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## **PERSIAN EFL LEARNERS' CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND THEIR L2 PROFICIENCY**

The totality of language learning comprises three integrated components: linguistic, cultural, and attitudinal (Wilkes, 1983). Positively sensitizing students to cultural phenomena is urgent and crucial. A positive attitude toward L2 culture is a factor in language learning that leads to cross-cultural understanding. This research examined, through a survey analysis, how three groups of students (one high school group and two university student groups) viewed the role of foreign cultures (American and British) in cultural understanding. The focus was upon how EFL learners approach the target language culture as well as their own culture.

**Key words:** *culture, cultural competence, motivation, cultural awareness, attitude.*