**Iranian Women's Traditional and Modern Gender Identity**

Gender and religion are two salient feature identifying Iranian women and characterizing them as Muslim women. Against Quran's message of equality, the patriarchal culture has been dominating the discourse of the country. Here the construction of Iranian women's gender identity in traditional and modern discourse of Iran is explored. The construction of gender identity is examined by Judith Butler's ideas on "performativity", whereby women as the actors are performing and repeating the actions set by historical conventions believed to be naturally normal.

Traditional passive Iranian woman whose main role is defined as serving the family is fulfilling the society's expectations that perceives women as innately and essentially interested at mundane matters. Under the patriarchal interpretation of religion it has been hold that maternity and family serving are women's significant duty. Contemporary Iranian women, experiencing the global modernization breaks her passive roles and with high level of academic knowledge enters social careers. While in a considerable degree they maintain their biological and social maternity, they are desiring to be seen more. Under the impact of globalization and media, today most Iranian women are following beauty standards that enhance their womanness. The developing rate of cosmetic use, cosmetic surgeries, vaginoplasy, orthodontics or use of contact lenses among Iranian women prove that they seek to embody new identity. The body as the main place where gender emerges hence looks more female.

It is found that contemporary Iranian women are still repeating and performing gendered actions, though in different style, therefore they are identified by their gender. Though they stopped the traditional passive and dependent behavior, their actions are still bearing the cultural gender sign. Once as caregivers at house now as attractive dollies to serve for pleasure of men, they are reinforcing the polar of gender binaries. When female agents perform actions beyond the limits of gender, the can expect the society to see them without gender attitudes.