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## **A Critical Study of Gender Roles in Ten Selected Young Adult Novels of the 1380-1390 based on John Stephens' Theory of Gender and Literary Genre**

Stephens believes that story, discourse and meaning will form based on mental gender types existing in the culture of each society. These gender types depend upon three elements of the writer, the written work and the reader. He also gives a list of these gender types. In this study the researcher has analyzed characters, settings of time and place, actions and events of the stories based on gender differences. It is also shown how language, structure of discourses, points of view and meaning which include themes and value judgments in these stories are gendered. The results show that these stories are written based on the gender types and stereotypes of a patriarchal society. Whenever the writers have decided to digress from the dominant mentality, they have only been successful in producing minor changes in the actions of some of male characters in order to place him in contrast to the traditional male character; thus as Stephens states to introduce the new male of the patriarchal system. Accompanying this new man, the woman continues with the traditional roles. Her roles are minor or dependent upon male roles. The researcher believes that the patriarchal system in different societies including Iran, has assigned different roles for male and female in such a way that male roles are more serious, important and superior to those of female roles. On the other hand, many invaluable capabilities of women are ignored. Such gender differentiations are best shown in children's and young adults' fiction which leads to reproduction of patriarchal culture. Thus it is imperative that such books be analyzed with this approach as well to open the way for the writers to revise stereotypical forms and approaches.

**Keywords:** Gender, gender schema, fiction, ten selected young adult novels the Eighties, stereotypes, discourse, Stephens' theory, literary genre.