



## A Comparative Study of Number Symbolism in English and Persian Fairy Tales

Dr. Ali Dalir. <sup>1</sup>, Bibi Somayeh Madani M.A <sup>2</sup>

1-Head of Persian Language and Literature Department, Chamran University, Tehran, Iran

2- Teacher trainee, Persian Language and Literature Department, Chamran University, Tehran, Iran

### Abstract

Fairy tales as one of the main literary genres play a major role in literature and numbers have been used symbolically in literature specially in fairy tales since the classical times. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate concepts behind number archetypes and compare English and Persian fairy tales regarding number symbolism. To achieve this aim, 9 English and 9 Persian fairy tales were selected based on purposive sampling. The comparative analysis of the fairytales showed some similarities in the plots of the fairytales both in English and Persian. Moreover, the results showed that number three and seven were more frequent in fairytales. Moreover, the functions of success, spirituality and completion, sacredness, and magic in English and Persian fairytales are intertwined. However, some subtle differences were observed regarding the number archetypes between English and Persian fairytales.

**Keywords:** “ fairytales, archetypes, number symbolism, English fairy tales, Persian fairytales”.