**BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**PRIMARY EDUCATION**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**CHILDREN’S PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER IN A MUSLIM SOCIETY:**

**THE EFFECT OF FEMALE RELIGIOUS CLOTHING ON GENDER PERCEPTION IN CHILDREN**

**Prepared by**

**Şennur Eçmen**

**Mine Tekkartal**

**Sena Tepebağlı**

**Advisors**

**Yrd.Doç.Dr.Ayşegül Metindoğan**

**Dr.Muhammet Ali Karaduman**

 **İSTANBUL 2018**

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**Abstract**

In traditional cultures, socially accepted gender roles for females and males are determined by the society. There is a certain bias about what different genders can or should

accomplish and what they cannot or should not. This differentiation is so obvious that children can easily notice them. Therefore, this research focuses on how much children are aware of this differentiation. This study examines children’s gender stereotypes in Turkey. To determine these stereotypes, children were asked about socially accepted gender roles for females and males which were found out with the subscales prepared for household chores, personalities, and occupations. This study was conducted with 189 children who were between four and seven ages. The children were randomly assigned for the three different videos which were supposed to be watched. The questions on the scale are about whether or not these different genders and people with different appearance can do the same activities. After Univariate Analysis of Variance, results were showed that household chores were divided into two categories by children in terms of gender for both femininity and masculinity. These results suggested that there was no segregation between females with headscarf and without headscarf in terms of household chores. The results of occupation subscale, children believed that professions were divided into two categories in terms of gender. Also in this subscale interaction was detected between video types and children’s gender. Unlike the first two subscales, there was no significant relationship between personality and gender.

*Keywords: Gender Stereotypes, Religious Clothing, Traditional Female Clothes*