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REG. NO. : 2015/201245

DEPT: ARTS EDUCATION (EDU/ENGLISH)

MODERN COMEDY ASSIGNMENT

TOPIC: THE PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN LION AND THE JEWEL BY WOLE SOYINKA AND VOLPONE BY BEN JOHNSON.

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities connected with being male and female, the relationship between women and men and girls and boys and the relations between women and human being. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and assessed in a woman or a man in giving setting.

Gender equally refers to the equal right, obligations and opportunities of adult females human races, girls and male children but in most cases, gender inequality is the order of the day, which gotten from this mentality that ‘man is superior to women and therefore is the weaker sex’.

Gender equally is attained when the different behaviour, dreams and needs of adult females and human races are as respected and privileged and do not give rise to different event that reinforces in equalities.

Sexuality has to do with the feeling of attraction one feels towards other people. One of them is the literary representation of the female body in relation to that of the male, the second one is the way that these women respond to these figuration of early modern comedies. It seen that which is characterised by sex or sexual activity.

In most African societies, the female gender is subdued and reduced as a sex object and culturally seen as objects of sexual satisfaction to serve others and seek definition through being secondary to men and only good to domestic chores. Then I will discuss these two terms (gender and sexuality) in Wole Soyinka’s “The lion and the jewel”.

In lion and the jewel, Baroka is portrayed as someone that is gender and sexually conscious. He is known to be very crafty, a fox, married to many wives with numerous concubines. He sees women as being under them and such he objectizes them and holds the female gender as an instrument for satisfying his sexual urge and achieving his aim. This is seen in him having numerous wives and is still trying to add to their number

It is obvious that he is not struggling to marry Sidi out of love, but for his personal interest of achieving fame. Baroka is portrayed as one who uses his sweet tongue and tricks to lure women to his bed, this is gotten from Sidi’s response to Sadika when she came to invite her to come and have supper with the Lion, this bale is too old and merely ants to have her as his property. According to him, the one man who possessed the jewel of hajinle and

also knows that every woman that has a supper with Baroka one night becomes his wife the next.

In *Volpone*, female sexuality is examined in the characters of Celia the lady would-be. These characters portray and reflect the misperception and low status of women of Renaissance Literature. Celia is known in the play to be religious, good, submissive and faithful to Carvino her husband who seems to control her and watch her movements. Carvino treats her far less than a lady and far more than a prisoner by keeping her locked and kept ten guards on her at all times but Volpone vows to use disguise to get around these barriers. We see that she was sexually harassed by Volpone like when Volpone and Celia were together, Volpone greatly surprised Celia by leaping out of bed. Celia had expected an old infirm man, but what she gets instead is a lothario who attempts to seduce her with a passionate speech when she refuses Volpone's advances at which point Volpone says he will rape her but Bonario rescues her but he was wounded.