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Representation of gender and sexuality in the J.P Clark`s *The Wives` Revolt* and Efua .T.Sutherland *The Marriage of Anansewa*.

Gender is a social and cultural construct of what constitutes being a “man” or a “ woman ” based on the characteristics that a society or culture perceives to be masculine or feminine, while Sexuality is a central feature of being human that is deeply individualized, it includes sexual feelings ,thought, attractions, preferences and sometimes behaviour.

In some societies “Gender” and “sexuality” is a criterion for ownership of property, have a share/say in the community, as means of acquiring wealth, jobs and duties, as commodity and object of sexual satisfaction.

Gender and Sexuality as presented in *The Wives` Revolt* and *The Marriage of Anansewa*

In *The Wives` Revolt*, Erhuwaren men sees women as not qualify to have a share in the money given to the community by the oil company operating in their land rather the sees the money as mens` money because the believes that a duty of a good woman is to take care of the husband and children and not to have share in the community money as depicts in the Okoro`s announcement on how the oil companies` money is shared into three ,he says “...this sum , after due debate in the town hall, has been shared out in three equal parts , one going to the elders of the town, the second to the men in all their the age group and the third by no means the least to the

women also in all their age grade..”, They sees it that it is a duty of a woman to take care of her husband and children as any woman who fails in that duty is not a good wife as he continues”...However , our women folk led by a reckless ones ,fed up with doing simple duties for their husband and children as a befit good housewives..”(pg1)

Also women were seen as a witchcraft, the rearing of Goat is banned in Erhuwaren , because, it is the women that rears Goats and the men believes that women turns into a goats in the night but, Pigs rears by men that destroys the women crops were not banned as portrays in *The Wives` Revolt* in Okoro`s dialogue with his wife Koko ,he tells her “..Kama saw Ono changing into a Goat, that`s how he hit the floor grabbing at her as she change form before his very eyes” (pg5).

Men sees themselves as superior over women and as an object of sexual satisfaction in the sense that the only weapon a woman have as a wife over her husband is to starve him and deny him of sex which they can easily get on the street from other woman with money and man is entitle to marry as many wives as possible which a woman is denied of as depicts in *The Wives` Revolt*, Okoro tells the wife “.. But whatever thing can you do ? ban us from your beds ?that won`t work either for we `ll only invite the women on the road into town by popular demand”(pg11)

Gender is also a standard for property ownership , women were seen as object to be owned and not to own and when the owner is tied he can dispose it and not allow to have anything as depicts in *The Wives` Revolt* ,the only thing women have which is goats were banned in the land and Okoro sending her wife packing vows that she moves out with nothing as he says”

none as she dressed up she comes ,and all worn out she goes”(pg47)

When a woman beats a man, it is considered as a crime but a man can go free when he beats a woman as portrays in *The Wives` Revolts* when Koko is fighting with the husband Okoro and she happen to be on top of the him when hear the voice of Idama she make the husband to be on top of her so that she will not pay file for beating her husband (pg53).

Women were seen as a commodity which can be sell and buy with money .I n *The Marriage of Anansewa* , Ananse , uses emotional blackmail to initiate his daughter Anansewa into his plan of auctioning her by exploiting aspiring suitors and highest pay gets the commodity . Ananse uses the opportunity of her daughter who has been sent out of school for not paying her school fees pressured her to go behind a camera for a click which he uses her different postured picture of her to market her . Reluctantly but helpless Anansewa speaks “...oh! My father is selling me ,he is selling me ... I will not let you sell me like some parcel to a customer, I will select my lover myself . I will not take part in any photograph engagement” (pg19) and the men also brings money because the see her as a

commodity that can be bought with money in which the chief who is the chief that has the highest amount marries her.

There is a saying that men are easily carried away by what they see and women by what they hear, In *The Marriage of Anansewa*, the men make Ananse rich just by mere seeing his daughter's pictures and Anansewa feeling in love with Chief who is Chief just by hearing his name and his fame (pg16)

Also women were seen as an object that men can use to acquire wealth as depicted in *The Marriage of Anansewa*, the crafty Mr, George K. Ananse uses his 20years old daughter Anansewa to acquire wealth from the rich men whom he promises the hand of the daughter in marriage. The men shower him with gifts and money as he boasts " you see? They are beginning to salute me. They are calling me sir..." (39).

In conclusion, gender and sexuality is prominent as depicted in the two texts.