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**AN ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF MODERN COMEDY:MOLIERE TO SOYINKA**

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TOPIC

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

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Presentation of gender and sexuality in the lion and the jewel by Wole Soyinka and mandragola by Nicolo Machiavelli.

Presentation of gender and sexuality in the lion and the jewel ,this play portrays the male gender as the superior over female gender that why Baroka is seen as the lion in the play while Sidi is the jewel.Baroka being the lion depicts male superiority over the female gender while Sidi is represented as the jewel which any man that has the money can easily come and purchase it .

In this play it revolves around the two men who falls in love with Sidi,Lakunle is a school teacher who hates everything about tradition that's why he wants to marry Sidi without paying her bride price while Baroka is an old chief in ilujinle who is a traditionalist and hates modern way of life.

Women gender is being subjugated by the men in the sense that all the women's in this play are just seen as a jewel they don't have to express their thought in any matter but they are living according to the instructions of the men's which they cannot question, as we can see in the case of Baroka who had two wives and was also planning on getting married to Sidi somebody he is old enough to be her father,Baroka as the head of the family does not seek the opinion of his wives in whatever he is doing that's why in the play he told his favourite wife who is pulling his armpit hair that very soon she will not be the person to do that work again it will be the work of his new wife whom he is about to marry, this place shows us that he did not care about his wives feeling whether she wants him to marry new wives or not that's why he did not seek their opinion, when he said

You have not time my dear

Tonight i hope to take another wife

And the honour of this task you know

Belongs by right to my latest choice.

This shows us that when Baroka gets a new he will focus all his attention on the new one.

Baroka after seeing Sidi falls in love with her, without asking Sidi for her hand in marriage starts circulating information, to tell you that there is nothing he wants which he cannot get unless he has not desired it.Baroka sends his first

wife Sadiku to go and tell Sidi that he wants to her to be his own jewel and also promised her that he will not marry another wife after her that's means she will be her last bale. Sadiku after telling Sidi her mission when she saw that Sidi don't want to be Barokas wife she should atleast come for super at his house because there is a feast in her honour for bringing fame to the people of ilujinle still yet Sidi rejected because she knows that anybody who had super with Baroka becomes his wife the following morning.

Baroka in other to achieve his plan by sleeping with Sidi lied to Sadiku, who did not use to keep her mouth shut by telling her that he is now impotent that there is no need deceiving himself when he is no longer a man that he only wanted to marry Sidi because she is still a virgin, young and with hot blood that will rise his failing strength and also warns her not to parade with his shame without Sadiku knowing that it was only a trick but wants to have his way with Sidi. Sadiku went straight and told Sidi the news which they are all happy about it, because of this Sidi decided to go and mock him. Baroka pretended as if he did not see Sidi when she entered his room, he started pretending to be weak in the play he was playing, Baroka asked his servant to serve them with palm wine. Baroka in other to have sex with Sidi started by telling her all the thing he was going to do for her as a result Sidi begins to be weak he continues with his trick until Sidi falls on his shoulder and he had sex with her, Sidi on waking up discovered what happened went home and brought her clothes and the play ended when they got married.

Presentation of gender and sexuality in *Mandragola*. All men in this play are presented as being superior. We see male gender as those who are ruled by passion and their desires and they do everything possible to fulfil this desire while the female gender is presented as being weaker sex, they are only used as sex objects against their own will by the men as in the case of Lucrezia. The play is about the story of Callimaco, a young Florentine who lived in Paris for 20 years. One day he overheard a fellow Florentine tell the Parisians about a woman of extraordinary beauty back in Tuscany. Compelled to see her for himself, Callimaco returned to his native land. Once he saw her beauty he was determined to have her. There are several problems to his plan however. The first is that the woman, Lucrezia, is married and the second that her virtue seems above reproach. Callimaco enlisted the help of Ligurio, a rascally marriage broker who had had dealings with Lucrezia and her husband Nicia. Ligurio devises plans to allow Callimaco to have his moment of bliss with Lucrezia.

Pretending to be a doctor, Callimaco assures Nicia, whom is without an heir and desperately wants it that the ingestion of a potion made from the

mandrake root will result in pregnancy. Nicia accepts the advice, complete with the consequence that the first man to sleep with the woman who takes the potion

will die the next day. With Nicia's money, Ligurio and Callimaco enlist the help of the friar.

Nicia also has his desire to have an heir that's why he told Lucrezia to sleep with another man, women are represented as the weaker sex, they are only being used as a sex object. Lucrezia hates the idea of sleeping with another man but she has to succumb to the husband desire because women are seen to be submissive to their husband, Lucrezia accepted to take the potion and sleep with another man at first, so that he might draw out the poison. Though her conscience is heavy, but she cannot do anything about it.

Nicia is persuaded to capture a young man (Callimaco in disguise) in the street at night and bring him in to take upon himself the fatal effects of the drug. The affair goes according to plan: Callimaco gets his night with the lovely Lucrezia and Nicia will have his heir. Nicia, however, is ignorant to the fact that the potion was simply a ploy to allow another man to sleep with his wife. Worse yet for Nicia, he is also unaware of the fact that this plot was revealed to his wife the morning after and she has happily accepted Callimaco as her young lover.

Lucrezia is led to believe, with her husband, that the root potion is a sure means to a child. the plot revolves around the desires of all the men's in the play callimaco who did everything possible in other to sleep with Lucrezia which he achieved, Nicia also has his desire to have an heir, Ligurio to get some kind of profit out of the deal, Lucrezia was forced to sleep with the man in other to have a child and follow the will of God, and Timoteo to make a profit by being shrewder than everyone else. In order to fulfil their desires, the characters use cunning and deception.

The play has a happy ending, as all characters are satisfied with the new arrangement: Callimaco has the object of his desire and messer gave them the key to his house to be visiting anytime they want, Ligurio has a place to stay and eat, Nicia will no doubt have an heir, Lucrezia has a new love, and Timoteo has his money and the satisfaction of knowing that he outsmarted everyone else.