

Negotiating Patriarchy in Nigeria Society: Representations of Female Identity in Nollywood Films

Dr. Adekemi Taiwo

Ekiti State University, Nigeria

Abstract

This study examines the portrayal of female identity and resistance within the patriarchal structures in Nigeria through the lens of *King of Boys* (2018) and *Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti* (2024). The article explores how these films depict women navigating power, oppression and self-determination in a maledominated society. The research work employs the theory of intersectionality and qualitative research methodology to analyse how *Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti*, a political strategist challenges colonial and patriarchal authority and the presentation of dystopian exploration of female power as revealed in the female protagonist of the film *King of Boys*. The paper argues that Nollywood's gendered storytelling, though evolving, remains a contested avenue where the contributions of the female producers; Kemi Adetiba (*King of Boys*) and Bolanle Austen-Peters (*Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti*) reconstructs women's narratives and promote gender equality.

The study underscores the need for a more nuanced portrayal that reflect the everyday resistance of ordinary women, beyond tropes of heroism or victimhood. The study concludes that the two films offer power yet complex representations of women's resistance within Nigeria's patriarchal society. The research contributes to broader conversation on feminism and gender justice in African film.

Keywords: Nollywood, Patriarchy, Intersectionality, *Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti*, *King of Boys*