



Sexism And Culture: Perspectives on Contemporary Yoruba Wedding Ceremonies

Olojede, Adejoke. M., Shaguy, Abosede O. & Aluko, Janet .O.

Department of Languages, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract

The liberation of women from diverse sexist encumbrances is an unending discourse. Much has been done in this regard over the decades through feminism, changing the narrative in various aspects of life for women all over the world. Yet, there is more to be done as sexist perspectives are intricately woven in the fabric of society and women in the African society have perhaps had the shortest end of the stick for too long. The Yoruba nation is essentially patriarchal as men have had the male super ordination and female subordination (Ubrurhe 1999: 82) for centuries. Scholars have examined the many factors that informed these sexist biases, helping society to understand the ‘why’ of these limitations and how they can be subdued or eradicated in all spheres of the woman’s life. In recent times, we are witnessing some seemingly insignificant but definite changes in Yoruba wedding ceremony rites, as a result of the ongoing consciousness and discourses. This paper discusses sexism as portrayed in some of the rites in traditional Yoruba weddings as well as their adopted Christian wedding ceremonies. How these practices are being modified contemporarily to acknowledge the role of women in the family and celebrate them as duly deserved.

Keywords: Yoruba, Sexist culture, Women, Feminism, Wedding rites.