

PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY

In literature, gender and sexuality refers to the way a writer despite the male or female folk in his work, their duties and role in the society, their relationship as well as their social and cultural differences. Depending on the genre of the play, sexuality and gender are used as either a tool of manipulation, a form of propaganda or sometimes both. Aristotle works with the assumption that women are incapable of rational and therefore, they are naturally inferior to men. Women constitute half the humanity. Women are being extolled in literature. Bacon accords a very significant place for women in men life. His statement explains the concept, wives are younger mistresses; companions for middle age, and old men's mistresses. In the life of man, woman is given due place she deserves. Women are considered as physically weak and very emotional in nature. So she can't be independent to take decisions their own. During the time of William the time of William Shakespeare there was asocial construct of gender and sexuality norms just as there are in our today's modern literature.

In Wole Soyinka's plays women are built on the African traditional step. Though they are considered as an inferior subject in Africa, women are equally treated as men. Wole Soyinka's play "*THE LION AND THE JEWEL*" is spirited on the first world ideals and the power of men against the influence of women. We find this in the characters of Lakunle and Sidi where Lakunle describes women as those with a smaller brain than that of the men that's why they are called the weaker sex. Where he sees that the women has no thought of their own without seeking the permission of the men because their brains are not big enough to do the thinking and also the decision making. We also find in the play where Baroka describes women as something that should be changed when you get tired of it. Here we find the being portrayed as properties or more even clothes that should be changed when you are tired of using them you change them and get a new one to replace the old. We also find women as a means for men to save their pride rather than been the pride of men they are used to save pride and we find this where Baroka tricks Sadiku into believing that he impotent and needs to marry a virgin young and hot within to able him save his pride and that's his major reason for wanting to marry Sidi. We also find Wole Soyinka using the character Lakunle to satirize the mentality of the society whereby they see their marriage to women should just be based on cooking, scrubbing and also child bearing and not based on love. We find this in page 7 of the play "I do not seek a wife to fetch and carry, to cook and scrub, to bring forth children"

We also find Sexuality and gender in Ben Johnson's *Volpone* this is portrayed in the character Celia and Lady would-be. These characters reflects the misperception and low status of women. Corvino who controls his wife Celia not minding her submissive and faithful character towards him. Corvino treats his wife far less like a lady and more as a prisoner by keeping her locked in her room. He sees his wife as a possession which he owns and not a companion which he has got. We find Celia been sexually harassed by Volpone and this makes her take the matter to court where she didn't win the case shows how women are noted to untrustworthy and inferior no matter how virtue they, so she appeals to heaven to expose him. We also find women as a source which men use to extort properties and this can be found where Celia decides to disclose Corvino for prostituting her out to Volpone in other to gain his riches and he uses Celia as the

medium for this. In the character of Lady would-be, she is a repulsive female stereotype. In contrast to Celia, who is confined to her home, Lady Would-be is given a lot of freedom, roaming Venice freely. She is an extreme talkative and well educated. She is skilled with language and makes constant literary references and Volpone finds it's annoying and sees her as a woman who has no regards. In the play we find two types of women been portrayed that been controlled and humiliated by the husband and that who's well-educated and has great principles this makes men have get respect for her but hides under the shell of her been so annoying.