

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

TOPIC:

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

**A TERM PAPER PREPARED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE COURSE ELS 240 (COMEDY: MOLIERE TO SOYINKA)**

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GENDER AND SEXUALITY AS REVEALED IN “OUR HUSBAND HAS GONE MAD AGAIN” AND “WIVES REVOLT”

The story of “our husband has gone mad again” tells the story of a man (Lejoka-Brown) who was running for position in the country through his party: Nigerian Liberation Party (NLP). Lejoka-Brown was a former major but as a result of his inability to keep his home front in perfect harmony and his strictness to the military strategy which irritates the member of his party, he loses the opportunity of being able to attain the position in the country he had been preparing to achieve.

Gender as is in this work reveals the females as subjected by the males. In the house of Mr Brown, his two wives: Mama Rashida and Sikira (before the arrival of Lisa) are presented as completely subject to their husband. He is their “lord” and “master” until Lisa arrives and turn the hands of power in Mr Brown’s house making a huge influence and both Sikira and even Mama Rashida.

From the following words by both Sikira and Mama Rashida, we can see this respect for their Husband. In response to Mr Lejoka- Brown’s comment on his friend, Okonkwo, just returned from England, Sikira says: Ooh no. my lord, I wasn’t thinking so. In another instance, the Women reply: We will, my lord. They show complete respect for their husband and are in subjection to his desires. They run errands like though they were his servants. This is seen in the attitude of Sikira when she is told to do something for the Master; she does quickly without any

complaint. Lejoka-Brown as already stressed is presented as their “Lord” and “Master” rather than been their husband.

This role of Master and servant is broken when Lisa-the wife Lejoka-Brown marries in the United states-arrives. Unlike the other women, Lisa is presented as one who can chase the “Master” around. She orders him to take the snake called “Freedom” from underneath her Bed and he does so only with slight argument, she threatens to file for divorce but he pleads with her to remain in the relationship while he works on being elected president. So Lisa presents the literate lady that is not subject to a man as a result of her experience of the American life.

At Lisa’s arrival the status-quo is broken when she says “Men and Women are all created equal”, although she says this unsuspectingly, yet Lisa holds unto this words and stand up against her husband’s authority, she eventually moves out and becomes the new candidate running for president.

We then see that Women as revealed in this work are supposed to be subject to Men traditional, even Lisa is tried to be put under this subjection when Lejoka-Brown says “I swear, I’m going to do my best to treat you well in this house because no matter what, you are still my wife, and I will remain Head”. Although he is polite in this assertion but he reveals the traditional role of men as being “Head” and Women should be subject to them.

In “Importance of being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde, there is a different representation of Gender and Sexuality. The work talks about the story of two young men Algernon and Jack who in a bid to achieve their different aims invent Non-living individuals. They both do this to escape from responsibility at the End of the work they both get their desires not without going through a series of event before getting to the point of their aim being achieved.

The Female gender representative of Lady Bracknel also known as Aunt Augusta is presented as strong and able to wield the men at her hands. She wields her young cousin Algernon making him do as she desires, she wields her daughter: Gwendolen and even Jack who desires to get married to Gwendolen, Lady Bracknel is presented as a strong Woman and one that is not subject to any man not even her Husband who is revealed to us as weak and sickly. Although we never see him in action in the play yet we see him as presented as subject to lady Bracknel his wife.

Lady Bracknel is not the only representation of strength in a Woman, even her daughter Gwendolen is also presented as strong and not subject to any man. She tells Jack with all boldness to propose to her and at her command he does this. Gwendolen is so bold that she disobeys her mother’s order of remaining in the coach and returns to speak to Jack. As the traditional role of a young ladies relationship to her mother, Gwendolen is supposed to remain in the coach but she

disobeys her mother's instruction. Gwen takes the nature and character of her mother and seems to resemble her mother in this nature of assertiveness.

The men in this work are presented as subject to the female folk while the women representative of Lady Bracknell, her daughter: Gwendolen and even Cecily Cardew are presented as strong and not subject to the men. Cecily tells Algernon that she "Earnest". Therefore the Women are presented here as strong not subjected to the traditional roles of subjection to the Male folk.