

Descriptive Bibliography of Comparative Literature 2001-2025

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

In any academic endeavor, the selection of credible and up-to-date sources is not merely a technical step but a conceptual foundation. Bibliography, when thoughtfully curated, reflects the theoretical framework, research methodology, and scholarly lineage of a study. This becomes especially critical in interdisciplinary fields such as Comparative Literature, where the entanglement of multiple disciplines demands precision and discernment. The proliferation of texts labeled “comparative” in Iran raises a fundamental question: can every work bearing this title be considered a reliable contribution to the field?

Aim

This study aims to critically examine and organize Persian-language resources in Comparative Literature, focusing specifically on books published between 1304 and 1380 SH. Beyond mere listing, the research offers descriptive bibliographic insights that illuminate scholarly trends and gaps. The goal is to provide a roadmap for future researchers, helping them avoid redundant or misaligned studies and encouraging more theoretically grounded work.

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Theoretical Framework and Methodology

Drawing on descriptive bibliography as both method and lens, this research analyzes over fifty authored and translated books, excluding articles due to their volume and lack of systematic indexing. The study is informed by the critical perspectives of scholars such as Alireza Anoushirvani, whose work on the conceptual crisis in Iranian Comparative Literature underscores the need for problem-oriented inquiry. The research also engages with critiques by Majid Salehbak and Hadi Nazari Monazzam, who highlight Iran's historical-translation bias and the neglect of theoretical foundations.

Discussion

The findings reveal a troubling imbalance between quantity and quality in Iranian comparative studies. Many works lack methodological rigor, theoretical grounding, or even basic familiarity with the discipline's global evolution. The absence of reliable Persian-language sources has contributed to conceptual confusion and academic fragmentation. Moreover, the dominance of translation-based approaches, without critical engagement with source texts or comparative frameworks, has led to superficial scholarship. The study also identifies key bibliographic efforts—such as those by Pirani, Bozorgchemi, and Iranzadeh—that have attempted to systematize the field, though often with limited scope or accessibility.

Findings and Conclusion

This research concludes that the crisis in Iranian Comparative Literature is rooted in both structural and epistemological deficiencies. The lack of academic programs, theoretical training, and curated bibliographies has hindered the discipline's growth. By offering a descriptive and critical bibliography, this study seeks to lay the groundwork for more coherent and methodologically sound research. It advocates for:

- Establishing Comparative Literature as an independent academic discipline
- Designing specialized curricula and workshops for faculty and graduate students
- Supporting postdoctoral research and textbook publication

- Revising admission criteria to ensure theoretical competence
- Encouraging engagement with original-language sources and global scholarship

Ultimately, this study is a call to reimagine Comparative Literature in Iran—not as a borrowed label, but as a rigorous, evolving field rooted in critical inquiry and scholarly integrity.

Keywords: Comparative literature, research, Descriptive bibliography, sources.

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