**The Female Character Construction in African Drama – An Analysis of Athol Fugard’s *The Road to Mecca* and Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Ngugi wa Mirii’s *I Will Marry When I Want***

***ABSTRACT***

Women face significant challenges in   Africa   by way of occupational segregation and stratification. These make it more likely that African women live in poverty and are victims of interpersonal violence. Using a feminist literary   theory and archetypal criticism ,this seminar paper x-rays the female character construction tools and her representation in Athol Fugard’s ***The Road to Mecca***,and **Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Ngugi wa Mirii’s *I Will Marry When I Want*,** exploring the types of roles women are constructed to play, stereotypical characterizations of women, the attitudes toward women held by the male characters, the author’s attitude toward women in society, deployment of feminine imagery and the significance of such imagery as portrayed in the two texts, against the background of political ,social ,economic and religious realities in Africa. The academic merit of the paper situated in its revelation of a proliferation of stereotypical assumptions in female character construction and characterization in African drama .The paper argues,therefore,for the deployment archetypal instrument in female character creation which is the natural way about human traits universally.

**Key words**: archetypal criticism, character construction, literary theory, feminist literary theory, stereotypical characterizations of women, feminine imagery