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

**Gender:** Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities connected with being male and female, the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, and the relations between women and between human beings. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and read through the acculturation processes. They are context-/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and assessed in a womanhood or a man in a given setting. In most societies there are conflicts and inequalities between women and men in decision-making opportunities, responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, and access to and control over resources. Gender is part of the wider social-ethnic setting. Other important criteria for social-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, cultural group and age.

### **What is sexuality?**

In its broadest sense "sexuality" describes the whole way a person goes about expressing himself or herself as a sexual being. It describes how important sexual expression is in a person's life, how one chooses to express that sexuality, and any preference one may have towards the type of sexual partner they choose. The way we choose to behave sexually is as individual and complicated as the ways we choose to dress or earn a living. Human sexuality rarely falls into neat categories or lends itself to simple labelling, but rather is a rich and complex area of human experience. Sexuality is the total of who we are, what we believe and how we respond.

So, gender simply means the way males and females are being perceived in a society. How they are expected to behave and the characteristics they portray.

While sexuality is all about how both gender express themselves as a sexual being. How they are placed and how they are expected to behave when it comes to sex.

Gender and sexuality in *marriage of Anansewa* by Efua Sutherland and *our husband has gone mad again* by Ola Rotimi.

## **Gender**

In these two texts, the males are seen as the superior and they exert power in their homes and the society. They have dominance in their families, they have control over the female in their families. The males are regarded as being in a better position to make decisions for the family and they may not even involve their wives or daughters. They are symbol of authority and they are seen as the people that have say in the society.

The males are breadwinners in the family. They cater for everybody and they try to solve their family's problems.

Ananse and Lekoja-Brown are the main male characters in the plays 'Marriage of Anansewa' and 'our husband has gone mad again' respectively. They live in the society where men have a say in the affairs of the family and society. In Lekoja-Brown's society, men form political parties that will enable them run for any governmental position while women are not allowed to be members of the already formed political parties not to talk of occupying or running for a governmental post.

Lekoja-Brown has the right to marry as many women as he wishes to, that's why he married three women (Mama Rashida, Sikira and Liza). He also makes decisions that they must follow.

Ananse makes decisions for her daughter, he sent Anansewa's pictures to her suitors without Anansewa's notice and he arranges suitors for her without her consent.

Lekoja-Brown is the breadwinner in his family and this is seen as the main reason why he is not much interested in the affairs of his wives regarding to their business. This is also seen in Ananse when he tries to free himself from poverty in order to cater for his family. This is seen when he gives Anansewa money for her fees and when he repairs the leaking roof in their house.

The female gender in the two texts are seen as objects by the male gender. They are regarded as inferior while the men are superior. The men see them as commodity. They women are always seen as the weaker sex. Marriage is seen to be the goal of every woman in the two texts.

Ananse sees her daughter as a means of making money to free himself from poverty. He promises and assures four men (suitors) that they will marry her daughter, using this to get money from them. And it worked out well for him. Making females a commodity.

Lekoja-Brown marries Sikira to increase his chance of winning an election. He needed the votes of women in the market and he marries Sikira whose mother is the chairlady of the market women union. He buys wife as a common object one can easily buy in the market.

The women are allowed to occupy any position in the government as in the case of Lekoja. The men see it as if it's the end of the world if the women ever come to this stage but it happened and Lekoja-Brown couldn't believe it.

Every woman sees marriage as her final bus stop. They are made to believe that their husbands owe them once they are married. The wives of Lekoja dare not talk to him with disrespect or even object to whatever he tells them. They are not allowed to air their own opinions. In 'marriage of Anansewa', once a man pays your brideprice, you are already his. That's why Ananse was scared when the suitor told him that they are coming to pay Anansewa's brideprice because he knows that his scheme is about to be exposed and he cannot avert anything once marriage is done. The young couple also, Akwasi and Akosua. Akosua didn't allow Akwasi to command or exert control on her because he hasn't paid the brideprice.

## **Sexuality**

In the two texts, women are seen as mere objects that men use to satisfy themselves. And they are seen as breeders that breed children. Women are used to satisfy the men.

Lejoka-Brown married three wives in order for them to warm his bed every night. The women share the days with which they will sleep with their husband. Their works were limited to these menial house chores and most important to satisfy the men sexually.

In 'marriage of Ananewa, it was discovered at the end of the play that most of her suitors were not actually in love with her but they want her because of her beauty and probably to enjoy her sexually. One of the suitors, the one from the Sapaase palace only wanted her to give birth to beautiful children for him.

In conclusion, these two works presented gender and sexuality in their text. As I have pointed out some of them. It shows how things are viewed differently by different genders and their attitudes towards.