

Western and Eastern Women Identity in Amelie Nothomb's Novel "Stupeur et Tremblements"

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ABSTRACT

The author conveys a message through narrative. What is the narrative content (story / history) and how the narrative is delivered (discourse) become interesting to study so that the message is interpreted. The research entitled "Narrative of Western and Eastern Identity in "Stupeur et Tremblements" by Amélie Nothomb aims to describe about women's identities as Western and Eastern. This research is a reflective qualitative study of texts using the foundation of identity narrative theory related to cultural and psychological theories. The results showed that the Western female figure, a citizen of Belgium, represented through the character "Je" or "I" named Amélie, was a subordinate of an East-Japanese female figure, named Miss Mori Fubuki. The two women worked under pressure from male figures in a Japanese company called Yumimoto. Amelie's character as a Western female figure always tries to negotiate subordination to herself, even though it always fails and ends tragically; while Miss Mori Fubuki's character always survives even though it hurts. This novel gives a picture of the strength of women in defense to both actualize themselves. Amelie with her Western culture chose to resign after one year of trying to work in Japan and returning to Belgium to become a writer; while Ms. Mori Fubuki survived to continue working at the same company, Yumimoto. Through this romance, the reader can reflect on himself, how the process of 'self-understanding' and culture is not an easy thing and requires a long process.

Kata Kunci: *hegemony, narastion, representation, western and eastern, culture*