

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

FACULTY OF education

TOPIC:

The presentation of gender and sexuality using two plays

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Mordern comedy

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INTRODUCTION

DEFINING THE TERMS GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Gender is a term that refers to social or cultural distinction associated with a given sex; it is generally considered to be a social constructed concept.

Sexuality refers to people's sexual interest in and attraction to others; their capacity to have erotic experiences and responses.

The presentation of gender and sexuality using two modern work.

Work citation; Wole Soyinka's "the lion and jewel" and "Volpone" by Ben Jonson.

The presentation of gender and sexuality in the lion and Jewel can be seen; in the village of 'Ilunjinle women play a subservient and domestic role while the men are seen as the superior and over all authority.

This is shown through the character Sadiku who is the wife of king of the village, Baroka. The way they dress, behave and speak are controlled by the men. Sadiku does this by maintaining the household and catering to her husband's needs. Polygamy shows how men have authority and power over their women by having multiple wives and making them subservient to them.

Men in the village are seen as authoritative and educated. King Baroka is a good example his ability of successfully ruling a village thus far and in return this brings great authority to his name. His authority is also shown in the way in which they obey

without hesitation. As seen in the scene where Baroka and his favourite laid in bed and she was plucking his armpit hairs desperate of his approved ad when she hurt him, he sent her away abruptly. Women were subjected to the lowest background as seen in the case of Baroka, when he was interested in marrying Sidi instead of going by himself to woo her, he sent Sadiku to do the wooing and Ilujinle we can say that this society is a men dominated society.

In the context of sexuality, Baroka and Lakunle were attracted to Sidi, Baroka at 62 who had so many wives and children was attracted to Sidi and planned marrying her as his last wife. He sends Sadiku to woo her into marrying him but Sidi declined saying that her fame has spread through Lagos, because of her face in the magazine therefore she cannot settle with someone like him. When Baroka sees that his initial plan of wooing was not puling through he devices another means by claiming impotency just to attract Sidi to his palace for a feast and at the end he seduces and after marries her on the other hand Lakunle who does not want to pay a bride price is over comed with emotion, and after at first expressing deep despair for what happened to her, he offers to marry her without her bride price thinking she was going to accept him because she was no more a virgin but at the end he lost to Baroka and was invited for their wedding.

In the presentation of gender and sexuality in “Volpone” the play centers on men who were wholly responsible for finance and

they were expected to have power over women in relationship, love, sex and courtship, as seen in the Italian marriage between Celia and Corvino. Though Celia is virtuous, she is kept under Corvino's extremely careful and cruel control-Corvino keeps her indoors almost at all times, and he forbids her, at one point, from even venturing too close to a window.

Corvino's rule over Celia is extreme but it was stereotypical for Italian men to be jealous and controlling of their wives also Celia represent the Renaissance ideal of a woman; she is silent, chaste and obedient. In court her witness was considered unreliable because she is a woman. She had no say and what ever her husband said is final as seen at the point when Corvino wanted prostituting her in order to inherit Volpone's wealth. The power of Celia's reputation cannot stand up to the stereotype that woman are to hysterical and emotional to be trust worthy and rational, even though the men argue against her are known to be deceitful. The cruelty of the impossible position in which Celia finds herself in court illustrates that the seventeenth century women couldn't win no matter how virtuous, women were considered to be untrustworthy and inferior creatures. Corvino and Volpone, who both tried to exhibit male authority over Celia through sexuality (Corvino attempts to whore her to Volpone, who in turn attempts to rape her but because of her virtuous nature she overcame them although they got away at first but at the end they were all punished.