

# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CUSTOM OF BRIDEWEALTH AND GENDER ROLES IN *THE NEIGHBORHOOD*

## M.A. RESEARCH PROJECT REYHAN ÖZŞAHİN

### RESEARCH FOCUS

The Marriage Practices in the neighborhood

The requirements and inside rules of marriage

The custom of the bridewealth

The effect of the bridewealth in the aspirations and agency of women

### RESEARCH AIM

The critique of structuralist kinship theories in anthropology

The critique of orientalist perspectives in bridewealth

To investigate kinship roles and marriage practices with a gender perspective

To present another aspect of the bridewealth on women agency

To present particular life stories and experiences of women in the community

### SETTING

The neighborhood is located in the northern part of Turkey in a small town.

The population of the town is six thousand, nine hundreds of which consist of the tribe members.

They were a nomadic tribe around Khorasan region and settled down in Anatolia approximately 200 years ago because of the conflict in the region.

They speak in Sauzini language which is also spoken in the northern part of Iran.

The neighborhood is protected by the members with the fences and dogs which don't let any outsider in.

### METHODOLOGY

**Duration**  
8 Months: 08.08.2019- 10.03.2020

**Methods**  
Participant Observation  
Life Stories  
Open Interviews  
Visual Methods  
Archive Search

### RESEARCH FINDINGS

The positive correlation between the custom of bridewealth and women's ability to shape their lives.

The effects of bridewealth following as:

- Daughter preference in the neighborhood
- The ability to choose potential partner
- An increase in economical situation of women
- An increase in the fluidity of the group boundaries

e.g. from total endogamic marriages to partial exogamic marriages

The photos are taken by Reyhan Özşahin  
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A close friend of mine in a wedding ceremony in the neighborhood.



The Bride dancing in her engagement ceremony.



Women of the neighborhood watching other people in a wedding ceremony.



Close friends spending time together in the yard of the neighborhood.



One of my closest friend in the neighborhood. The photo was taken just after she made a tattoo for herself.