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**A contrastive study of Idealism in the Two Societies of Iran and
the United States in Reza Amirkhani's novels *Bioten* and
*Gheydar***

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۱. Introduction

Idealism and perfectionism are common themes in literary works. It is clear that idealism in different societies varies depending on culture, religious beliefs, and social necessities, and in comparison, sometimes idealism in two different societies is regarded as a contrasting theme. In sum, the presence of such a content has finally created the idealistic literature. It is said that Thomas Moore was the first person in ۱۵۱۶ that introduced the term utopia in the Western literature in a book with the same name. The Iranian society also has idealism and its examples that can be divided into two mythological and historical categories, such as Paradise of Jamshid in Iranvij, Kang Dej Siavash Gavsan or the ideal age of Anoushirvan. The present article aims to compare and analyze the different views of the Iranian society of some ideals of Western American society. To this end, the concept of idealism is investigated in two novels by Reza Amirkhani, a contemporary Iranian writer, namely *Bioten* and *Gheydar*.

۲. Methodology

This study was conducted using the content analysis method based on a library technique with direct studies and contrast of both texts. The evaluations and analyses were made and the differences

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emerged in the two perspectives. In this study, *Bioten* is an example of the beliefs and behaviors of the American society, and the example of Iranian society is the text of *Gheydar*.

۳. Discussion

What is considered an idealistic behavior in both Iranian and American societies is examined in several perspectives, including social relations, scientism and technology, business and economics, family and marriage, and identity and identity crisis.

In the schema of social relationships, topics such as hospitality, attention to other people's affairs, leisure time, and the logic of pleasure have been examined. The schema of science and technology is associated with concepts such as sensory science, the measure of truth, a positive view of human achievements, and science in the service of sensual desires. The schema of business and economics deals with business and banking activities and the approach used to consider them. The schema of family and marriage deals with relationships, modesty, and chastity in the family. Finally, the schemas of identity and identity crisis in society are both analyzed. In all of these schemas, the American community was first assessed by relying on the novel *Bioten*. In contrast, Iranian society was analyzed based on the text of *Gheydar* and even sometimes based on the story of *Bioten*.

۴. Conclusion

Based on our analyses and findings, it can be concluded that due to the author's fixation, the Iranian Islamic aspect of these two novels is more prominent, and in fact, the first characters of both works, namely Ermia and *Gheydar*, are symbols of Islamic thought. On the other hand, characters such as Jesse Weibel in *Bioten* and Shah Rukh Gherti in *Gheydar* are representatives of Western thought or the ideas of Westernized people of the eastern world.

The main intention of the author of these two novels is to show the difference or contrast between the two societies of Iran and the United States. For instance, sometimes these contrasts have been pointed out even in one story, especially *Bioten*.

Among the five components and schemas whose contrastive aspects were examined, social relations and business and economics show the greatest conflict and difference between the two cultures.

According to our findings, the idealistic aspects of Iranian society are based only on religion and religious precepts, while in American

society; science, civilization, and labor law are far more dominant than their common religions.

The author has never expressed the contrastive aspect of these two societies in the form of statements and slogans, but pointed to it covertly and symbolically. However, this contrastive aspect cannot be traced in the novel of *Gheydar*.

Keywords: Idealism, Utopia, Reza Amirkhani, Bioten, Gheydar.

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