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The presentation of Gender and Sexuality in Any Two Modern Comic Works.

In my own understanding, gender can be said to be a socio capital phenomenon that divides people into various categories such as male and female with each having associated roles and stereotypes while sexuality can be said to be that which is characterized or distinguished by sex.

In the novel lion and the jewel, the presentation of gender and sexuality is seen in the way man dominated the society as women are not allowed to go to school to acquire education, this is seen in the character of sidi who is only allowed to marry only one husband while the males can go on marrying as much as they want. In the play we see Baroka who had many wives and still seduced sidi with his wise words which shows how knowledgeable and educated he is. In Illujinle's women are not supposed to be educated as men as they are meant to be

educated on domestic areas. In the beginning of the play we see Sidi with a pale on her head which indicates preparation for housework, which includes taking care of the children and cooking food for the family while men are out for work. This is also seen in the character of Sadiku who is the wife of the king of the village, Baroka. Women are expected to be obedient to the men of the village and cater for them by all means. The way they dress, talk and behave are being controlled by the men. Sadiku does this by maintaining the household and raising the children and also attending for the husband's needs. For example when he was pretending to be sad for being allegedly losing his manhood, she massaged his feet. It was even her duty to look for a wife for her husband and can only speak when given permission, this is shown when she entered the king's bedroom and addressed him as 'my lord' and only continued speaking after he said 'you have my leave to speak'. This is also seen when Baroka was in the room with his favourite wife and she was plucking his armpit hairs desperate for his approval and when she hurts him, he sent her away abruptly. In the play *Lion and the Jewel* women are presented as being inferior towards men. Men are seemed authoritative and

educated because Lakunle was the only one who was good and impressed with colonialism because he figured that he knew the right way, to live a modern life, while Sidi was unsatisfied with the idea and to an extent she represented her people but was considered too low to do so. It seemed that Sidi and women on a greater scale has no right to give their opinion or view on society because they are not considered smart enough.

This issue of gender and sexuality is also seen in the play *Wife's Revolt* by Jp Clark, the manifestation of the protest against gender inequality examines feminist revolt as a legitimate instrument against gender inequality as it effect women. This issue of gender and sexuality is seen as a movement for recognition of claims of women for rights and equality in the hands of men who possess them. Culturally, the image of womanhood is represented by the symbol of erotic desire positioned by race, class and gender as a subservient group of people lower and inferior to the male folks, the patriarchy which mark most African society, the image of the women are portrayed as those who are culturally inferior, whose identity is to be found in the desire to please and serve men and seek definition by being secondary to men.

As we see in the play *Wife's Revolt* by Jp Clark, as the play opens with Okoro the town crier informing the people of Erhuware that the money given to the village by the oil company operating in their community has been shared among the elders, the men and the women and that each group is to get their share according to their age group, he went home only to be faced by the vexation of the wife Koko who represents the women, she challenged the husband on why the largeness should be shared in such way, knowing too well that the elders are still the men. She sees it as being unfair on the women as it is supposed to be shared among the male and the female folks. Her argument is that by sharing the money in such a way, the male folks hold the two-thirds of the oil revenue.

Why women agitate for a fair sharing formula, some men reported to the council of elders that the women have resorted to turning into goats with the help of witchcraft to harm them, and they came up with the plan of banishing goats in the village. To stop the men folks from carrying out the oppressive law, the women decided to leave the village to them to Eyara, leaving their children and husband to fate. They made their husband to do the domestic chores such as babysitting,

cooking, sweeping, taking the children to school and other works considered the prerogative of the women by themselves.

Hearing that their wife's have moved to Eyara and in the hands of Igbodayen, the famous prostitute, they plead for their return but eventually the women have contracted venereal disease.

And it became a question of had i known.

This two comic works lead more light in this issue of gender and sexuality in the sense that it portrayed the role culture and feminist play in the repositioning of women in the society.