

**A Modernist Perspective: the Concept of Gender Identity in
Woolf's *Orlando*, from the Viewpoint of S.D. Beauvoir**Saeed Yazdani¹ and Haleh Cheraghi²¹*Department of English Literature, Bushehr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr, Iran*²*Department of French language Teaching, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran**E-mail: ¹<yazdanisaeds@yahoo.com>, ²<haleh_cheraghi@yahoo.com>***KEYWORDS**Feminism. Biography. Identity. Masculine. Feminine

ABSTRACT Gender is a socially constructed code, which considers all the behaviors, actions and roles. The first decades of the 20th century witnesses the emergence of a new phenomenon known as gender consciousness. Feminists have argued for an understanding of femininity and masculinity as culturally required concepts. Gender role theory posits that boys and girls learn the appropriate behavior from their families, and the overall culture they grow up with. De Beauvoir has drawn the borderline for the role given to women in different cultures and maintains that no biological, psychological, or economic fate determines the figure that the human female presents in society. She further agrees that it is civilization as a whole that produces women. At first sight, Virginia Woolf's *Orlando: A Biography*, seems to be a straightforward argument for androgyny. Nevertheless, the novel is about the interchangeability of his / her experience as man and woman, following the Freudian doctrine that although the sexes are different but they intermix. The book also follows a queer discourse as it sets masculine, feminine, male and female in circulation in order to shift their binary fixity. This paper focuses on the concept of gender identity prevalent in Woolf's *Orlando: A Biography*.