

**The Role of Paratextuality in Reception and Understanding of
*Mathnawi Ma'navi***

Ebrahim Salimikouchi*

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Isfahan,
Isfahan, Iran

(Received: 29th, May, 2017, Accepted: 17th, June, 2017)

The paratextual elements are the thresholds to the world of text. They are considered among indicators which are the key to understanding and receiving a text. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of paratextual elements and their implications on the process of meaning reconstruction and reception by the reader. In other words, in the light of these paratextual elements such as preamble and prose titles of *Mathnawi Ma'navi*, the reasons of Mowlana Jalal ad-Din Muhammad's employment of paratextual elements by are considered and analyzed. It can be concluded that the paratextual elements of *Mathnawi Ma'navi* play an important role in the completion and orientation of the general meaning of original text. These elements are available in order to organize and structure the whole narration and other components of *Mathnawi's* text, which might seem to lack a coherent organization. In fact, the presence of paratextual elements in *Mathnawi* is justified as a compensatory mechanism to mend its outward incoherence.

Key words: *Mathnawi Ma'navi*, Mowlana, Paratextuality, Reader, Contract of Reading.

* E-mail: ebsalimi@fgn.ui.ac.ir