

Social Media as Resource Material for Playwriting Experimentations: Facebook Posts Examined

Eziwho Emenike Azunwo (PhD)

Department of Theatre & Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities
Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, P.M.B. 5080
Port Harcourt, Rivers State
Nigeria
Email: emenike.eziwho@ust.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

Facebook is one of the online social networking platforms which provides the user with a platform to build social relationship. The user can gather information, share and communicate. This research examines the "how" and "what" of the new media with a focus on the Facebook, using this social media platform to illustrate how plays' ideas can be generated and adapted. The drive for originality to replace the sluggish concept of playwriting has driven and motivated this research. This research adopts the content examination methodology to scrutinize playwriting in content and form in social media banter, using Reno Omokri's observation on Big Brother Naija 2018, especially the scene where two housemates publicly had sexual intercourse on international TV. The aim of this research is to let the people know that they can generate original and challenging documents from the social media, as resource materials, which can be adapted into true-life plays with the intention of sensitizing the society on diverse topical issues such as Big Brother Naija. The study identifies that numerous conversations on the social media are lying dormant, depriving the people of the raw and original discourses, which can be easily adapted into plays with moral lessons for the society. With copious examples, this research through the elements of drama adapts Facebook banter on Big Brother Naija 2018 into a play sketch. This research recommends that wannabe playwrights and other theatre practitioners can use Facebook as resource materials for their creativity, generate, and discuss particular subjects with passion and originality artistically.

Keywords: Digital Technology, Facebook, Playwriting, Social Media and Theatre.

Introduction

It is unbelievably wonderful that in an era of postmodernism, where everything seems to be available at the snap of our fingers and technological breakthroughs in social media in areas such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, Snapchat, blogs, video games, online newspapers, websites and blogs, WhatsApp, streaming audio and video, chat rooms, email, online communities, social media and sharing platform, mobile app,

web advertising, DVD and CD-ROM media, visual reality environments, integration of digital data with the telephone, such as Internet telephony, digital cameras are in high proliferation, yet, ideologies seem to be collapsing among the budding playwrights in the midst of all these conversational platforms.

It is undeniably marvelous to recount how the social media rose from the point of obscurity in terms of the invention it was some years back to the global distinction it has now achieved. The internet-based invention has evidently played a large and significant role in turning the world into a “global village”, just as Marshall McLuhan predicted in the 1960s, “The Medium is the Message” *The Global Village*, though published in 1989, exactly twenty-five years after his colossal *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. The internet allows for interaction between or among users all over the world. Social media has achieved all that, with a few clicks on one’s P.C., tablets, smartphones, one can have news, updates, information about friends and family and a platform to publicize and share whatever information one deems appropriate. No wonder Johnson volunteers that “Digital technology may play a role in many different parts of the creative process, from planning through to production, post-production and publishing. (P.18) Just as the printing press, the industrial revolution, and the renaissance ushered in new cultural movements in history, the internet is overwhelmingly touching on humanity in the present day.

The internet no doubt is the most culturally and ethically uplifting technological breakthrough after Gutenberg’s printing technology and it has indeed created a great intellectual transfer. Now there is an entirely new dominant perspective. The function of social media may range from posting pictures, videos, and fun, recreational or even intellectual status/ textual updates to advertising and making business contacts, thus, making the world a global village with the snap of our fingers. The role social media plays in contemporary time is so great that a forecast predicts that in a few years to come, the location of business offices and stores will become irrelevant as most business will be run virtually (in virtual space). Even now, social media serves as a means of gainful employment for a number of people who have been wise enough to use the platform to maximize their talents, popularity and influence to attract advertisements and endorsement deals from companies and business organizations which are, of course, paid for.

It is almost certain that everyone would recognize the need for every sector of life, whether it is in science, arts, entertainment, etc., to come on board with the fast-moving train of advancement. Concerning the topic of discourse, evidence abounds that there is need for the artistic potentials of the platform that is the social media to be harnessed by the playwright in the process of his creation. Facebook which is the case study, is indisputably the world’s foremost social media network with over one billion, one hundred million (1.1 billion) visitors monthly. On a platform as vast as this, it does not come as a surprise that several things including rumours, news and controversies will be generated. The buzz and hype that surround the aforementioned rumours, news, controversies that arise on social media are undoubtedly filled with qualities, spectacular

enough to qualify for a play. Several elements of drama such as theme, plot, characters, dialogue, spectacle and even music, avail themselves in the ordinary day-to-day Facebook posts and interactions, such that any dramatist that chooses to remain stuck in a groove and refuses to evolve to the point of taking advantage of the platform will be doing him/herself a great disservice.

