### Stories and memoir analyses

1.The roles of women in Africa are changing. Sundiata provides that gender roles are specific and defined in the Malian society with the roles of women being cooking meals, taking care of the children and in the aspect of farming, taking care of livestock with men responsible for providing what to cook with and maintaining the house’s structure among others. The book depicts that women are seen as unequal to men and are defined only in relation to the positions men they are attached with holds. The book maintains that people in the society are polygamous in nature and is a patriarchic society with little powers and rights to women and are not allowed to hold any official position.

The argument that the role of women changed in Sundiata can be seen where the power women had was embedded in the knowledge they had gained via various experiences and how they use this knowledge as evidenced by Sassouma Berete who used her craftiness and knowledge in spreading rumors about Sogolon to create an offensive atmosphere. Women have control over some properties but as said earlier, were still not allowed to assume official positions in Mali as Sassouma Berete even wondered “what would become of her if her son were disinherited” (Ref-A1B2C3) which evidenced that a woman with no affiliation to a powerful male figure would have little or no privilege. Sassouma Berete is regarded as “all powerful” (Ref-D4E5F6) after she assumed the position of the ruler through her son upon Maghan Kom Fatta’s death but she was not involved in any decision making which was official. Sassouma’s daughter Nana is another example of a woman who did something different in Sundiata. She takes action, although not completely and betrayed her husnabnd whom she was forcefully married to. The major role women play in this novel not in relation to man is the role of a witch who were described to be old womenand reduced to be “hags”with their leader described as “dangerous” (Ref-G7H8I9). The broader implication of these is that subsequently, women want more than being child bearers and doing the house chores and would continue to strive to be what they want to be outside the duty of being homemakers.

## 3. .Elizabeth’s realization that the divine is within her started as a result of her hallucinations and thinking that someone always visited her hut in the night before she slept. The book describes her first experience like “she had just blown out the light when she had the sudden feeling that someone had entered the room…there was a swift flow of air through the room and whatever it was, moved and sat on the chair. The chair creaked slightly. Alarmed, she swung around and lit the candle. The chair was empty” (Ref-AB1CD2). These experiences continued for several nights with several dreams and an encounter with two beings, Dan and Sello whom she realtes with not on a physical level but telepathic level.

This helps Elizabeth to realize that for her to relate with Dan and Sello on a level above the physical level, the divine is within her because Dan was later revealed to be Satan and Sello has used her (Elizabeth) in destroying Dan but did not succeed. In the book, she was also regarded as god as was Sello and she came to a conclusion that “there is only one God and his name is man and Elizabeth is his prophet” (206)

4.I would assume that Bofane uses satire to write the Congo Inc rather than the use of realistic novels because he is directly criticizing his own country and to show his sense of humor and horror “as his virtual avatar Congo Bololo, Isookanga wants it all: minerals, petrol, water, land. Everything is ripe for the taking. In order to reach his goal, he advocates war and all its corollaries: bombings, ethnic cleansing, population displacement, slavery” (Ref-DJ7H2K). Bofane in an interview explains that as a child, he lived with his step father on a coffee plantation which was where he watched horror movies first and in one of those movies, a line which was spoken by a child “You are next” prompted him to create a similar character in Congo Inc, a child-witch character. He aim, he explains was to give the Congolese their identity and remind them to renounce the existing oppressive systems

5.The tension and transformation Dennis Brutus talked about in his memoir and poems is his desire to stop apartheid and restore his nation (South Africa) to its former glory. According to him Dennis Brutus in his memoir, apartheid occurred in South Africa around 1920s where the British established “reserves” “really not unlike the racial segregation that was happening in the U.S. So, I grew up in Port Elizabeth in a segregated area for coloreds” (Ref-A1B2C3). One of the things Dennis fought for the most was the inclusion of South Africans in the soccer ball game played in the Olympics. He explains in his memoir that was born as a result of being cynically regarded as a “future springboks” (Ref-D4E5F6) by a white man. Dennis confronted apartheid in sports, education and even housing. Concerning apartheid in sports, Denis questioned the officials on what the terms are for the blacks to participate in the Olympic games and when things were going to change. He posited “everything is whie, run by whites white schools and gyms, the stadium, they are all segregated and the money is there. The black kids are playing on fields with broken glass and beer cans what is going to happen to that?” in their response, they said that the blacks would come later.

7. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is known to be one of the countries blessed with a lot of natural resources such as oil, minerals, gold, water on the surface of the earth with about 2.3 million square kilometers. This country which is blessed with all of these resources is one of the poorest countries in the world which can be said to be attributed to instability in the country and unemployment. Due to the natural resources wealth of Congo, there has been exploitation of the country’s mineral wealth for several decades which is one of the reasons it is considered as a poor country. In the Eastern side of the Democratic Republic of Congo, there have been the sale of country’s natural resources especially the gold and coltan which is a necessary resource needed in making mobile phones to illegally sponsor and finance groups which are against the established government and also fund insurgency.

The citizens of Congo are also to blame for the endemic situation of their country because has the book suggested “Kiro dreamed of a Congo made peaceful by napalm, where all that needed to be done was to exploit the riches of the subsoil”. This is also evident where Zhang Xia, a Chinese brings a computer disc that contained an information regarding the usefulness of the natural resources of Congo that was to be exploited. Money gotten by the Republic of Congo in profit of its natural wealth is often used to cause conflicts.

Another reason for the country’s poverty is as a result of the civil unrest and political instability in the country which is the reason for corrupt governance and human right abuses in the country. Issokanga, who dreams of a becoming rich with his vision developed by exploits of an online game, “raging trade” leaves his village to make a fortune in the capital of Congo, Kinshasa.