



## The Jangal Newspaper as a Reflection of Collective Identities

Iraj Abdollahzadeh<sup>1</sup> | Reza Alizadeh<sup>2\*</sup> | Seyyed Mojtaba Mirmiran<sup>3</sup>

1. Master's degree, Iranology, University of Guilan, Iran

2. Assistant Professor, Institute of Iranology, University of Guilan, Iran

3. Assistant Professor, Department of Iranology, University of Guilan, Iran

\* Corresponding Author Email: rezaalizadeh@guilan.ac.ir

### Extended Abstract

Identity is defined as a set of characteristics, beliefs, values, and experiences that distinguish an individual or group from others. As such, every movement within a society emphasizes its own identity and cognitive elements to differentiate itself from others. Social movements are recognized as collective efforts to bring about social, political, cultural, or economic changes in society. The relationship between identity and social movements is a key topic in sociological studies. One of the significant and relatively long-lasting movements in Iran's history occurred in the Guilan region. The events of the Jungle Movement (Jangal Movement), which lasted seven years and was led by Mirza Kuchak Khan Jangali, remain subjects of extensive debate and controversy. This article attempts to analyze the types of identity presented in the *Jangal* newspaper, which was published during the movement's period and serves as a primary text. The *Jangal* newspaper is one of the best sources for understanding the nature of this identity. Articles written by the leaders and members of the Jungle Movement in the newspaper provide insight into the movement's ideologies, national and religious beliefs, temperaments, and culture. Furthermore, by studying and analyzing the *Jangal* newspaper, the motivations behind people's participation in the Jungle Movement become clearer.

In this article, identity is examined in three dimensions: national, ethnic, and religious. According to Smith, national identity is the sustained reproduction and reinterpretation of the values, symbols, memories, myths, and traditions that constitute the distinguishing elements of a nation. The elements of national identity include a common territory, race, shared nationality, common cultural heritage, political system and government, common language, and arts and literature. Regarding national identity, Fukuyama states that a country remains alive and independent as long as it possesses an independent "national character." National identity is the most important part of this national character, rooted in the geography, history, ethnicities, culture, and past customs of a nation. National and ethnic identities are shaped in the struggle of our perception of others. Religious identity, on the other hand, refers to the sense of group membership in a particular religion, encompassing membership, acceptance, confirmation, and commitment to the group and its practices.



The statistical population of this research consists of all texts produced in the 38 issues of the *Jangal* newspaper. The unit of analysis in this article is the paragraph, and all identity-related concepts, instances, and characteristics mentioned in these newspapers were identified. Through initial or open coding, sentences and phrases aligned with the research objectives were identified. Subsequently, using axial coding, repetitive codes were removed, and similar codes were merged. Finally, by classifying the selected concepts and performing initial and selective coding, the main category in each target area was chosen and considered. The categories of the three identities, national, religious, and ethnic, were then extracted using reverse questionnaire methods.

The research findings indicate that national identity, with a frequency of 88.8%, received the most attention in the *Jangal* newspaper. Components such as an emphasis on territory and homeland, the Iranian nation, government, and Iran's glorious past held the largest share within this identity. Religious identity, with a frequency of 10%, ranked second, with emphasis predominantly placed on religious beliefs and practices. Ethnic identity, with a frequency of only 1.2%, received the least attention and was primarily expressed through local Gilaki poems and an emphasis on the land of Guilan as part of Iran.

The findings show that the primary goal of the Jungle Movement was to preserve the national identity of Iranians and Iran's independence, with religious identity serving as a complement to national identity, utilized for national objectives. Ethnic identity received minimal attention and was mainly expressed through local Gilaki poems and the emphasis on Guilan as part of Iran. These findings suggest that the Jungle Movement had a patriotic and national nature, and the mobilization of forces was carried out with this approach.

The examination of the *Jangal* newspaper revealed that national identity is closely linked with religious identity. However, the strong emphasis by the authors of the articles and the movement's militants on the national identity of Iranians demonstrates that the movement was fundamentally patriotic and national, with mobilization conducted based on this perspective. Even the movement's leaders displayed a particular zeal for Iran's national identity. In the religious identities presented in the *Jangal* newspaper, religious identity, infused with a spirit of sacrifice, selflessness, and martyrdom-seeking, was directed towards the goals of national identity to save Iran from internal traitors and foreign occupiers, particularly Russia and Britain. The Gilaki poems published in the *Jangal* newspaper also suggest that references to national identity aimed to incite the people of Guilan toward patriotism, hostility against internal traitors, and the expulsion of foreign occupiers, namely the invading forces of Russia and Britain. This research demonstrates that the Jungle Movement strongly emphasized national identity, with religious and ethnic identities serving this primary goal. These findings align with theories of collective and national identity and show that social movements can use identity as a tool for mobilizing forces and creating social change.

**Keywords:** Social Movements, The Jangal Newspaper, Content Analysis, Collective Identity.

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