Some common social media features may include the following: User accounts: If a site allows visitors to create their own accounts that they can log into, then that's a good sign there is going to be social interaction. You cannot really share information or interact with others online without doing it through a user account. There is also Profile pages: Since social media is all about communication, a profile page is often necessary to represent an individual. It often includes information about the individual user, like a profile photo, bio, website, and feed of recent posts, recommendations, recent activity and more. Friends, followers, groups, hashtags and so on: Individuals use their accounts to connect with other users. They can also use them to subscribe to certain forms of information. News feeds: When users connect with other users on social media, they're basically saying, "I want to get information from these people." That information is updated for them in real-time via their news feed. Personalization: Social media sites usually give users the flexibility to configure their user settings, customize their profiles to look a specific way, organize their friends or followers, manage the information they see in their news feeds and even give feedback on what they do or don't want to see. Notifications: Any site or app that notifies users about specific information is definitely playing the social media game.

Theoretical background: Alexandre Dumas' (Fils) How to Write a Play

You ask me how a play is written. You honour me greatly, but you also greatly embarrass me. With study, work, patience, memory, energy, a man can gain a reputation as a painter, or a sculptor, or a musician. In those arts, there are materials and mechanical procedures that he can make his own, thanks to ability, and can attain to success. The public, to whom these works are submitted, having none of the technical knowledge involved, from the beginning regarding the makers of these works as their superiors: They feel that the artist can always reply to any criticism: "Have you learned painting, sculpture, music? No? Then don't talk so vainly. You cannot judge. You must be of the craft to understand the beauties," and so on. It is thus that the good-natured public is frequently imposed on, in painting, in sculpture, in music, by certain schools and celebrities. It does not dare to protest. But with regard to drama and comedy, the situation is altered. The public is an interested party to the proceedings and appears, so to speak, for the prosecution in the case. The language that we use in our play is the language used by the spectators every day; the sentiments that we depict are theirs; the persons whom we set to acting are the spectators themselves in instantly recognized passions and familiar situations. No preparatory studies are necessary; no initiation in a studio or school is indispensable; eyes to see, ears to hear--that's all they need. The moment we depart, I will not say from the truth, but from what they think is truth, they stop listening. For in the theatre, as in life, of which the theatre is the reflexion, there are two kinds of truth; first, the absolute truth, which always in the end prevails, and secondly, if not the

false, at least the superficial truth, which consists of customs, manners, social conventions; the uncompromising truth which revolts, and the pliant truth which yields to human weakness; in short, the truth of Alceste and that of Philinte.

Conceptual Review: The Idea of the New (Social) Media

Social media refers to the means of interactions among people in which they create, share, and/or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. A defining characteristic of the new media is that it is built on dialogue and critical observations of the society. The new media are specifically the products of latter-day computer technology, rooted on the internet which has become a global networking of personal computers. We live in the internet age, which exposes us to different works in online community. Marshal McLuhan as far back as the 1960's related the concepts, of course, has found its fulfilment in our day. With vast information and communication order, globalization has given rise to potent alternative media for scholarly, literary and artistic expression. Marshall McLuhan's medium; the internet, has given rise to an increasing number of software programmes, including Facebook which will be the centre focus of our discussion. New media transmit content through connection and conversation, it enables people to share, comment on and discuss a wide range or variety of topics from around the globe, unlike any of the past technologies, new media is grounded on the interactive community. Most technologies described as new media are digital, often having characteristic of being manipulated, networkable, dense, compressible and interactive.

However, new media is often contrasted to old media, such as television, radio and print media. Although scholars in communication and media studies have criticized rigid classifications, based on oldness and novelty, new media does not include television programmes (only analogue broadcast), feature films, magazines, books. In new media, Facebook is seen as an example of the social media model in which most users are participants and this also brings about the attitude as an example of augmented reality. Facebook is a social networking media owned and operated by Facebook Inc. Created by Mark Zuckerberg in collaboration with his colleagues; Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollins, Austin Moskoritz and Chris Huges. It was launched on February 4, 2004, and by May 2012, has the service over 900million active users with more than half accessing the most successful and most commercial website.

Daniel Nations in *What is social media? Explaining the Big Trend* volunteers thus: "Social media is a phrase that we throw around a lot these days, often to describe what we post on sites and apps like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and others" (P.1). He further explains that: rather than define the term using a bunch of boring jargon that would probably only complicate things further, perhaps the best way to get a clearer understanding of it is to break it down into simpler terms.

