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TOPIC:

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

BY

OKWOR GODWIN I.

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LECTURER: MR ONYEKA ODOH

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PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ANY TWO MODERN COMIC WORKS

SEXUALITY

Sexuality means that which is characterized or distinguished by sex. It is a concern or interest in sexual activities. It can also be seen as a sexual potency, orientation, identity or receptivity.

In so many of the works we have studied, there are places where sex orientation and identity can be seen, among them are *Mandragola* and *lion and the jewel*.

In *Mandragola*, the protagonist, Calimaco, desires to sleep with Lucrezia, the young and beautiful wife of an elderly fool, Nicia. Nicia above all else, desires a son and heir but still has none. Calimaco conspired with Ligurio, a rascally marriage breaker and a priest, Masquerades as a doctor. He convinced Nacia to drug Lucrezia with mandrake, claiming it will increase her fertility. He adds, however, the dire warning that the mandrake will undoubtedly kill the first man to have intercourse with her. Ligurioa helpfully suggests to Nicia that an unwitting fool be found for this purpose. A reluctant Lucrezia is eventually convinced by her mother and the priest to comply with her husband's wishes. She allowed a disguised Calimaco into her bed and believing that the events which caused her to

break her marriage vows were due to divine providence. Thereafter accepts him as her lover on a more permanent basis.

Also in lion and jewel, Sidi, a beautiful girl who is the titular character of the play was faced with two people for marriage, Lacule and Baroke. Lacule a representative of white and modern initiatives and orientation desired to have her without bride price which Sidi objected to or rejected his decision and stood on the ground of no bride price no marriage. But Baroke a king happily married with wives has interest on this same girl. He (Baroke) wanted her with passion which is purely for sex and sexual desire and this explained the reason why he, Baroke, uses the trick of impotence to get her.

Baroke is a man who loves pleasure, even at his age, he still looks out for young girls. He married so many women but is not satisfied, notwithstanding the love they are showing him. When Sidi was invited to his house, he made her to understand how he loves her, and ends up having sex with her, a girl he can be a grandfather to. He did this without even considering that he has not married her. This is a high level of sexuality represented in the works of art.

Coming to gender, gender can be explained as a class, kind or sex. It is a category such as male or female into which sexuality reproducing organism are divided on the basis is a kind of societal treatment base on masculinity and

feminism. In discussing gender in the modern comic work, I am going to use our husband has gone mad again by Ola Rotimi and JP Clarks wives revolt.

In Ola Rotimi's "Our husband has gone mad again", gender inequality is one of the dominant themes in the play, Lejoka- Brown thinks woman have no intelligence until he meets his foreign wife. In between the humour in the play, there is a subtle gender conflict. As a western woman who believes that women are not in any way subservient to men, Liza mobilizes her fellow wives to organize their own faction to stop the madness of their husband. What Ola Rotimi seems to be saying is that politics is not only the preserve of the men. Using the mouth of Sisika, he makes this point clear "MEN AND WOMEN ARE CREATED EQUAL" (Act 2 Scene VI). As a medical doctor and an experienced lady Liza can complete favourably with any man. There is no doubt that sometimes women are used as puppets in order to fulfill men's ambitions. This is exactly what Liza does not want to see or hear. The play can also be revolutionary in the sense that national issue is look at from women's angle.

The need for freedom for women folks is reverberated throughout the play. In fact, freedom is the campaign slogan of the National liberation party. It is not an exaggeration or an indictment to say that Lejoka-Brown does not give his wives freedom to express themselves. As a typical African chauvinistic man, he believes

that women are only to be seen but not heard. Lajoka-Brown censors not only what his wives say but also what they wear using religion as a cover up.

Also, in JP Clark's "Wives revolt", there is a high suppression of women gender. The men there do not regard women as anything. The play depicts what is happening in Niger delta. Here God blesses the land with mineral resources without any discrimination or discriminating on the ownership. These people sold their oil, share the money among themselves and forget the women showing no interest in their feelings. They started killing their goats, the only domestic animal close and valuable to these women on the ground of that it is a witch to them. These women left the community in angry and they refused to look for them until it becomes too late. They fall in love with people that passed sexual diseases to them and they later brought back home.