

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

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Looking Through the Glass of Ecofeminism: Margaret Atwood *The Edible Women*

MRS. N. VASANTHI & PROF. V. NIRMALA

From time immemorial, there is an intimate bonding between women & nature. History speaks about this interdependency down the ages to the human generation. Literature, illustrates the status of women and nature on one side and the exploitation and oppression by the male on the other. There are many novels in literature where the situation occurs. Even though the protagonist is a female, this oppression in the hands of male becomes inevitable. Despite many resistances to change the situation are undertaken, it gets ended up either by submitting or by getting destroyed in the hands of the dominating gender. This paper attempts to scrutinize and illustrate the above discussions by experimenting on Margaret Atwood debut novel, *The Edible Woman*. It attempts to look at the novel through the perspective of Ecofeminism. The concept of Ecofeminism is applied to the novel and makes some findings from this scrutiny. The application of the concept of Ecofeminist thoughts makes this novel stand to the words of Atwood who said that this novel is in fact a 'proto feminist' work.

Margaret Eleanor Atwood is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic essayist, teacher, environmental activist, and inventor. Since 1961, she has published 18 books of poetry, 18 novels, 11 books of non-fiction nine collections of short fiction, eight children's books and two graphic novels and fiction. Atwood has won numerous awards and honours for her writing, including two Booker Prizes and Lifetime Achievement Awards. A number of her works have been adapted for film and television (web).

Atwood's works encompass a variety of themes including gender and identity, religion and myth, the power of language, climate change, and "power politics". Many of her poems are inspired by myths and fairy tales which interested her from a very early age. Some of her well-known works include, *The Edible Woman*, *Surfacing*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Cats Eye*, *The Blind Assassin*,

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