The "social" part refers to interacting with other people by sharing information with them and receiving information from them. The "media" part refers to an instrument of communication, like the internet (while TV, radio, and newspapers are examples of

more traditional forms of media). Okay, so from these two separate terms, we can pull a basic definition together: *social media are web-based communication tools that enable people to interact with each other by both sharing and consuming information.*

The Playmaker (Theatre and new media)

Integration of theatre and new media has given rise to various possibilities. There is a sense that in these days of digital technology, it is true that virtual reality, illusion and the suspension of disbelief are time-honoured tools of theatre. The unfinished, open and collaborative culture has emerged in the internet environment and the open-source software development community shares the collaborative process of the theatre, making the immediacy of live performance and the emphasis on process over end product. However, this convergence brings with it a conflict for all art forms but in particular for theatre, the attic playwright started out as an imitative poet who unlike his recitative counterpart got his play acted out before live audience who had no prior access to the literary text. Long after Johannes Gutenberg unveiled the secret of printing technology, the playwright continues to be regarded as one whose art is necessarily "wrought" through the physical stage- the original medium of dramatic communication also known as theatre. One fact stands out- the playwright/playmaker is one who conceives and creates a play for the society to enjoy, no wonder Styan (1975:P.109) observes that:

Drama exists in its realization and not in its intention. Since the activity of the theatre is designed expressly to touch and involve an audience, a segment of the society, that audience and that society... control the land of activity found in the theatre. Since society gets the theatre it deserves, its drama, therefore, tells us a great deal about the people who go there why they go there and what happens to them.

Facebook adaptation for Playwriting Experimentations

Playwriting over the centuries has remained a vehicle for the experimentation of true-life dramas, changing the society for posterity's sake. Play on the other hand, has times without number been seen as the spinoff of the playwright, hence, Azunwo Eziwho Emenike (2014: p.6) views a play thus;

A play is a creative and artistic letter composed by the supposed conscience of the theatre, first and foremost to the director, actors and other members of the production crew, informing them of his current ideological standpoint, vision and positive commitment to the development of his society. The supposed conscience of the theatre weaves the society of his play through: plot, character, thought, diction, music and spectacle.

Osedebamen observes that "The objective of what to achieve with is decided by the playwright as a creative manager. (P.135) For playwriting to serve as the vehicle of experimentations, the playwright as a matter of important must accommodate all the elements of playwriting, such as plot, character/characterization, language, scenery, dramatic

action, music, spectacle, thought, etc. These elements when harmonized will bring the experimentation into true life dramas, strengthening it and making it believable. The application of these ingredients, factors or elements connects the work to reality, otherwise known as drama will in turn commune the moral lessons and excitements which drama makes available. Playwriting has always taken creativity and its spirit from an individual, the society, scene of events, etc. The creative fortitude in every individual in most cases is flexible and surge like water, discovering the purpose of every action. Talking about playwriting as the course acknowledged by the sinuous as a channel of creative spirit, it, therefore, follows that every playwright must enhance his/her sense of creativity, carefully observing the society with keen interest of every human commotion and their interactions thereafter with members of the society. The playwright must understand how to relate every unit of the society in a dramatic edifice or creativity, highly animated, just as the greatest theatre critic, Aristotle has posited in his *Poetics* (P.1). The parts of the vehicle used for the experimentations shall be briefly discussed.

Reno Omokri's Position on *Big Brother Naija* 2018.

When I was a child, only animals had intercourse in the open for all to see. Now I am an adult, Nigerians call people who publicly have intercourse in a toilet, stars! If they are stars, it must be very dark over Nigeria! We must have a culture. Not everything from the West is good!

Instead of copying the West and Asia in science and technology, we want to copy and overtake the West in public indecency like #BBNaija where we celebrate youths publicly have intercourse in a toilet. It is barbaric. It is un-African. Animals not humans should behave that way

Generating thought and plot

Thought which is generally referred to as the core, brain box and the heart of every literary work, is always the dominating idea of a literary work. The thought derived from the Reno Omokri's position on *Big Brother Naija* 2018 where two roommates were caught having sexual intercourse in a toilet in an international television network. The main thrust of this conversation is a call for people, especially the African youths to preserve the African heritage of decorum in all things and at all time, not to allow post-modernity affect their morality negatively. The focus of the discussion pertinently captured on Facebook thus:

Moore TheSound DemiGod Abeg e normally who no dey whip for toilet which one be is barbaric. Not a fan of big brother tho but Naija we too do our country politics no get agenda instead of facing dah one na reality show when no concern our government una dey disturb people about.

Rogers Tony-Rogers My friend u need to think again. Except u are already sold out to d devil.

Napoleon Adah Too bad for our youths.

Moore TheSound DemiGod Me sef I righteous pass u bro cos I no sabi pretend

Rogers Tony-Rogers U may be right, it is possible u are more righteous, but if indeed u are more righteous, u wouldn't support or encourage anything u know ur creator would frown at.. I leave u in God's hands... Judgement is His

Moore TheSound DemiGod U dey see God face Wen u know if e dey frown?

Rogers Tony-Rogers What we are seeing now is preparatory to what the Antichrists shall unleash on mankind, #BBN is more or less a vendor marketing the idea of the imminent moral catastrophe.... It is time to watch and pray! So sad!

