

Correction of the Exam Paper : Théâtre Africain / 2021 – 2022

1) "The Lion and the Jewel" by Wole Soyinka does not strictly adhere to the Aristotelian unities:

1. **Unity of Action:** The play does have a central plot -- the competition between Lakunle and Baroka for Sidi's hand in marriage. However, there are several subplots and diversions that might not align with the strict Aristotelian unity of action.

2. **Unity of Time:** The play does not adhere to the unity of time. While the events of the play occur within a single day, they are presented out of chronological order, with the events of the "Morning" section occurring last.

3. **Unity of Place:** The play does adhere to the unity of place, as all the events occur within the village of Ilujinle.

2) Lakunle, a character in Wole Soyinka's play "The Lion and the Jewel", is often seen as alienated from his own culture due to his embrace of Western values and dismissal of traditional Yoruba culture. Here are some examples from the play that illustrate this:

1. **Education and Language:** Lakunle is a schoolteacher who was educated in Lagos, presumably in a British school. This education has given him an overblown sense of his grasp of English, which he uses to distance himself from the other villagers.

2. **Marriage Customs:** Lakunle wishes to marry Sidi and wants her to be a "modern wife". He refuses to pay Sidi's bride price, a traditional Yoruba custom, arguing that it is outdated and degrading. This refusal is a clear rejection of his own culture.

3. **Attitude Towards Tradition:** Lakunle often criticizes village life and customs, viewing them as abhorrent. However, he does seem to enjoy the

village's dance performances, suggesting a certain level of hypocrisy in his rejection of his culture.

4. **Perception of Women:** Despite advocating for gender equality, Lakunle contradicts himself by stating that women have smaller brains than men. This reflects a Western stereotype rather than a traditional Yoruba view.

In conclusion, Lakunle's alienation from his own culture is evident in his attitudes towards language, marriage customs, traditions, and gender roles. His character serves as a critique of those who blindly embrace foreign values at the expense of their own cultural heritage.