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Title:

***Knowing and Not knowing: Performing
Disability in Nigerian Films and Theatre***

@ PI LECTURE SERIES

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Outline Consideration

Aim

Research Objectives/Questions

Theoretical Framework

Research Methodology

Literature Review

Discourse of Selected paradigms

Conclusion

Aim

This study aims to interrogate the artistic construction, performance and reception of known and unknown cases of disability in selected films as it contributes to existing knowledge in African Studies.

Objectives

- To determine the extent to which African films can be explored toward conscious education of disabilities within the African context
- To evaluate how the knowledge of a physical disability or concealed mental health condition determine the portrayal and intentionality of the Auteur
- To examine audience reception to the thrusts and instructional effects of known and unknown cases of disability?
- To advance new perspective and contributions of African Studies to the ongoing debate on disability studies in Africa

Theoretical Framework - **FILM THEORY**

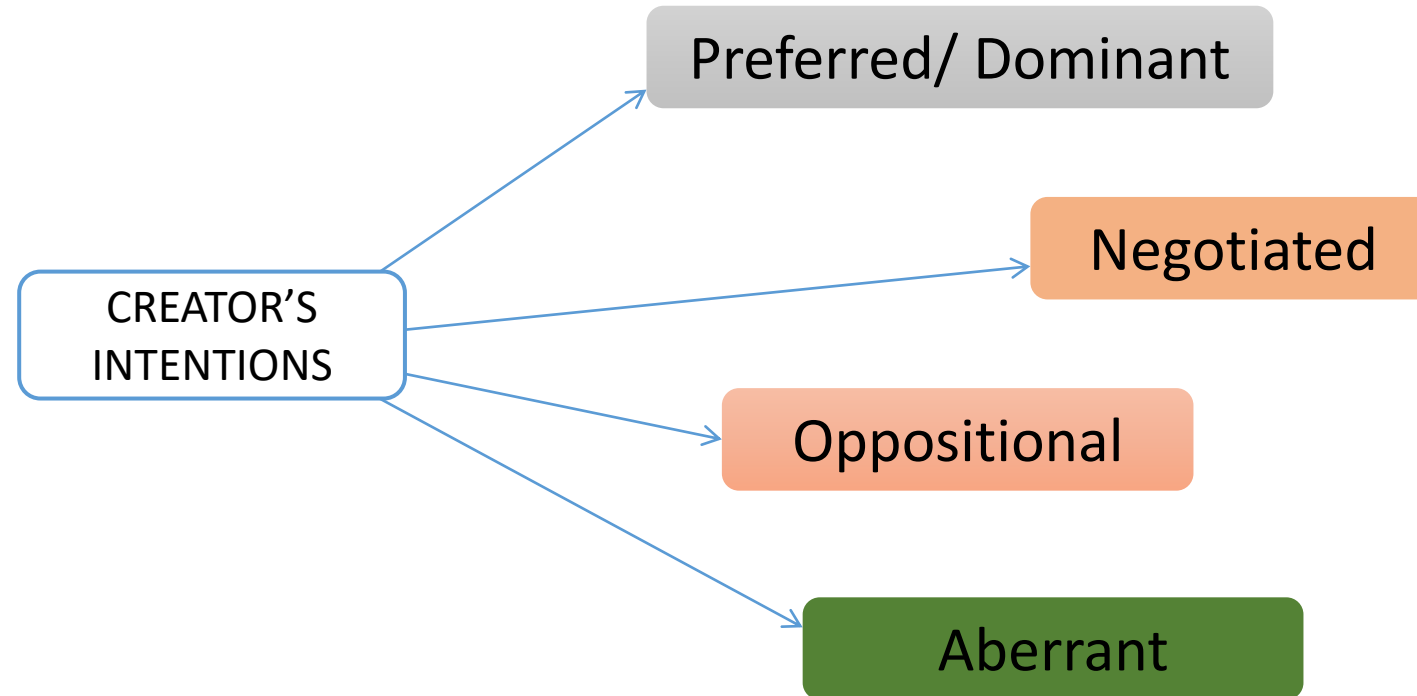
Content Analysis

Intentionality/ Subject Matter/ Thematics

Theoretical Framework - **AUDIENCE RESPONSE THEORIES**

The Reception Theory

Hans-Robert /Stuart Hall



Literature on Disability

WHO (2001): (1) The deaf, cripple or people with visual and intellectual impairments (2) people who experience difficulties in functioning as a result of myriad health conditions e.g severe mental health disorder (The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2001)

Ashley Laderer: Three aspects of disability namely (1) Impairment e.g physical disability or invisible disability such as mental health disorder. (2) Activity limitation (3) Participation restriction.

Kaplan, Deborah : (1) Social Model - indicating the presence of sin (2) The Medical Model (3) Rehabilitation Model (4) Disability Model.

