

A Comparison of Women's Status in Iranian and Italian Cultures: A Contrastive Analysis of Iranian and Italian Proverbs

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Proverbs are literary pieces constituting the bulk of nations' language and culture. They reflect people's views toward different issues thereby playing a decisive role in the cultural identity of each nation. The present study aims at comparing women's status in Iranian culture with that in Italian culture. To do so, the woman-associated proverbs of the two languages were contrastively analyzed. The following steps determined the sequence of the study: collecting 1384 Italian and Iranian proverbs on women; translating the Italian proverbs into Persian; discussing cross-cultural issues; categorizing the subjects of the proverbs; and determining the correspondences and the discrepancies among the samples. The results demonstrated that the two cultures exhibit cultural compatibility while diverge strikingly in some important respects. In particular, the Iranian culture was found to be stronger than the Italian culture with respect to two opposite issues, that is, women's humiliation and dignity.

Key words: Women's Status, Proverb, Iranian Culture, Italian Culture, Cross-Cultural Comparison.

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