

Transcript

[first scenario – HotMit]

D; So, first thoughts? What do you think about the idea

M: honestly, I don't like it; I think it's nicer to maybe try and see someone more often if you are wanting to be with them in some other sort of way or to talk to them... I know it says it says that they are using this device whilst talking on skype but regardless... I... ummm... I wouldn't use it... but if people felt comfortable using it I think it's a good idea, sure

D: What are the things about it you think you dislike then, what is it about the concept?

M: I think it's trying to replace what it would actually be like to be holding hands with someone you're with... and it's not real... it's more, similar to kind of thing... I guess that's what I don't like about it

D: so you think it's trying to be something which it can't be

M: yeah...

D: Is there anything at all about it that you like?

M: ummm... I like for some people it's going to make them feel happy, I can imagine that, if you put your hand there and its warm because their partner has their hand there, that's really nice, yeah...

D: but for you personally...

M: for me personally I would prefer to try and be with that person and hold hands...

[describe scale]

[prototype]

[clarify activation method]

M: I like the heart

[scale]

D: So having seen it and felt it, do you feel differently about it at all?

M: ummm... it's nice... I think its really nice, I think it's a sweet idea, when I say I wouldn't use it, I don't really mean that, I would use it, I guess what im trying to say is I wouldn't use it as a replacement for something else, I wouldn't have it... it doesn't mean we wouldn't have to see each

other as often... it's nice... it's kind of a way too, other than seeing someone, it's another way to kind of feel someone and you can't really do that when you're looking at them...

D: do you think that having something like this would make you value hand holding less when you were together because it suddenly didn't become so special?

M: I think that if I had this, I would stop myself using it as a substitute to holding hands, so I don't think it would make me personally want to hold his hand less when I'm with him...

D: the way we've described the hand is as a standardised one which you've ordered online... do you think your opinion of it would change if part of the concept was making the hands together of each other, so you'd get a cast of your partner's hand, he'd get a cast of your hand, do you think that would make a difference to how you thought about it at all?

M: maybe because that's a bit more personal... if that were the case, and it's made for each of us, it would be really nice to have and maybe I'd actually consider having it, yeah, I think it would really make a difference...

[second scenario – HotHand]

[scale]

D: Ok, so what do you think about this one compared to the other one?

M: I like it, it's like a mouse... it's nice... I'm trying to compare it to this one [hotmits]... I can see how it would be turned over but I actually don't mind it being this way... I think it's nice actually... **it reminds me of a personal memory, just of being in the cinema, it's such a long time ago, I think it was on our second date and my hand was here and he put his hand on mine and I don't know just for me, perhaps not other people, that's why I liked it and when I saw it I thought "wow"**

M: It's a very similar idea as before; I wouldn't want to use this as a substitute for anything I have or would want to do but I like it...

[prototype]

[scale]

D: So this one feels more natural to you

M: Yeah compared to putting my hand in this one...

D: Do you think your opinion would change again if instead of it being almost like a manikin's hand that it was actually a cast of your partner's hand? Do you think that would change your thoughts about it?

M: With this one, probably not... because I don't think I'd be looking at it much, in this one less, I know I have really long fingers, it's a bit uncomfortable... with this one I don't think, Yeah sure it would be different to have a more bulky man hand than a woman-looking hand... also I'm not 100% sure it would matter that it looked like a hand... the idea is still there, your putting your hand on something that warms up... so ummm... this particular one, I'm not even sure it would be a necessity for it to actually look like a hand, although that's nice, I don't think it would make a difference to me whether it looked like his hand...

D: Is there anything about this one that you like or dislike immediately?

M: I think it's a bit bulky but then that goes on to saying it's a hand, if it wasn't a hand then maybe, what I'm picturing is something different, something else like a heart but does exactly the same thing, it warms up, and instead of it being something you touch on a table, it's something you hold, in your hands... so maybe you've got a heart and you're holding it in your hands... as opposed to actually placing your hand on top of it on the table... that's just picturing it being less bulky...

D: With this idea of the heart, would this be something you'd carry around with you?

M: If it worked, yes, like if that was still possible... if that were possible then yeah, that would be really nice...

[third scenario - YourGlove]

[scale]

D: So what do you think about this one, it's obviously quite different from the others...

M: ummm... it's hard to imagine, my first thought is maybe it's a bit creepy but I mean it doesn't mean it's not a good idea, I think there's something there, it would be quite nice if it works at the same time someone else puts their hand into it but... I'm not sure it would be nice having a whole arm lying on your desk, again it's a good idea, I really like the bringing yourself closer to someone else by doing this

D: How do you think the idea of it actually moving compares to the heat of the others?

M: I think it's scary! I think I may have filled in the other sheets [scales] differently because I hadn't seen this but I think the hands warming is sort of a warmer way to actually feel someone who's not there than having a movement...

[prototype]

[hold it fingers to palm]

[scale]

D: So what do you think about that?

M: I think it's less, it's more creepy sure but in terms of you saying it being more practical, I would agree that to the sense that this one is like too different, if you're, I guess when you hold someones hand you actually feel warm, which is something you wouldn't get with this one [yourglove] and also although it would be nice to know that someone else is doing this, it's not the same thing... personally I think it would be better warm than have something that grips your hand... that's not however saying that its not a good idea... apart from the creepy hand on your desk it's sstill a good idea I think...

[wrap up]

D: Which of the devices is your favourite, which do you like the most

M: Yeah I'd go for [hothands] probably because it does bring back personal memories for me but umm.... I liked it the most...

D: Hand holding is not the only thing that we are interested in... we were wondering if there are other things you perhaps miss more than hand holding while you are apart?

M: Yeah, actually my personal case we've spent so long not being together... we've been together for about 4.5 years but we've only ever lived in the same place for around a month so our whole relationship has been based on us not being together... so in a way we've kind of got used to not being with each other and when we're together we try to make the most of it... every time we are together we try to maximise our time together so I miss everything!

D: How often do you manage to see each other then?

M: Every, at the start we both lived in the same city, then afterwards he moved to London which was about an hour away and then he moved to paris which was a bit harder, at the beginning every weekend, then every two weeks then in paris every three weeks... and now he's back in London it's about every two weeks...