

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

TOPIC

PRESENTATION ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY

**AN ASSIGNMENT WRITTEN IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE
COURSE: ELS 240 (MODERN COMEDY: MOLIÈRE TO SOYINKA)**

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On the presentation of Gender and sexuality in two modern comic work, will be looking at **Wole Sonyinka's "THE LION AND THE JEWEL"** and **Machiavelli's "MANDRAGOLA"**.

There's this belief in Africa that women gender are of weaker cell to compare to the male gender. Also it is believed that women are sex tools for the comfort of the male gender anytime, also that the main objective of the female gender is to born, breed children, cook and attend to his husband needs in a family, this belief have already taken root in some of our contemporary female gender today.

In Sonyinka's "The lion and Jewel", the female gender is presented as been weaker, as sex object, as some kind of property owned by the male gender, it is also presented as thou their only work is to born and bear children for their husbands. We can see this in the conversation between lankunle and Sidi...

Lankunle: An ignoble custom, infamous, ignominious

Shaming our heritage before the world.

Sidi, I do not seek a wife

To fetch and carry,

To cook and scrub,

To bring forth children by the gross....

Sidi: Heaven forgive you! Do you now scorn

Child bearing in a wife?

The women in the two comic work contradicts their initial belief on their morality and sex at the end having been faced with much more appealing and the pressures from the male figure, thus, the male gender are seen as having influence over the female gender if they continued in their deceptive ploy.

In Machiavelli's "Mandragola" the male gender is seen as been domineering over the female gender once they continued in their deceit ploy. We can see this in the way Callimaco carries out his plans by having sexual intercourse with Lucrezia. And her husband reluctantly allows his wife to cuckold him because he desires a son and a heir.

In conclusion, gender and sexuality are prominent themes in modern comedy.