

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION (ENGLISH)

TOPIC:

**THE PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN
ANY TWO MODERN COMIC WORKS**

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THE PRESENTATION ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN MANDRAGOLA AND MARRIAGE OF ANANSEWA

Gender is the Fact of being a male or female.it is the range of characteristics pertaining to and differentiating between masculinity and femininity.it also means associating with a social role or set of behavioural and cultural traits, typically associated with sex. Gender representations in the popular culture reinforce the stereotyping of norms related to masculinity and feminity.

Sexuality is described as the whole way a person goes about expressing himself or herself as a sexual being. It also means how u feel about yourself.it also means the things people do, thinks, and feel that are related to sexual desires. This also means that which is characterised by sex.

The tradition gender roles of power, authority, dominance, and status are mostly characterized under men. Men naturally are shown to have authority, and strength, ability for protection, and also wise, etc. While women are characterized by beauty, attractiveness, caring and attractiveness and also have a very limited range of “appropriate” feminine roles. Women are seen to be modest, emotional, weak, dependent and needing protection.

In terms of decision making within marriage women are disadvantaged by the norms which designate men as heads of households and therefore the principal decision makers in matters concerning household resource control and use. As far as the women are concerned, the bulk of our literature is secretly a weapon of male propaganda, of an agenda to keep the female under perpetual dominance. No wonder AHMED YERIMA was moved to say that the masculine tradition cannon has always dominated the African consciousness concerning beliefs and existence. The culture, tradition, languages, names ,type of vacation, biological and physiological structure of human as determined by this environment and nature, have

always re-emphasized the dominance of the male. The female counterpart was made to accept it as the only way, women was indeed a stereotype a symbol of life, cocooned by cultural beliefs.

DISCUSSING GENDER IN MACHIAVELLI'S LA MANDRAGOLA

In this play, we see a character called lucrezia. women are portrayed as properties that are passed on to people, that is generations, we discover this in the life of lucrezia, who was married to Nicia who she was devoted to but within the play, through the ignorance of Nicia was given to callimaco to sleep with –with the mandrake root and finally is loved callimaco.in this play, most of the words and actions celebrates the male gender for example the wisdom,intelligence,tact and boldness of Callimaco to go ahead with his selfish reason to go and get another man's wife because of the way her beauty was described as “extraordinary beauty” and he went ahead and got what he wants. Women are also seen as ordinary,makes less decision in the house, women are not considered highly in state of family matters: Lucrezia was pressured by everyone around her including her husband and mother to accept and sleep with another man so that is can get an heir.

DISCUSSING SEXUALITY IN MACHIAVELLI'S LA MANDRAGOLA

In this play, sexuality is seen in the life of callimaco who married lucrezia because of his selfish reasons. This happened when callimaco, a young Florentine who lived in Paris for 20 years.one day he overheard a fellow Florentine tell the Parisians about the woman of extraordinary beauty, he returned to his home town. Once he saw her beauty, he was determined to have her. Callimaco succeeded with the help of ligurio and at the end, he slept with the woman and she fall in love with him.

DISCUSSION ON GENDER IN EFUA SUTHERLAND IN “THE MARRIAGE OF ANANSEWA”

Using Africa society as a case study, African women's are looked down upon and does not have an equal right with the men. Women are sometimes used as commercial business and as a means of making money. In most African societies, women are used for prostitution, trading, and also women trafficking. That is the reason why in this play, Ananse who is a poor man was able to use his daughter Anansewa as a means of getting money and gifts from four chiefs without the acknowledgement and permission of his daughter.

Furthermore, women are seen as of being famous and know. This was exhibited in the character of one of the chiefs Heonly, who wanted to marry her because she had formal education and has skills that would benefit him and his community, which may make him well known in the community. We see this also from his father who used the daughter to be known by the chiefs.

In addition to all, men are seen as domineering character and also decision maker, this was seen in the life of Ananse; he dominated his daughters marriage life, personal life, etc. He made almost all the decision for the daughter in the play and for the reason that he is her father, she obeyed him. We also saw this during the period when the four chief's wanted to ask her hand in marriage, we saw how she obeyed the instructions of her father by lying down as a dead body in order to deceive the chief's, Also men dominating over other men, we see this in the life of Ananse and the chief's. Ananse dominated and used them the way he wants and he benefited a lot from it. At a point, she said “oh my father is selling me, my father is selling me”.

DISCUSSING SEXUALITY IN THE MARRIAGE OF ANANSEWA

In the play we see sexuality in the character of Anansewa she was/is described to be a very beautiful young girl and a very intelligent girl (she was in a secretariat school) that was her father was able to use her to gain money for himself. A girl at her age is meant to get married but due to some reasons the father was collecting money from chief's and it hindered her from making her choice of husband.in the play ,she said “ I will not let you sell me like some parcel to a customer, I will select my lover myself”.