

Abstract:

Drawing on a corpus composed of *L'Étranger* by Albert Camus and *Le docker noir* by Ousmane Sembene, this paper examines the ways in which the Other is perceived when, from an ethical or racial standpoint, that figure diverges from the dominant group. The approach adopted here is comparative. However, it deliberately refrains from yielding to the temptation to prescribe a remedy that would claim to eliminate the repulsion inspired by the Other. The central argument is that the novels under study call into question the most aberrant essentialist discourses. Indeed, by portraying figures of alterity repressed by the judicial system, Camus and Sembene invite reflection on the collective psychosociological mechanisms that produce exclusion, while also mobilising imagery inspired by the Christian doctrine of expiation.

Keywords:

otherness; Camus; Sembene; enmity; racism; expiation.