

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA  
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**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION (EDUCATION ENGLISH)**

**TOPIC:**

**THE PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN  
ANY OF THE TWO MODERN COMI WORK.**

**AN ASSIGMENT WRITTEN IN PARTIAL FULFUI LMENT OF THE  
COURSE ELS 240(MODERN COMEDY)**

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

One of the modern comic work in which gender and sexuality is been presented is in the play “The Marriage of Anansewa” written by Efua T. Sutherland. In this play we have the character Ananse the father of Anansewa and the main character of the play. The issue of gender and sexuality comes in, in this play in the area of the character Ananse who uses the daughter Anansewa a female gender to extort money from the four well known chiefs in their society to enrich himself. This can be seen at the beginning of this play where we were told that Ananse travelled all around looking for wealthy chiefs and presenting his daughters picture to them and also telling them that she was single and ready for marriage, the four chiefs were interested because she is very beautiful and also an opposite gender of theirs. Ananse came back and deceived his daughter into typing letters that she did not know was for her own marriage even though she was on her way out to visit a friend. Among the four chiefs three of them were married not just with a wife but wives and despite all that, they were still interested in Anansewa expect for Chief-Who-Is-Chief who was not yet married and he was the one whom Anansewa was interested in but she never known that her father Ananse kept on collecting gifts and all things from the remaining three chiefs which lead to a problem because the four chiefs fixed the same date for when they will be coming for the marriage of Anansewa whom they have been sending money and other gifts to for her up keep although she was not aware of that but her father being the master planner from the beginning still devised a means of sorting this problem by telling Anansewa his daughter to pretend to be dead with the intension that the voice of her true husband will raise her or bring her back from the dead, this she did and did it perfectly and at the end she ended up getting married to Chief-Who-Is-Chief whom she loves and also the

father Ananse was not left out because being a poor person at the beginning of the play he later became impoverished, he even painted his house and changed the ceiling of the building, he started going to church again because he now has money for offering and also he was able to buy suit and dress like a rich man and all these he was able to acquire because of his daughter Anansewa who was a female gender and not a male gender because if Anansewa was meant to be a male gender Ananse the father would not have been able to extort money from the chiefs because they would not have any interest in a male gender like them because they will have nothing to gain at the end and Ananse would have remained poor throughout.

Another modern comic work in which gender and sexuality is been presented is in the play ‘Lion and the Jewel’ written by Wola Soyinka although in this play Soyinka does not consciously seem to try to talk about gender but he does so. In this play Soyinka creates two female characters that are sassy, manipulative and independent but on the other hand both of them are ultimately manipulated or used to some end in the games of men. Sidi the jewel in the play and one of the female characters created by Soyinka is a superficial but beautiful young woman in the village of Ilujinle and she is been coveted by Lakunle a smart but arrogant schoolteacher who reprimand Ilujinle for its backwards views and he believes that women are naturally inferior to men, Sidi initially agrees to marry Lakunel even though she does not care for him but she is frustrated that he will not pay her bride price and he has so many modern ideas but Baroka the lion and leader of the village came into the picture after he saw Sidi’s picture on the magazine and released that it has been long since he married a new wife, he picked interest and went for Sidi and covets her but she refused but Baroka tricked and rapes her and then gets to marry her so she is an object and nothing more. Also Sadiku the senior wife of Baroka who

wanted to use Sidi to destroy Baroka was also tricked and manipulated and this helped Baroka to subdue Sidi and acquire her as one of his wives. This play presents the female gender as nothing but an object or something inferior that you can get whenever you need it and use them as you like. Baroka, despite all the wives he has he was not satisfied he still wants to have the young Sidi all to himself not minding that he was very much older than Sidi and also had sex or raped her even before getting married to her which was as a result of the rape that led Sidi into marrying him, that is although they got married at the end which was what Baroka wished or wanted from the beginning but for Sidi the female gender since she was left with no other option due to because she has been deflowered by Baroka she married him not because she wanted to. That is during this period the female gender were forced into doing things, they were never allowed to do things the way it pleases them but the male gender were free and was placed above the female gender.