

**Sathish Kumar Vellamuthu**

**Representation of Food: A Study of  
Margaret Atwood's "The Edible Woman"  
and Anita Desai's "Fasting, Feasting"**

**Doctoral Thesis / Dissertation**

# YOUR KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE



- We will publish your bachelor's and master's thesis, essays and papers
- Your own eBook and book - sold worldwide in all relevant shops
- Earn money with each sale

Upload your text at [www.GRIN.com](http://www.GRIN.com)  
and publish for free



**Bibliographic information published by the German National Library:**

The German National Library lists this publication in the National Bibliography; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.dnb.de> .

This book is copyright material and must not be copied, reproduced, transferred, distributed, leased, licensed or publicly performed or used in any way except as specifically permitted in writing by the publishers, as allowed under the terms and conditions under which it was purchased or as strictly permitted by applicable copyright law. Any unauthorized distribution or use of this text may be a direct infringement of the author s and publisher s rights and those responsible may be liable in law accordingly.

**Imprint:**

Copyright © 2006 GRIN Verlag  
ISBN: 9783656391784

**This book at GRIN:**

<https://www.grin.com/document/211265>

**Sathish Kumar Vellamuthu**

**Representation of Food: A Study of Margaret Atwood's  
"The Edible Woman" and Anita Desai's "Fasting, Feas-  
ting"**

## **GRIN - Your knowledge has value**

Since its foundation in 1998, GRIN has specialized in publishing academic texts by students, college teachers and other academics as e-book and printed book. The website [www.grin.com](http://www.grin.com) is an ideal platform for presenting term papers, final papers, scientific essays, dissertations and specialist books.

### **Visit us on the internet:**

<http://www.grin.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/grincom>

[http://www.twitter.com/grin\\_com](http://www.twitter.com/grin_com)

**ABSTRACT**  
**REPRESENTATION OF FOOD: A STUDY OF MARGARET ATWOOD'S**  
**THE EDIBLE WOMAN AND**  
**ANITA DESAI'S FASTING, FEASTING**

The novels of Margaret Atwood and Anita Desai have a profound impact on the readers. The main aspect of their writing is to present/depict the condition of women in the patriarchal society. However Atwood's The Edible Woman and Anita Desai's Fasting, Feasting have innumerable images of food. In Atwood's case food becomes the source of power politics. This project aims to highlight how these writers have represented food and how it plays a major role in the life of an individual. The purpose of this dissertation is to expose how these two writers have given different meaning in their novels- The Edible Woman and Fasting, Feasting.

**CHAPTER I:** The first chapter, Introduction gives a general outline of the literatures of India and Canada and women's writing in 1960s. It gives a brief idea of cultural studies, and reflects on the use of food at different levels such as biological, sociological, psychological etc.

**CHAPTER II:** The second chapter focuses on Margaret Atwood's novel The Edible Woman. The chapter starts with a brief summary of the novel. It goes to review how food is used in the novel. It tries to explain how the protagonist in the novel reveals herself as a consumable and a consumed entity.

**CHAPTER III:** The third chapter begins with a brief summary of Anita Desai's novel Fasting, Feasting. It presents the utilization of food in the novel. Then it focuses on the interconnection of food and woman in the novel. The depiction of two different cultures of India and America is presented in the later half of the chapter.

**CHAPTER IV:** Conclusion highlights the important points of the previous chapter and sums up the analysis presented much of the novels The Edible Woman and Fasting, Feasting by Margaret Atwood and Anita Desai, respectively.

## **A NOTE ON DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation has been done as per the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Sixth Edition. References to the pages of the selected quotations are given parenthetically with the abbreviations TEW (The Edible Woman) and FF (Fasting, Feasting) respectively. References to selected quotations from secondary sources are also given parenthetically.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH:**

The Indian English novel saw its birth only during the latter half of the nineteenth century. This was a result of the western impact on India. Indians sought English as a medium for communicating with the world outside India. In Srinivasa Iyengar's words "Indians have written and are writing in English for communicating with one another and with outside world, for achieving self expression to artistically use English, necessarily in an Indian way" (Iyengar.4).

Indians sought inspiration deeply from the British, but after India got independence from England, novelists were influenced not only by the British but also by American, Russian and other Oriental countries. Indian English novels were dominated by the male writers during the early pre-independent and post-independent periods. The major novelists were Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore, Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan and Raja Rao. In the early stages of the Indian English novel, novelists were interested in themes such as the East-West Encounter, the social structure of the caste system, the political scenario, the struggle against the colonialists, the