

1968: A Global Perspective

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Revolution in Iranian Female Identity as Reflected in Golshiri's *Shazdeh Ehtejab* [*Prince Ehtejab*]

Golshiri's *Shazdeh Ehtejab* [*Prince Ehtejab*], written in 1968, has become a major influence on modern Iranian fiction. The story is a self-discovery journey of two Iranian characters, Prince Ehtejab and his dead wife's maid, Fakhri. Iran in the 1960's was a country undergoing dramatic social and economic changes, and the characters' troubles and conflicts reflect different aspects of these changes. In many instances, without any notice, the subject position shifts such that "I" represents different "characters." My analysis examines identity and the "I" position in passages about Fakhri, whose identity shifts between Fakhri and her deceased mistress, Fakhronessa. These multiplicitous identities reflect the conflict between tradition and change/modernization. The Fakhri/Fakhronessa duality illustrates the compounding of roles, and the problems and conflicts it created for women as the values and expectations of tradition collided with the values and expectations espoused by those pushing modernization. These identity issues are more profound than much of identity politics, reflecting a fundamental disjunction with traditional identity, as reflected in the Prince character's obsession with his own past, and a struggle to assimilate the multiple, conflicting demands placed on "modern" women.