Yolum Düştü Amerikaya [I *Happened to Travel America].* Canan Tan. 2nd ed. İstanbul: Altın Kitaplar, 2008. p/bk 160 pp. ISBN 975-2-10686-4. Price TL 8.80; *Bambaşka Ülke Amerikaya Yolculuk* [A *Journey to America:* A *Quite Different Country].* Gülten Dayıoğlu. İstanbul: Altın Kitaplar, 2000. p/bk 108 pp. ISBN: 978-9752-10079-4. Price TL 3.20.

The two books on America, published by Altın Kitaplar (Golden Books) from different writers, are listed under the title of travel writing, although their approaches to America are different from each other. *Yolum Düştü Amerikaya* (*I Happened to Travel To America* by Canan Tan is addressed in quite general terms to adolescents, while the other one, *Bambaşka Ülke Amerikaya Yolculuk (A Journey to America:* A *Quite Different Country)* by Gülten Dayıoğlu, is addressed to younger readers, especially children.

The first book, *Yolum Düştü Amerikaya*, is a compilation of a diary of a young Turkish girl, Renan, at the age of seventeen. Renan goes to America through a student exchange program, and lives with an American family approximately for two months. After her great journey to America, she decides that she wants to be an ambassador which marks the turning point of her life. After her graduation from university, she finds her diary and hands it to a writer in order to be read. At the end of the book, there are some photos of Renan in America. As a whole, the book is a perfect example of the "American Dream": Renan lives in a dream for two months without any bad memories. Everything goes perfect in an incredible way; she likes and is liked by everyone she meets. The Americans she has conversations with like and adore her as a Turk. The book is dominated by a sense of perfection with key words such as "amazing, gorgeous, astonishing, lovable, friendly" which turn this book into an example of the American dream especially for adolescents: "The friendly people who greet each other at each step show special interest in me...All of them are loveable, nice and kind. They all know me! (13), ".really gorgeous" (135) and "everything, everything is astonishing" (99). However, such perfection makes the book seem quite incredible and detached from reality.

The second one, *Bambaşka Ülke Amerikaya Yolculuk* by Gülten Dayıoğlu is more realistic than the previous one although it is written for children. The book aims to rediscover America for children by describ-

ing America from the East to the Wild West (Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Miami, Orlando and New York) through traveling. The descriptions of Disneyland, Epcot Center, Universal Studios and Hollywood are so vivid and detailed that children can easily visualize these places. They can be greatly helped by the photos that are placed at the end of the book. Since the book is written for children, it has a fluent and simple narration. The author presents a realistic image of America, neither as a dreamland nor as a sin city. The key words used in the book are amazing, unfair, magnificent, homeliness, richness and poverty: "Twenty eight percent of population is Spanish, fifteen percent is nigger, and seven percent is Asian. Also, there is a great number of Mexian. In this context, Americans are minority. Besides really wealthy people, there are really poor. They call them Homeless. They live in sleeping bags on the streets. Such homeless people are seen everywhere in America. This poor people can easily commit crimes. On the streets, they rob people, they snatch bags. If someone resists, they stab without hesitating" (16 -7). Disturbing events such as begging or threatening for money are given in a realistic way, even though such events are generally associated with African Americans. The author sees them as second class citizens, using the word *zenci* to describe them, which has a pejorative connotation in English, rather than using the more neutral term *siyahi* [blacks].

Neither *Yolum Düştü Amerikaya* nor *Bambaşka Ülke Amerikaya Yolculuk* are satirical works. The first one, written by Canan Tan, is a good example of diary form of writing, while the latter is a successful example of travel writing.

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