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TOPIC

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

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ABSTRACT

The concept is unconnected with the fact that women's role are undermined in the world. Many comic works have been written to show the roles females' plays in a stereotyped world and the female's sexuality in the society. This work captures the attention from the work Wole Soyinka's *Lion and the Jewel* and EFUA sutherland's *The Marriage of Anansewa*. They x-ray how women are seen as goods to be sold and bought.

INTRODUCTION

GENDER

The modern English word 'gender' comes from the latin word 'genu' which means 'kind', 'type' or 'sort'.

The word 'gender' was initially used simply as an alternative to sex as a biological category, over the years, it has curved out a more in-depth meaning.

Gender refers to features or personalities possessed by male and female which differentiate them from each other. Simply put, gender is the state of being male or female.

The gender system which specifies certain roles for men and women is a creation of societal norms of a community or the culture of a people. No individual is born into the world with a script specifying one's role in life but society specifies set down roles for male which differs from the female and sets them apart right from childhood,

The phenomenon, gender, is a controversial one and has given rise to other concepts such as gender roles, gender inequality. Gender identity among others.

Gender roles as stated earlier are stereotyped responsibilities, attitude and characteristics placed on the male and female which sets them apart. For example,

society believes that women are fragile, weak and emotional while their male counterparts are strong and practical. These roles are so fixed that society frowns on any abnormality to these roles gender identification refers to personality identification with a gender and gender role in the society.

Gender inequality is a result of societal and cultural norms which restrict a certain sex from peculiar roles. In a male domineering world, the female usually get restricted from roles, functions and achievements.

Sexuality

According to oxford advanced learner's dictionary 'sexuality' refers to 'the things people do, think, and feel that are related to their sexual desires'.

Sexuality is sexual feelings and attractions one feel towards other people.

Sexuality pertaining to women hood deals with a wide range behavior and processes. These includes concepts such as sexual behavior, sexual identity and the role of social, cultural and religious institutions on sexual activity over the years, women are seen as sexual being and a sex relief. This belief has lead to disastrous effects on women such as sexual abuse, domestic violence and disregard for women as a human being.

Aspects of female sexuality include issues relating to biological sex, body image, sexual orientation, value, gender role and communication in our society.

Plot synopsis

In Lion and the Jewel is a comedy set in the small remote village of Ilujinle. There are three central characters Lankunle, an eager but naïve school teacher who accepts western ideas and modernity without really understanding them he tells Sidi that he will not pay her brideprice. Baroka, the village Chief, who sees modern idea as a threat to his power, and Sidi, the jewel of the village, a beautiful woman who will choose one of the men for a husband. The characters are overstated. Lankunle arrogant and talks too much, and Baroka is cunning, but they are ultimately unlikable. At the end, the men will have to deal with each other. As Baroka says, "the old must flow into the new".

In *the marriage of Anansewa*, Ananse an old rogue who wants to make as much money as possible by marrying off his daughter Anansewa. He promised her to four different chiefs at the same time. The chiefs of the mines, Togbe Kluiv, the chief of sapa, and chief who is chief. Anansewa receives gifts from all four chiefs, who are unaware of their rivals. Ananse suddenly finds himself facing a catastrophe when the chiefs all decided to come and offer the 'head drink' which will place the seal on their marriage. To get out of his difficulties, Ananse persuades Anansewa to

pretend to die, and announced her sad death to the chiefs, they respond by sending messages who tell how the chiefs would have cared for Anansewa. At the end Ananse allows chief who is chief to marry his daughter.

Gender and sexuality in lion and the jewel and marriage of Anansewa.

Wole Soyinka examines several gender issues throughout the play with lion and the jewel. One of the most significant gender issues in the plays concerns the roles of women in society. Soyinka posits how women are treated as properties in Yoruba culture through the payment of the bride price. Men are free to buy as many wives as they can afford and women occupy a lower status than men. Throughout the play, women are valued for their outward appearance and sexuality. Sidi becomes relevant only when her beauty is displayed in a foreign magazine, and Sadiku reminisces about her days as a young woman, when she was the Bale's favourite . women are also portrayed as the less intelligent gender, which is evident in the way that the both Sidi and Sadiku falls for Baroka's trick.

The image of women as portrayed to most plays a female character whose sole ambition and inspiration in life revolves around marriage and procreation. She inspires to perform these natural roles efficiently and any contrary aspiration and conduct by a woman is condemned, the man is encouraged to fulfill and actualize himself while the woman is content to remain in the hearth as wife and mother.

Those roles saddle her with the responsibilities of producing, nurturing children and taking of the home. Right from childhood she is constantly reminded of these duties so that by the time she reaches adulthood, she comes to accept them.

Efua Sutherland's 'the marriage of Anansewa' met a man called Ananse. Ananse plans to give his daughter, Anansewa, in marriage to four different chiefs to amass wealth by collecting money and gifts from them. Meanwhile, Anansewa was not aware of her father plans, she cries out in exasperation.. "oh! My father is selling me... like some parcel to a customer". She resist but her father uses intimidation and blackmail to force her into submission.

Women are presented as a means act of poverty Ananse's plan to use his door to escape from abject poverty further portrays the subjugation of women.

Women are also presented as voiceless, she can't even choose her own husband. She relies on her father for the life partner.

CONCLUSION

These two plays are the microcosm of larger society which the playwrights capture. It does not reflect the hard working and self- assured woman but women as objects to be sold and bought at will which requires thorough examination before paid for it. Women are not seen as being sacrosanct beings that never depicted facts of life.

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