(<http://www.accessiblesociety.org/topics/demographics-identity/dkaplanpaper.htm>)

Physical and Psychiartric Disabilities

Psychiatric disorder affects about 31 percent of the world's disability population, 20 to 30 percent of Nigeria's population experience mental health diorder or psychiatric disability (Akinsola, et al. 2022: 23)

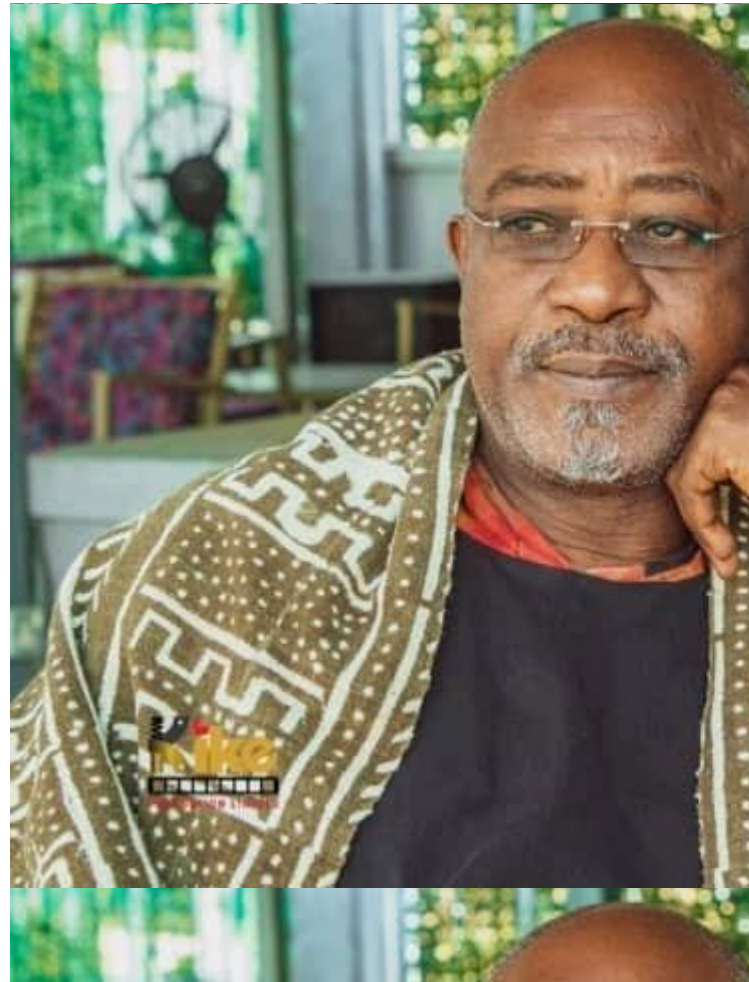
Paradigm 1: Lisilojulikana (Unknown)
Produced by: Purple Field Productions,
Directed by: Aggie Nyagari
Year: 2015/2016

Known Case of Disability



Paradigm 2 - My Name is Misan
Produced by: Judith Audu
Executive Producer: Misan Udogie
Directed by: Uyoyou Adia
Year: 2024

Unknown Case of Disability



Implications of Condition

1. Condition affected thier home and the company, children were out of school because the man could no longer attend to their needs.
2. Martins throws his wife out of the company for lack of trust
3. Bankruptcy
4. Family chaos and religious clashes.
5. Misan and Children became shattered physically and mentally.

High points - 1

Martins' life changed but no one paid attention to the transitions between the Martins of the former and that of the later.

High points - 2

There's a family history of this condition mentioned fleetingly by Martins' family but neither was medically investigated, so sufferers continued to wobble in the pain of this mental health condition.

High points - 3

The condition never improved, Martins eventually left home and never returned, seen briefly in 2015 and never again

Audience Response to Condition/ Disability

The woman's suffering was well documented and she seems to have affected every other victim against the man ... we are now at the point of psychological or emotional one-sidedness. There seems to be a situation that the man was fixated in, the drama has refused to tell the story of the man. The man just appears as a victim of his belief and whatever he was suffering from... what happens to the man? We need to begin to take a second look at the fate of men in the present day life...a man that is still under the influence of what has held him hostage cannot be said to be the one to think.
(RESPONDENT 1)

Audience Response to Condition/ Disability

Many women are going through similar challenges that Misan went through, maybe in different gravity and some of them have had to deal with health issues from this. Unfortunately, the society do not realise that what either the woman or the man is going through in such emotionally abusive marriage is a mental health issue. And when it is spoken, families try to take sides and not see through the real challenge...look beyond the personalities of the people that are affected, and seek appropriate medical health. There is space for spirituality but Nigerians tend to over spiritualise everything and therefore miss the real issue. (RESPONDENT 2)

Audience Response to Condition/ Disability

When I touched down in Canada some several years ago, and I put on the TV and they were openly talking about mental health I was shocked, and I said, in my country, that is madness. We don't talk about it, but perhaps if we were at a point where we talk about it, maybe we would not have found ourselves in this situation. But it flows both sides and I am happy that you (respondent 1) talked about the man...there is so much interconnectivity...there is a family side of both the male and female (RESPONDENT 3)

Audience Response to Condition/ Disability

This is no doubt a beautiful story but my concern is that most times we tend to criticise men based on our cultural bias and stereotypical sentiments. I am glad that this was not even a case of the man cheating, It was obvious that the man loved his family and functioned well before whatever happened to him happened. Unfortunately, his psychological or mental health state was never considered. So this story speaks to me about how we mostly jump to conclusion instead of taking the right steps. This story would probably have been different if special attention was paid to his mental health. But then again, we often don't talk about mental health in Nigeria for the fear of stigmatisation, won ani oti ya were (They will conclude that the man has gone mad. (RESPONDENT 4)

Conclusion

The difference in performing disability in film when the type of disability is known and when the condition is unknown, is conceived in the construction or representation of the writer or auteur's intentionality, the presentation of thematic thrust, twisting of the plot, the resolution of the work, and the audience's perspective reception.

Thank you