

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

TOPIC:

THE PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND
SEXUALITY IN ANY TWO MODERN COMIC WORK
AN ASSIGNMENT WRITTEN IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE COURSE ELS: 240
(MODERN COMEDY)

BY

NAME: ODO NKECHINYERE LINDALINE

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LECTURER: MR. ODO ONYEKA

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Gender is the range characteristics that a society or culture delineates as masculine or feminine. Gender is culture based. It can also refer to socially constructed roles and relationships between men and women. It concerns men and women and both femininity and masculinity. In most of the communities men were often perceived as the dominant sex; women were just asked to perform in the kitchen and please their spouse believing that they will get married someday. While the man will be asked to be brave believing also that he will be the head of the family one day.

Sexuality describes the whole way a person goes about expressing himself or herself as a sexual being. It also describes how important sexual expression is in a person's life, how one chooses to express that sexuality and any preference one may have towards the type of sexual partner they choose.

In the *Lion and the Jewel* by Wole Soyinka, it can be said that Soyinka consciously and unconsciously has presented male character (Baroka) as strong, powerful and metaphorically as a lion, a symbol of irresistible power. They are also portrayed as initiator, doer of something, and commander in Chief, the king. While the female counterparts Sidi and Sidikou are represented as a goal and or beneficiaries of men's actions and associated with process of sensing and emotion.

In the play women are presented to play domestic role opposed to them by men who are so authoritative.

Lakunle is a village teacher, who speaks to Sidi on how women are to be child bearers, pound yams, fetch and carry water etc. in the play there is male dominated society.

Men marry as many as possible wives as they want and also enjoy sex from their numerous wives. Baroka marries many wives in the play and he also wants to take Sidi as a wife which he decided to use tricks but later succeeds at the end.

While in *Moliere Tartuffe* is otherwise, in most of the traditional Comedy, men are presented to be masculine women on the other hand are presented to belong to home.

As it was in the *Lion and the Jewel* by Soyinka where women are ruled by men and by their emotions and therefore were thought to often make bad decisions.

Therefore *Moliere Modern Comic work Tartuffe* presents a contrary view on gender and sexuality. *Tartuffe*, functions not just as religious satire but also a satire

characters to critique the social structure that oppose females unfairly, and through the female characters demonstrates that female are capable of much more.

After all, it is the female character that utilizes logic and cunning to bring out Tartuffe's unmasking and succeeds where the male failed to do so and Orogon understands that he has been acting foolishness.