
Exploring Ecofeminist Themes in Margaret Atwood's Debut Novel, The Edible Woman

Mrs. N.Vasanthi¹, Assistant Professor in English, SGK Government Degree College, Vinukonda, Palnadu Dt ,AP, nvasanthi8@gmail.com

Prof. V. Nirmala², Dept of English Language & Literature, Sri Padmavati Mahila ViswaVidyalayam, Tirupati, AP, vallepu_nirmala@yahoo.com

Abstract

Throughout history, a profound connection between women and Nature has existed, reflecting an interdependency passed down through generations. Incidentally, Nature and women are placed at one strand and the male on the other, with the major preconceptions that the former needs to be tamed and made as subordinate to them. This notion gradually paved the way of making women and nature as a vulnerable phenomenon ending up in their oppression and exploitation of both of them in the hands of male patriarchy. Literature often portrays the status of women alongside nature, juxtaposed with the exploitation and oppression imposed by males. This dynamics is frequently observed in novels, where even female protagonists face inevitable oppression at the hands of men. Despite efforts to resist such advances, often succumb or are destroyed by the dominant gender. This paper aims to analyze and elucidate these themes by examining Margaret Atwood's debut novel, "The Edible Woman," through the lens of Ecofeminism. This paper also tries to analyse, in particular, the female characters in the novel through the perspective of Ecofeminism and how they stand as evidences for the above discussed notions.

Keywords: Ecofeminism, Exploitation, Oppression, Nature, Gender, Woman

Introduction

The intimate relationship between women and Nature has persisted since time immemorial, echoing through history to contemporary generations. In literature, this bond is often explored alongside themes of gender dynamics, exploitation, and resistance against male oppression. Throughout history, a profound connection between women and Nature has existed, reflecting an interdependency passed down through generations. Incidentally, Nature and women are placed at one strand and the male are on the other, with the major preconceptions the former needs to be tamed and made as subordinate to them. This notion gradually paved the way of making women and nature as a vulnerable concept ending up in their oppression and exploitation of both of them in the hands of men. Literature often portrays the status of women alongside nature, juxtaposed with the exploitation and oppression imposed