

Abstract

This master's thesis focuses on the issue of food in some selected works by Kawakami Hiromi (born 1958). At first, it attempts to express some characteristic features of modern Japanese cuisine in general, which are closely connected to the creation of the concept of national identity, and to give a summary of works of modern and contemporary Japanese literature in which the topic of food is present. Next, it describes the work of Kawakami Hiromi. After introducing the author's main masterpieces and its typical features, it comes to the interpretation of the selected texts which were published within 1998 and 2010. It interprets the works mainly from the thematic point of view and it attempts to determine connections in which the issue and motifs of food appear. It also studies what role is played by food, eating or cooking in Kawakami's work. In selected translated passages it makes an effort to give evidence of certain elements in her work such as: food as means of befriending, motif of a skilled male cook, inability to cook, which leads to a conflict in a relationship etc. It compares works in which often appear lonely women protagonists longing for love and in which the real world meets the supernatural or the traditional elements meet the modern ones. In order to point out other connections which are related to the issue of food in the work of Kawakami Hiromi the thesis also mentions other works of the author. In these works the food plays an either similar or a different role compared to the interpreted works. The thesis summarizes the results of the research and at the end it evaluates the work of Kawakami Hiromi with respect to the topic of food as an important element in interpersonal relationships.