

Polysemic Narrative Of Street Foodscape: Reconfiguring Culturally Imagined Boundaries Through Food Writing.

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ABSTRACT

Human experience is diverse in nature. Human beings identify themselves within a cultural setup not only through the cultural practices but also through the spaces they occupy. Places and spaces play a huge part in understanding one's identity and culture. Geography holds a lot of importance in a glocal society with the rise in conversations around spatiality, proximity, boundaries and territories. It forces individuals to think about spatiality of social relations, geographical proximity and blurring of boundaries. Spaces and places act as signifiers to represent cultural transformations and changes in human interaction and behaviors. The transformation of social spaces directly impacts the manner in which human beings behave and maintain relationships. Hence, spaces play a crucial role in shaping culture.

Food studies offer enough scope to understand the importance of spaces and places in the human psyche. As Food Writing expands the horizon of literary thought, literary cartography through gastronomical experiences, it represents space as continuous, isotropic and homogeneous (Goldstein 151:1988). Food Studies observes and analyzes the entire gastronomical experience of individuals and cultures. Adema, a food theorist defines foodscapes as, "a marriage between food and landscape both the conceptual notion (idea) of landscape and actual, physical landscapes." (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.gov>). Arjun Appadurai talks about the relationship between food, writing and spaces by stating that we live in a world of suffix-scape individuals are surrounded by five scapes, namely, financescapes, ideoscapes, technoscapes, mediascapes and ethnocapes (Appadurai 1988). It is in this context that individuals locate themselves in the society through food and consumption.

In this paper, I will be looking at the manner in which food writing uses the medium of street foodscapes to reconfigure and reimagine the culturally imagined boundaries in popular metropolitan cities in India. The aim of this paper is to understand the connection between foodscape and writing-scape in urban spaces and to look at the impact it creates in reconfiguring identity and culture and the manner it is perceived.

Keywords: *foodscape, food studies, glocal culture, street food, food writing, urbanscape, writing-scape, culture.*

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