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## **A study of the overt, covert and null themes in Iranian children's fiction**

Children's fictions can include different or similar subjects, but what make the fictions variant are their themes. Theme is the authors' interpretation and reproduction of the subject. The aim of the present study was elicitation of the existing, expected and null themes and subjects of children's fictions published between 2001 and 2006, according to Khosronejad's suggested model (2004). The approach of this study was interpretative-descriptive, data collection method was documentary and data analysis method was deductive / inductive content analysis (Mayring, 2000). Results showed some null subjects in children's fictions such as fear, anger, single parents families, war, culture and social issues. The findings also showed that some existing subjects were more emphasized than others, such as love, effort, identity, self-discovery and self-knowledge and some of them took less authors' attention such as independence, creativity, responsibility, and individual differences.

**Key words:** children's literature, covert theme, existing subject, null subject, null theme, overt theme,