Moore TheSound DemiGod So big brother is Nigeria Problem now

Moore TheSound DemiGod So sexual intercourse is for domestic animals

Ommyhammer David Some people don't deserve to be noticed

Usen Michael Amakiri Ayuwu You have said nothing, its not BBNaija thats makes us a poor and corrupt nation abi 3rd world, we like to focus on minor issues and leave major issues

Moore TheSound DemiGod As in ehn Hypocrisy Na Nigeria Business very well

Rogers Tony-Rogers What has politics and governance got to do with this issue? Or is it now a taboo for a politician to do a narrative on social and moral bankruptcy that has almost overwhelmed our society today? At what point can we separate politics from raw and disturbing facts?

Moore TheSound DemiGod Ok bros odabo u win

Usen Michael Amakiri Ayuwu BBNaija is rated 18+..... So what's the issue?

Rogers Tony-Rogers We both won my brother... That we are all sinners doesn't mean we should support and encourage activities that av a negative ripple effects on our present and unborn generations.. What is bad is bad, and God detests evil acts such as this. Call to mind what brought about d fall of Sodom and Gomorrah.. It wasn't as if they were the only sinful cities..

Moore TheSound DemiGod Ahtaya dey even said viewer discretion is advised

Usen Michael Amakiri Ayuwu BBNaija has no negative effect my Brother, what is Sodom and Gomorrahlet's stop using Bible stories as moral yardsticks pls....not everybody is bound by the Bible

Napoleon Adah, You guys are killing African cultural value, for crying out loud, are we now in a normless society, where everything goes?

Rogers Tony-Rogers 18+ justifies the evil acts they publicly indulge in right? I hope those of u supporting this evil will in good conscience allow your 18+ daughters, sons and siblings to watch BBN, and also publicly do d acts u now support cos u ain't hypocrites? God is watching!

Moore TheSound DemiGod Is ur own end not the one God Created for us

Joshua Nte Rogers, Sure it is not. One of the persons who made us poor and corrupt is the one you support every day as a President. BBNaija is a cultural defect, like corruption and others. It needs to be checked

Moore TheSound DemiGod Bros I don't see any cultural defect DAT means dey shud cancel project fame and other reality shows cos dey are from the west

Joshua Nte Rogers Project fame and West African idol are purely a celebration and nurturing of talents. Tell me one talent BBNaija promotes.

Plot according to Aristotle is the organization of the action of a play. Ronald and Kathy submit that "Playable action is vital to a good play, but plot is not action. The plot is not a story or list of events, but an organizing principle: Plot is what is what gives a play its unity". (P.82) It is a common knowledge of every playwright that dialogue consists of the plot in a play and in most cases, it begins with a scenario. The focus of the discourse can be deduced from the scenario provided by Reno Omokri's Facebook wall, thus:

When I was a child, only animals had intercourse in the open for all to see. Now I am an adult, Nigerians call people who publicly have intercourse in a toilet, stars! If they are stars, it must be very dark over Nigeria! We must have a culture. Not everything from the West is good! Instead of copying the West and Asia in science and technology, we want to copy and overtake the West in public indecency like #BBNaija where we celebrate youths publicly have intercourse in a toilet. It is barbaric. It is un-African. Animals not humans should behave that way.

Hence, the textual conversation in the comment section and the reactions such as like, replies, etc, they provoke the plot of the play. For instance, following the scenario, the drama of the human society, you discover the ever-die-hard believers of the African culture who are constantly praying that our cultural norms and values be preserved. Those African cultures should be not eroded by the regular borrowing from the West, to avoid the "Sodomitic" experience in the bible. The lines of reactions from the discourse capture the thought, thus:

Moore TheSound DemiGod: Bros I don't see any cultural defect DAT means dey shud cancel project fame and other reality shows cos dey are from the west

Joshua Nte Rogers: Project fame, West African idol are purely a celebration and nurturing of talents. Tell me one talent BBnaija promotes.

Moore TheSound DemiGod: No u are saying we dey value d west culture na

Kylsy Syga Kogbara: So, what if Nigeria is rich and doing well politically, is it African to have sex in the open? or a program rated 18 justifies good moral? let's learn to take advice's and accept responsibility for our inadequacies.

Usen Michael Amakiri Ayuwu: Pls there is nothing wrong with BBnaija. They did not advice anybody to have sex in the secret or in the open, you all never needed BBnaija before doing all the vices ur doing.....some of you can't even look at ourselves in the Mirror....stop the self Righteousnessall the people in The villages where there is no light and DSTV and underaged committing abortion and having sex did not watch BBnaija pls Let's stop this whole noise.

