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THE CONCEPT OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY AS DEPICTED IN WOLE SOYINKA'S "THE LION AND THE JEWEL" AND BERNARD SHAW'S "PYGMALION".

Gender according to Chygs refers to the social identities, expectations and privilege different culture construct from members of the different biological sexes. Gender expectation, which vary greatly between cultures, establish the boundaries of acceptable individual social behavior, such as, dress, marriage, property rights, household duties and sexuality of one's self expression as a sexual being. Sexuality is defined as a central feature of being human, that is deeply individualized. It includes sexual feelings, thoughts, attraction, preferences and sometimes behavior. 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 masculine or feminine. In comic works like the "lion and the Jewel", and the "Pygmalion", critics have noted the roles of women as both supporting characters and lead characters who are subsistentially subjected to gender stereotypes with feminity or sexual characteristics having a larger presence in the

overall character. This feminine archetypes lacks force, strength and power. Women strong qualities have become, because of their weaknesses.

In the “lion and the jewel” by Wole Sonyinka the concepts of gender and sexuality is very prevalent. This can be seen in the case of the Ilunjule people where women are been comodified. Here a man’s wealth is measured by the number of woman he has. Baroka the Bale of Ilunjule is seen as a wealthy chief because he can marry as many woman as he likes. Though he has come of age, he still prompt to marry Sidi, the village Jewel. Through the role of marriage, the women are also seen as commodity for sale. Lakunle who persists not to pay for Sidi’s bride price as he perceives it as something outdated and retrogressive, cannot help matters for he knows that Sidi likes him but she is not willing to give in to him because of the bride price which is a very big custom in the land, and when it is not done becomes a taboo. Women through marriage also leaves their parents home and drop their paternal name to leave in the house of their husband and is a taboo when it is the other way round.

The concept of sexuality is also dominant for through the love triangle or romance triangle which revolves between Baroka the Bale and Lakunle the school teacher towards Sidi the jewel. The both have feelings for Sidi, they were attracted to her, she seems to like Lakunle, but she waits on fate to decides. Lakunle the school teacher made some empty promises to Sidi in other to catch her attention,

he promises Sidi that he will take her to the city and change her life to that of the modern woman as he feels that will entice the native Sidi. Baroka on the other hand applies his own trick, by telling his wife Sadiku that he is important as he wants to capitalize on such medium to get Sidi. He also made promises to Sidi as he vows not to take another wife and to take Sidi as his most respectable wife.

In Benard Shaw's "Pygmalion" which he names after a Greek mythological figure, he analyses on gender weirdness in the play. The play is a romantic comedy and highlighted much on social criticism. This play is a sharp lampoon of the rigid British class system of the day and a commentary on women's independence. At the inception of the play Mrs. Higgins is horrified by the idea that her son to bring a flower girl into her home, this makes her to grow so sympathetic and emotional to Liza. As a mother and also as a lady she is the first to voice a concern for what will be done with Liza after they have observed the idea that her training makes her unmarriageable by any man on the social strata. Higgins and his mother on occasional basis have a misunderstanding, as to the profession and Mrs. Pearce. Freddy and Liza also gets along in a healthier way than Liza just beings a subordinate to him.

The relationship of the opposite sex in this play as been depicted by shaw is very hostile and deragatory. Women were also regarded as a property and as an assets to which the man has awesome control at his convenient time. Eliza's father

not being exceptional is factual as he sells Eliza to Higgins as if she is a commodity.

The struggle elevates when Higgins suggest that Eliza should marry. As Eliza is hook in dilemma, for she has no power to make her own decision concerning her own dear life but she has to depend on Higgins suggestion. This really shows the inequality of the sexes as been greater than the inequality that exist between classes. Eliza who insistently opted to go for work is been battled against for it was degrading for woman to earn their own living.

In no distant time, Eliza rebel against Higgins by tossing slippers at him as a verge for courage and to reinforce against oppressions, and Higgins domineering attitude. Her behavior depicts woman who struggle for their rights against unfavourable role placed on them by the society.

In conclusion, Gender and sexuality which is apparent in the above works is also seen as a concept which is counterproductive, as it very vivid in these works, for the woman whom such effect always cut into dares to succumb or oppose.