



University of Tehran press

Research in Contemporary World Literature


http://jor.ut.ac.ir, Email: pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir

p-ISSN : 2588-4131 e-ISSN: 2588 -7092

A comparative study of Gender Schema Theory in novels And that only the sweet moments last of Virginie Girmaldi and We Will Get Used to It of Zoya Pirzad

Hadisehalsadat Mousavi^{1✉}  0000-0002-8702-8094

1. department of French Language and Literature Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran..E-mail: h.mousavi@scu.ac.ir

Article Info	Extended ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received: 28 December 2022 Received in revised form: 09 March 2023 Accepted: 18 March 2023 Published online: Autumn 2024</p> <p>Keywords: Grimaldi, Pirzad, gender role schema, Stevens, stereotype, wife, mother.</p>	<p>This article conducts a comparative study of gender role schemas in <i>And That Only the Sweet Moments Last</i> (2020) by Virginie Grimaldi, a contemporary French writer, and <i>We Will Get Used to It</i> (2006) by Zoya Pirzad, a contemporary Iranian writer. Utilizing John Stevens's gender schema Theory, the study explores how these schemas are portrayed and challenged within the cultural contexts of France and Iran. The literary form, particularly the novel, plays a crucial role in shaping mental schemas among its audience, especially the younger generation. Both Grimaldi and Pirzad depict numerous instances of gender role schemas through the lives of their main characters, who are middle-aged mothers navigating their societal roles. The necessity of this research lies in examining the similarities and differences in the challenges faced by women and single mothers in these distinct cultures and how they address these issues. The primary inquiry of this study is to identify the most prevalent gender schemas in these two novels and to determine whether the authors successfully dismantle negative feminine-maternal gender schemas. By analyzing the events, behaviors, dialogues, and personal and social lives of the characters, it is evident that Grimaldi achieves greater success in this area. She effectively modifies negative schemas while preserving positive female attributes in her protagonist. In contrast, although Pirzad attempts to break stereotypes by assigning several secondary and superficial male schemas to her main characters, she does not fully succeed in overcoming the dominant negative female schemas. Grimaldi's narrative portrays the journey of Sophie, a middle-aged mother who feels abandoned after her children leave home and her husband leaves her for another woman. Initially, Sophie embodies the schema of a dependent, passive, and vulnerable woman/mother. However, through seemingly mundane experiences, she gradually attains an independent identity, thus challenging and transforming the negative feminine-maternal schemas. In contrast, Pirzad's novel centers on Arezou, a middle-aged woman who, after her divorce, lives with her daughter and manages her father's real estate agency. Despite Pirzad's efforts to attribute masculine schemas to Arezou, such as competence in traditionally male-dominated tasks and emotional resilience, Arezou remains entangled in traditional female roles. Her interactions often reflect a woman caught between societal expectations and personal aspirations, highlighting the persistent challenge of overcoming deeply ingrained gender schemas. In conclusion, this comparative analysis underscores the nuanced portrayal of gender schemas in different cultural contexts. Grimaldi's success in depicting a transformative journey that balances both positive female attributes and challenges traditional roles contrasts with Pirzad's depiction, which, despite its progressive attempts, often reverts to conventional schemas. This study not only contributes to the understanding of gender dynamics in literature but also emphasizes the need for continuous efforts to break free from limiting gender stereotypes across cultures.</p>
<p>Cite this article: Mousavi, Hadisehalsadat. "A comparative study of Gender Schema Theory in novels And that only the sweet moments last of Virginie Girmaldi and We Will Get Used to It of Zoya Pirzad " <i>Research in Contemporary World Literature</i>,2024, 29 (2), 343-359. DOI: http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2023.352934.2372.</p>	
	<p>© The Author(s). Publisher: University of Tehran Press. DOI: http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2023.352934.2372.</p>