Pastors and uncles raping little children did not watch it or learn it from BBnaija

Moore TheSound DemiGod: God go bless u abeg u dey reason fine Bros

Ommyhummer David: The fact that people would argue to defend a program that uses "good intentions" to demoralize Nations and warp people view of life is already evident that years of subtle ingredients of sinister wishes have proven effective.

Rated 18+ in itself is usually not godly. What virtues does BBN provide for the youth of the nation? Would you rather have a drink in a bar with friends or have it in a strip club? That's what BBN is doing. They present little positive values that are almost totally lost in negativity.

Does 18+ stop children from viewing the channels when the parents are out? Or do the parents who are so engulfed in work keep searching for 18+ programs to keep their kids from them;?

Sadly enough, these days elderly ones are already tolerant of immorality so why would they stop younger ones from doing what they do.

Joshua Nte Rogers: We can tailor the program to achieve more social values, than openly condoning stupidity.

Can any of you encourage your sisters or brothers to do any of such without thinking about tour family reputations? Except you don't have a reputation and we should not let those without a damn respect for value draw every other person down

Moore TheSound DemiGod: So if u wan be an African deny Christianity join lol

Ken Henshaw: What is 'social values'? Where has that gotten us? How come the countries with less 'social values' are doing much better than us?

Joshua Nte Rogers: They don't have less social values. It's acceptable in their climate. Would you encourage your child to do that? But a white Dad would. That is the point.

As we cry out for the authorities to strengthen our institutions to work like other countries, we should do so by keeping some values. We must not borrow all

Here we can see that the playwright always has what acquaint us with. What he has to tell in most cases, constitute the plot. And in telling us what he has to, the stage direction becomes quintessential, though the stage direction is missing from the above discourse, they can be implied. In generating the play from the Facebook, the playwright can re-evaluate the story, comments and add the stage direction to ease the work of the collaborators in the act of play production. Stage directions which are ordinarily reserved for the actors, directors and the designers can be physically realized on stage and this cannot be realized through imagination so that there will not be any communication fissure.

Dialogue, the Characters' material for playwriting Experimentation.

Yerima (2003:P.40) volunteers that:

In drama, the language and characters must be progressive... the problem the new playwright faces... on the chapter on dramatic dialogue is in the management of diction, the choice of correct and meaningful words which would not only give meaning but say exactly what the playwright intends his characters to say.

Just as story is to prose, stanza and verse to poetry, dialogue is essential to every dramatic work. This is what differentiates drama from other genres. Characters are participants in a play who act out the plot. In them, however, they are those who comment, react to a post. They are not restricted by any means except the poster deletes a comment from his/her wall. Dialogue is the linchpin in every dramatic action because it exposes the characters personality, it moves the plot forward, through dialogue, and conflict is generated and sustained. Dialogue also encompasses other techniques in drama. Therefore, dialogue is the first criterion to consider in every dramatic act. Characters relate and converse their views, thoughts, motives, etc through dialogue. The language portrayed here is simple, realistic and a bit racy. The dialogue that follows demonstrates the level of language used thus:

...Now I am an adult, Nigerians call people who publicly have intercourse in a toilet, stars! If they are stars, it must be very dark over Nigeria! We must have a culture...It is barbaric. It is un-African. Animals not humans should behave that way.

Moore TheSound DemiGod: Thank u bros

Moore TheSound DemiGod: This one na jus 3 months programme but APC get anoda 4 yrs to rule o

Enefaa George will: Kikiki... APC & PDP are all guilty.

Joshua Nte Rogers: Exactly Enefaa Georgewill. We have been doing that, though not enough. We must make it holistic. After the recent killing of 17 college students in Florida, even the whites are worried about the level of freedom they have allowed their system give to children. They won't tell you how worried they are. They continue to use their media to suppress our thought, making you believe that all is well with them

Enefaa Georgewill: Joshua Nte Rogers I get you but let's leave the problem of the whites & solve our basic problems. Our moralistic traits will automatically disappear once we raise corruption in the Church. Selectively morality you may say.

Enefaa Georgewill David, public sex is not the only immorality. Corruptions in Government, church, village, office, etc are all immoral act. In fact, in their hierarchy corruption tops as it has the tendency to encourage arm robbery, underdevelopment, deaths, etc. What the crit...See more

Ommyhammer David, Do we talk about BBN or their public sex and much as we talk about money laundering and other stuff? We've been talking that since I was born. Mind you, BBN is also born out of genuine corruption and it's corrupting our youth who are the leaders of tomorrow, fathers and mothers of tomorrow's youth. Imagine what they'd have to teach their kids and how far they're willing to extend the grey area of tolerance while raising their kids. That hasn't helped the western world so far.

