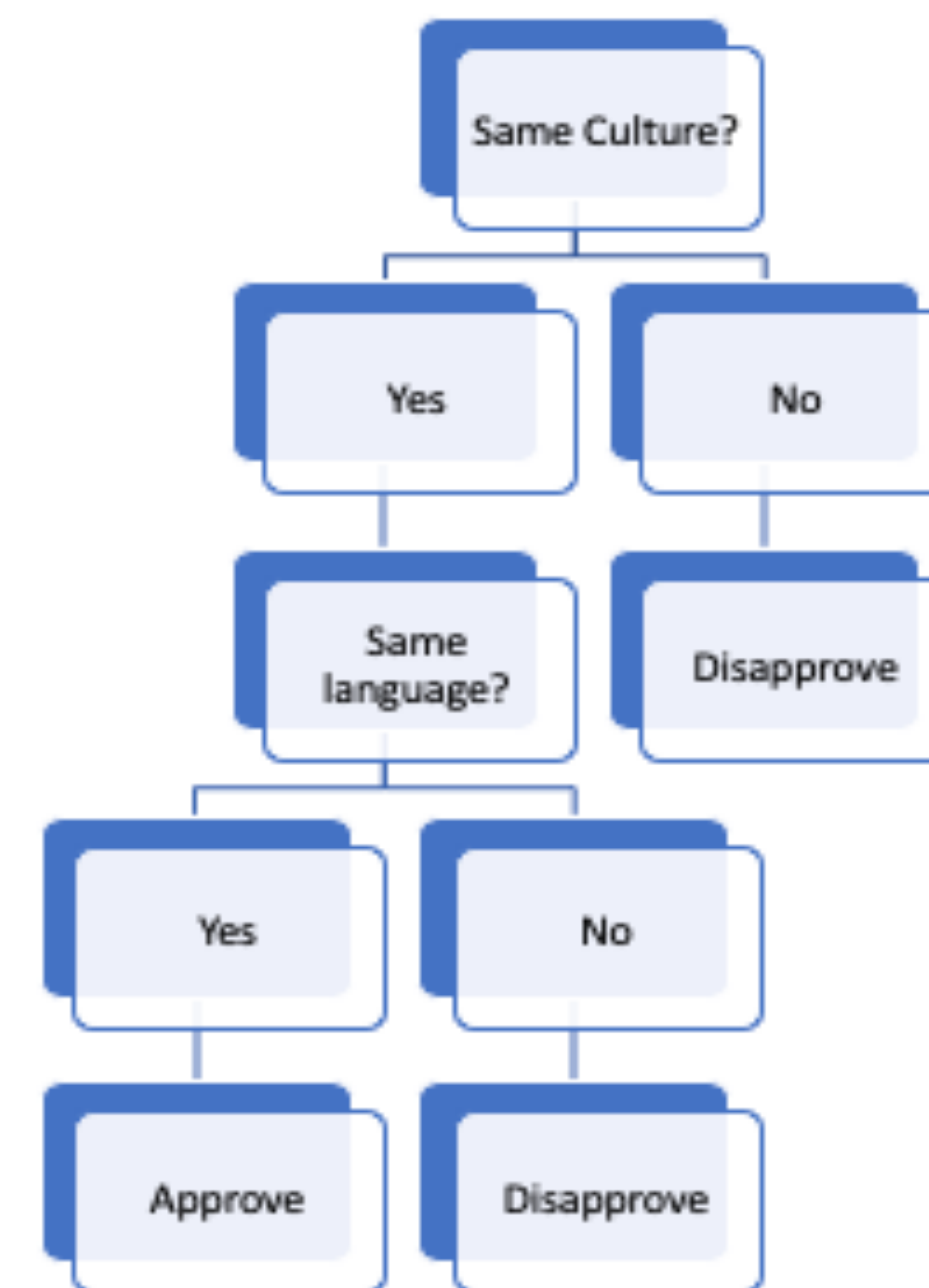


Figure 2: Parental ideologies about dating

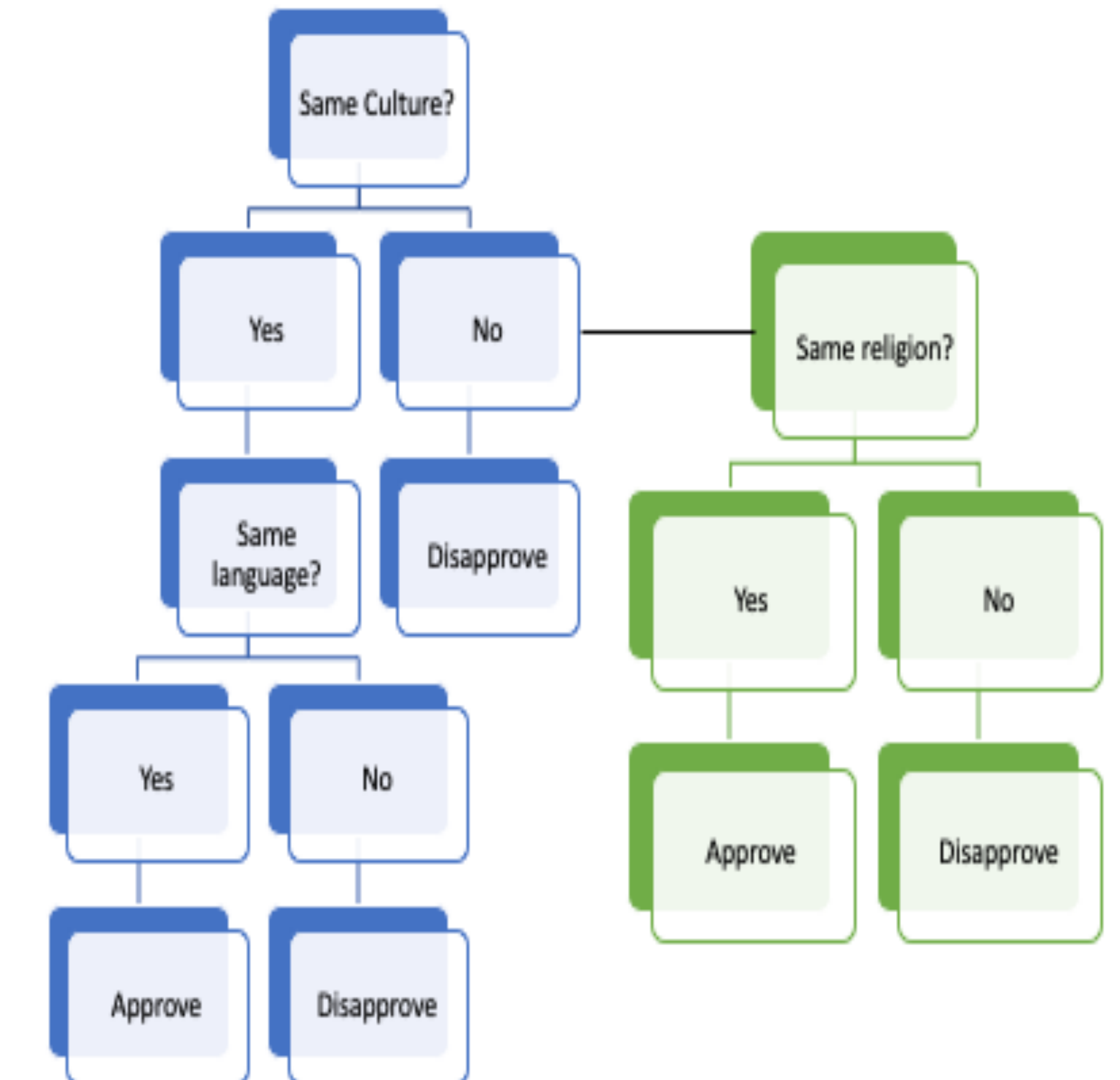


Figure 3: Combined ideologies about parental approval of partner

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