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TOPIC: PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY

**PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN THE LION AND THE
JEWEL OF SOYINKA AND MARRIAGE ANANSEWE**

Gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between masculinity and femininity. Depending on the context this may include the state of being male, female.

Sexuality means or can be describes as het whole way a person goes about expressing himself or herself as a sexual being. How you feel about your body. In the lion of the Jewell Baroku is sexually conscious, a fox, He sees women to be inferior or under them, the female gender to him is just an instrument of satisfaction and achieving his aim. Women are treated as a property in Yoruba culture through the payment of bride-price. Men are free to marry as many wife as they want; example of this is Baroku. Soyinka also explores the idea of masculinity throughout his play. Example in the first scene of the play entitled “morning” the village girls tell Sidi that she has become famous because of her image is throughout an entire magazine, Sidi is excited and believes that she is more esteemed than Baroku because of her fame. When the girls discuss how many leaves of the magazine her picture takes up, Lakunle counts three leaves and Sidi says, “one leaf for every hearts that I shall break (13).

In the second scene of the play titled in the afternoon Sadiku tells Sidi that Baroka asks for her hand in marriage. Sidi is quick to reject Baroka's offer and begin to criticize him for his old age. Sidi pushes out her breast and says, "There is a deceitful message in my eyes beckoning insatiate men to certain doom". And teeth that flesh the sign of happiness, strong and evenly, beginning full of life (22).

Sidi's comments portray how she vows her sexuality as a weapon to entice and bring doom upon men who become infatuated with her beauty. She mentions that she is looking forward to breaking men's heart and views that as her opponents. Sidi understand that her worth has elevated and views her virginity as a treasurer. Initially, she is not willing to marry Baroka because of his age, which is modern view of marriage, but eventually becomes his bride after he tricks and seduces her.

In Volpone, at the time in which the play is set, men were wholly responsible for finance and they were expected to have power over women in relationships, roles that most of the male characters in the play firmly occupy. However, the play also compares male authority, love, sex and courtship to the social expectations of women by exploring two examples of marriage one an extreme depiction of an Italian marriage and the other a comedic English relationship.

Celia and Carvino through Celia is virtuous, she is kept under Corvino's extremely careful and cruel control. Corvino's rule over Celia is extreme jealous. In position on gender role can be classified, to an extent, through an examination of Carvino and Volpone who both try to exhibit male authority of Celia through sexuality (Carvino attempt to whore her to Volpone, who in turn attempts to rape her).