And I've said this before. Stop likening BBN to money laundering or whatever politicians do.... This affects people DIRECTLY. The things they say is first hand. The youth pick it up. It's not like the controversial stories that the media tell us. We watch this one by ourselves and we hear what they say and see how they live their lives..... And they're not doing well to lead the public. Anyone who feels the program is okay lacks solid morals and definitely cannot claim to be Christian.... Just saying

Spangler Cakes The show is rated 18 so what is the problem if they have sex

Spangler Cakes I hate this country

Ehirim Victor Ugochukwu Emmanuel Assuming it's mathematics competition now the best price will be to go and see Father Christmas, 1 carton of cowbell milk, exercise book and Biro finish, as the best mathematician but in immorality, the price Is always in millions

Ehirim Victor Ugochukwu Emmanuel Where are we going from here?

Onumonu Chidi I still don't understand why some persons still encourage this #BBN of a thing. If I may ask "what moral values have the programme"? Some certain sets of adults go on National TV to expose their bodies and have sex and people still call it a game??what a disgusting and stupid game. Ok, let's even leave Christianity out of this,..is having sex on National TV morally right?

Romeo Nsan Ogbuluijah What is NBC doing about this?

Moore TheSound DemiGod The thing with Nigerians is that we think we know our problem yet we still don't know the problem

Crosbie describes three different kinds of communication in media. He saw interpersonal media as “one-to-one”, mass media “one-to-many” and finally new media as “individualism” or “many to many”. Marshall postulated the hot and cool media. The cool media which includes internet requires more active participation on the part of the user (characters) including the perception of abstract patterning and simultaneous comprehension of all parts. Interactivity has thus become a term for a number of new media use option. Unlike the traditional model of “one-to-many”, the new media avails the opportunity of “many to many” web of communication.

Sketching a Play from the Above Argument

Title of the play “Where do we go from here?”

By: Eziwho Emenike Azunwo

Dramatic Personas

Rogers Tonye: a 1st Class Graduate

Moore Thesound Demithing: a university dropout

Usen Michael Amakiri: friend to Moore

Joshua Nte Rogers:

Enefaa: a wayward daughter

Monday: a Police Sergeant

Waiter

OPENING

IN A BAR, IT IS A COOL EVENING IN RUNDELE TOWN, SOMEWHERE IN RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA, NEAR THE POLICE STATION. EVERYONE IS FULL OF ACTIVITY, BOTH STAFF AND VISITORS. SOME PERSONS ARE THERE TO EAT AND DRINK, WHILE OTHERS ARE THERE TO WATCH THE CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE, WHILE A FEW OTHERS ARE THERE TO CATCH THEIR FUN. PAPA ENEFAA SENDS MESSAGE TO ENEFAA THAT HE IS ANGRY, BECAUSE ENEFAA IS AT IT AGAIN. WHILE THEY WAIT AND GRADUALLY STIRRING AT THE TV SCREEN, ARGUMENTS CONCERNING THE DAILY HAPPENINGS SKYROCKETED, A DREADED POLICE OFFICER STRONGLY DREADED AND RESPECTED BY ALL WALKS IN, BASED ON HIS CREDIBILITY, HE APPEARS IN HIS FULL ESSENCE. EVERYONE LEAVES WITH GREAT HOPE AFTER THE PROTRACTED ARGUMENT WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANYTHING MEANINGFUL.

MOORE

(Discussing with some of his friends as they stroll into the bar for some drinks) Kysly Syga Kogbara, like I said before we left the house, this move is the best move that affects our generation.

KOGBARA

(Smiling and calls on the waiter) Hahahaha, my friend, sometimes some drastic actions need to be taken against the government of the day for them to know how badly we're doing (pauses, calls on the waiter twice) waiter, waiter. Don't we have a waiter here again? (The waiter runs in apologising)

WAITER

Bros, which one una want? Good evening?

KOGBARA

Abeg tune your TV to Big Brother Naija first make man pikin rest from the stress of the, (looks at Rogers) bros, hope I spoke your mind? (He nods in affirmation) bros what will you take while we watch this reality show?

MOORE

Please give *Hero* na. I missed some of the episodes because of plenty hustle, bustle and hunger in the land.

KOGBARA

Oya, move fast, change the station before those idiots enter with their Champions league madness (pauses) please give me as usual. (The waiter leaves and returns with their order, after changing the TV station.

MOORE

Men, this beer chill die (laughing).

KOGBARA

(With complete smile) that's why I've missed this joint for a while.

MOORE

Okay, talking about not missing this joint, please tell me what has been going on in the house. You know every! (While Kogbara tries to update him, the waiter tunes the TV station to Champions league station according to demands by others)

KOGBARA

(Shouts) Waiter, what's happening there? (The waiter explains to him that Rogers Tonye and others want to watch champions league) They want to watch champions what! Who and who are playing tonight?

ROGERS

Man City and Real Madrid live and direct.

