

Should we tell the truth when talking about the culture of the Other?
The Case of Amélie Nothomb

This contribution starts from the premise that we should always try to say what is true when talking about foreign cultures. But what may seem to be obvious is clearly not for some authors featuring in their works intercultural situations taking the so-called clash of cultures. This is true of Amélie Nothomb whose works, especially those who present themselves as autobiographies chronicling her experiences in Japan (*Fear and Trembling*, *The Character of Rain*, *The Life of Hunger*), have sold millions of copies worldwide. A review of the multiple representations made to the Japanese lifestyle in general shows that most of them are at best half false, often revert preconceptions and above all ultimately end up reinforcing the prejudices.

This contribution will specifically seek to demonstrate the relationship between the readers with the author through blogs about Nothomb's works inspired by Japan. The focus will be on comparing the favorite themes between the French speaking and English speaking public not only to underline the differences in sensitivity between the two linguistic areas, but also to give an idea of the mechanisms by which Nothomb has perpetuated misconceptions on Japan.

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