MOORE

Please hold it, I didn't ask you Mr "busybody". Nobody will watch any Champions League tonight. It's Big Brother Naija or nothing!

ENEFAA

(Almost drunk, shouts) Correct bros, I don't understand why Rogers want to still give command in the bar! We must watch BGN or nothing.

USEN

Enough of the protracted and boring dialogue. Even Enefaa who doesn't respect dialogue is busy supporting this nonsense programme. Let's see whether you'll have your way tonight, after all, your parents are busy looking for you and your phones are switched off.

MOORE

Usen, you lie. We must watch BBN. Talking about morals, does morality actually exist?

KOGBARA

Bros, please let this Jew man stay in his own na. After all, we must watch BBN here and now.

ROGERS

We must watch something else, assuming its mathematics competition now; the best prize will be attached to one thousand Naira, 1 carton of cowbell milk, exercise book and Biro, finish. As the best mathematician but in immorality, the prize is always in millions, if not billions. Project fame and West African idol are purely a celebration and nurturing of talents. Tell me one talent BBnaija promotes.

MOORE

I know some hypocrites will respond to this negatively but that's their business (smiling). The issue about BBN has substantiated the fact that most Nigerians are hypocrites (pauses). People criticize this show, saying it is immoral, that it has nothing to offer society, that the people in the house are like animals because they have sex in the open, but these same people especially the men are the same people who have secret side chicks, these are the same people especially some who are lecturers, who would always demand sex from female students before they pass their exams, these are the same persons who will never do a favour to a woman without demanding to be paid in kind and sex is always the price. These are the same people who club all week, same people who get fellow choir members or church members pregnant. These are the same persons who are flirting with their wives' friends; these are the same persons who watch porn in their private corners even in their offices, sometimes in church. Should I go on and on? These are same persons who rape young boys and girls under 5 years old, these are the same people who would send their marketers to people to get customers at all cost, same holier than thou entities who in private, commit the worst acts of immorality. The same persons who if their private lives are showcased to us we will puke without ceasing. The big brother show is a representation of our lives. If we look at the show critically it showcases our world and brings to the fore the fact that God is watching us and nothing we do can be hidden from him. We should learn the positive lessons from this and stop painting it black. As I am talking now, people are fornicating, people are committing adultery, people are killing, cheating, backbiting, kidnapping, etc. Though they may think they are doing it in private, like the eye in big brother, God sees them. That's the lesson I have learnt from the program. Like a preacher said, what you do in private is what defines you. The Big brother house is like our world, while some are busy messing up, others are respecting themselves. Besides, it is all about choices, you can choose to watch it, you can choose not to. Let's stop being hypocrites and then mend our lives only then can we stand justified to point fingers, but then as we point one finger, the rest are pointing back at us.

KOGBARA

I smell danger, my brother. I think there is a need for us to quickly alert tread with caution.

MOORE

Are you afraid? I'm Moore Thesound Demithing, the would've been philosophy, a university dropout. I fear nobody.

KOGBARA

And he's Rogers Tonye, the only 1st Class Graduate of Mathematics and Statistics.

MOORE

Okay, is he the one? A nonsense country where 1st Class graduates end up in the bar without job. I'm a university dropout, but today, I'm a self-made millionaire.

ROGERS

Bloody fool, BBN corrupts the minds and we must try let the government take urgent steps to ban reality shows like this. (Smiles and beats his chest) I can proudly nurture my younger brother's seven-year-old daughter to participate in Project fame, but not BBNaija...so all of us would wish... The WHY is the reason I support the author of this article

MOORE

That what happened?

ROGERS

The fact that people would argue to defend a programme that uses "good intentions" to demoralize Nations and warp people's view of life is already evident that years of subtle ingredients of sinister wishes have proven effective. Some of you claim it is rated 18+, which in itself is usually not godly. What virtue does BBN provide for the youth of the nation? Would you rather have a drunk in a bar with friends or have it in a strip club? That's what BBN is doing. They present little positive values that are almost totally lost in negativity.

Does 18+ stop children from viewing the channels when the parents are out? Or do the parents who are so engulfed in work keep searching for 18+ programs to keep their kids from them? Sadly enough, these days elderly ones are already tolerant of immorality so why would they stop younger ones from doing what they do.

If you don't see anything wrong with BBN, then I don't need to be the one to tell you that there's something wrong..... I mean if you're a churchgoer (no Christian would tolerate that). God help us open our eyes

KOGBARA

And so, what? Who is talking about morality here? In fact, can you point at one immoral lesson BBNaija has taught?

USEN

To answer your question, let me quote from the author "When I a child, only animals had intercourse in the open for all to see. Now I am an adult, Nigerians call people who publicly have intercourse in a toilet, stars! If they are stars, it must be very dark over Nigeria! We must have a culture. Not everything from the West is good! Instead of copying the West and Asia in science and technology, we want to copy and overtake the West in public indecency like #BBNaija where we celebrate youths publicly have intercourse in a toilet. It is barbaric. It is un-African. Animals not humans should behave that way"

MOORE

And what is wrong with that? Kindly forget all those who fly one Whiteman's land to another, later end up sermonising us like the useless author! So sexual intercourse is now for domestic animals? Fools and pretenders! Wa, this mere a reality TV show!

ROGERS

What is wa? You need spiritual circumcision...What do you call reality show? You mean an abnormality is now normal? You mean it is OK for humans to start behaving worse than both domestic and wild animals? Indeed, you have no idea what time we are in. So sad! (Looks at Moore) Young man, you need Jesus!

KOGBARA

Moore, kindly leave that religious fanatic alone. He's a chronic charlatan (laughs) BBN is not evil, that's my take.

USEN

Do we talk about BBN or their public sex and much as we talk about money laundering and other stuff? Definitely not. We've been talking that since I was born.

Mind you, BBN is also born out of genuine corruption and it's corrupting our youth who are the leaders of tomorrow, fathers and mothers of tomorrow's youth. Imagine what they'd have to teach their kids and how far they're willing to extend the grey area of tolerance while raising their kids. That hasn't helped the western world so far. And I've said this before. Stop likening BBN to money laundering or whatever politicians do.... This affects people DIRECTLY. The things they say is first hand. The youth pick it up. It's not like the controversial stories that the media tell us. We watch this one by ourselves and we hear what they say and see how they live their lives. And they're not doing well to lead the public.

Anyone who feels the program is okay lacks solid morals and definitely cannot claim to be Christian.... Just saying... (While they were yet discussing, Serge. Monday walks in and told Rogers that he's needed at home by his parents)

MOORE

Rogers, I'm aware that you want to leave now, but before you leave, hypocrite let me educate you for the last time. Please, there is nothing wrong with BBnaija.They did not advice anybody to have sex in the secret or in the open, you all never needed BBnaija before doing all the vices you're doing.....some of you can't even look at yourselves in the Mirror....stop the self-Righteousnessall the people in The villages where there is no light and DSTV and underaged committing abortion and having sex did not watch BBnaija o! Please let's stop this whole pretence, Pastors and uncles raping little children and killing their choir mistress girlfriends did not watch it or learn them from BBnaija!

KOGBARA

God go bless you abeg... you dey reason fine bros (laughing).

SERGE. MONDAY

If understood you guys well, I want to submit that we can tailor the programme to achieve more social values, than openly condoning stupidity.

May I ask please can any of you encourage your sisters or brothers to do any of such without thinking about tour family reputations? Except you don't have a reputation and we should not let those without a damn respect for values draw every other person down. Rogers let's go.

The End

In considering the level of character and characterization, it is pertinent to note that the characters involved in the discourse are not well developed and they can be looked at as flat characters. But going by the experimentations, the playwrights can borrow the concept from the scenario and the conversations thereafter, garnishing and adapting them with all the traits needed in the character developments, designing the stage directing and creating movements for them. The following can be seen as the characters that constitute the work, which can as well expand to deep artistic appreciation. The characters include Reno Omokri, Rogers Tonye-Rogers, Moore Thesound, Usen Michael Amakiri Ayuwu, Kysly Syga Kogbara, Enefaa Georgewill and Serge. Monday. The little creative work is abashed with numerous characters, capable of passing for an episodic work. Looking at this work from Aristotelian perspective, a character can be known by what the character says about himself, others and what others say about the character. From the scenario analysis, it is obvious that this Aristotelian postulation was partially fulfilled and it can be taken a little further into complete fulfilment.

Conclusion

To draw an end to this paper, we must conclusively say that its aim in the first place was to demonstrate and establish how comments and posts from these platforms can be play generating tools for the budding playwrights, more especially the Facebook and its life dramas, when fully adapted and appreciated, the story can turn the around for better. Facebook has connected the world, making it a global village, so that cultural experiences can be learnt through interactions as well as maintaining relationship especially, with the use of a real-life example, culled from the Reno Omokri's description of BBNaija which cumulated into a drafted sketched. All these Facebook experiences could inspire serious budding playwrights into creating wonderful pieces which can later become award-winning plays. Elements of drama such as plot, character, thought, diction, music and spectacle have proven to exist in the mundane world of Facebook and at this point, it can be agreed that the vast dramatic potentials on Facebook have been brought to the fore and made too obvious to ignore. This research has interestingly justified the natural progression of a real-life crisis using Facebook scenario, grounding the already existing model of dramatic structure in the rhythms of human nature rather than an imposed set of arbitrary rules which we are already used to.

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