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## Thread: [Analyse: Three Suitors One Husband](#)

*MjunguOnline - April 10, 2015, 4:36 am*

...Â I need Summary Of Plays Known As "Three Suitors One Husband....

*Arafat Nassoor - July 28, 2015, 1:40 pm*

Â I need to know if you can help students especially form 4..in analyse the literary work.

*Elton Mbajo - December 19, 2015, 11:23 am*

actually,i've seen nothing but comments

*Guest - October 11, 2016, 5:10 am*

Nahitaji kukisoma kitabuhiki

*Guest - April 16, 2017, 5:00 pm*

I would like to get analysis of the play three suitors one husband

*Guest - May 21, 2017, 7:21 am*

### THREE SUITORS: ONE HUSBAND

Playwright: Guillaume Oyono " Mbia

Setting: Traditional village of Mvoutessi in Cameroon.

Year: 1960.

At first the book was written in French in 1960 and first publicly staged in YaoundÃ©, Cameroon 1961. It was translated into English by the author and given its first performance in Britain at University of Keele in February 1967.

### CHARACTERISATION

ATANGANA Juliettes's Father

ABESSOLO,Atangana`s father

ONDUA,Atangana`s brother

BELLA,Atangana`s mother

MATALINA,Ondua`s daughter

OYONO,Atangana`s son

MAKRITA,Atangana`s wife

JULIETTE,Atangana`s daughter

MBARGA, The village headman

MEZOE,RELATIVE

KOUMA,JULIETTE`S COUSIN

OKO, HER FIENCE

NDI, FIRST SUITOR

MBIA, THE SECOND SUITOR

TCHETGEN, THE THIRD SUITOR

SANGA-TITI, THE WITCH DOCTOR

ENGULU, MBIA`S DRIVER

### GENERAL SUMMERY

The author uses Juliette as a main character of the play. Juliette is a student who has been away from the village studying at Secondary School in Libamba. While at school, she meets her fiancÃ©

who is supposed to be introduced to her parents and other relatives. She is expected to arrive home at any time.

### JULIETTE ARRIVES HOME

All the relatives are eager waiting for her. At home, the relatives choose two suitors and receive the bride price. Her coming is a great pleasure to the relatives since they want her to get married.

The first suitor is called Ndi. He is a peasant and has already paid 100,000 francs as dowry.

The second suitor is called Mbia, who is a senior civil servant. Mbia is going to pay 200,000 francs as a bride price. All villagers are already supporting Mbia since he is wealthier than a peasant (Ndi). And will help them in so many things, including solving their problems when they are arrested for engaging in illegal business. Mbia is expecting to happen at any time, a good coincidence for Atangana. As Juliette arrives, she is surprised or rather shocked to hear that they want her to get married.

Juliette is shocked because of three things. First, she wants to continue with further studies. Second, she has not been consulted on matters that concern her and her life like marriage. According to her, she is supposed to be consulted first instead of the family deciding on her behalf. That is her right and the family has not that right. Third, she has got a fiancé of her own choice called Oko.

As she argues against the family and demanding to be consulted, the family and other relatives are shocked since she is doing what is contrary to the tradition. In her society, it is men who decide whom a girl should marry. They have their own set of priorities or criteria to judge as far as the marriage concerned. As the argument goes on Mbia arrives. Everybody is excited and Mbia seizes to impress them by behaving like a great man.

With a lot of pomposity, Mbia pays the bride price, 200,000 francs hand it to Mbarga. After paying, he majestically says he has to leave since he has to attend a cocktail party at a Secretary of state's private residence this evening. Instead of going to the party, he goes to drink Arki (a traditional illegally distilled liquor with high alcoholic content) at Mbarga's house.

In fact all family members want Juliette to marry Mbia because he is seen to be wealthy as he introduces himself with a lot of majesty. But Juliette clings to her firm stand, she loves Oko, a student and she wants to marry only him. To achieve her goal she secretly takes the bride price paid by Ndi and Mbia (a total of 300,000 francs) and gives it to Oko, her fiancé. Oko hesitates, but she convinces him to take the money since it is going to be paid back to the family. Oko accepts the idea after understanding and becomes happy to see that Juliette is facilitating the marriage between her and him, because he also loves her so much.

As the money disappears, Atangana gets a lot of panic, the whole family is also in panic. They first convince Ndi to pay 200,000 francs so that they can pay it back to Mbia and take Juliette

Ndi refuses and threatens to take them to police. This intensifies such panic that, they then go to Mbia (which is now drunk) to convince him to pay another 100,000 francs so that they can repay Ndi and allow him to take Juliette. Mbia also becomes furious and, like Ndi, threatens to call Police.

Finally, Mbarga suggests that a witch doctor be called so as to find out through magic, who has stolen the money. The witch doctor is Singa "Titi, but he is a cheat and a thief. Sanga-titi does not help them find the thief. He starts threatening them with evil spirits and death so that they can give him a lot of animals as gifts. He tells a lot of lies at the same time he continues to demand a lot of things from the villagers. After discovering his lies, the villagers become angry and chase him away. So the problem of money is not solved yet since the witch doctor is merely a scoundrel.

Blames continue raining on Juliette from the family member. Later Juliette suppresses them by saying she is ready to marry the first man who gives 300,000 francs as a bride price since she is sure that it will be Oko. Then she insists that the man should pay that amount and no more. she says so because she knows Oko cannot afford buying so many presents that are usually demanded by the relatives.

Then, Tchetgen, a trader arrives and the villagers convince him to pay 300,000 francs. As they are still bargaining, Oko arrives and dressed like a great man.

He decides to show the villagers that they must listen to the view of the girl who is get married. This causes conflict with Atangana, and even other insists that Juliette must be asked, and finally Juliette asked which suitor she wants. She categorically chooses Oko. Oko pays the bride price and every one celebrates the wedding.

In deed where there is the will there` s a way . Juliette and Oko win the race to ward their desire marriage through a lot of challenges. Entanglement e.t.c. Determination, confidence, cooperation between her and Oko and patience leads to the attainment of highly intended goal.

## CHARACTERIZATION

### 1. ABESOLO

He represents the oldest generation. He is a father of Atangana and Ondua. He believes that the world is changing and school destroys the young. According to him the girls should not be sent to school. He defends traditions.

He looks at women as inferior people who are not supposed to consult when it comes to important matters like marriage. He defends the old taboos, like prohibiting women and young men from eating the vipers, instead be eaten by male elders.

He wants to stop the marriage between Juliette and Mbia, since Mbia is closely related. He accept breaking the traditional norms by accepting Mbia to marry Juliette. He is against school but proud of Juliette` s success in school and hence wants higher bride price. He is against the new changes but expects to benefit from them. He is also conservative.

### BELLA

She is Abesolo`s wife. She is strong supports traditional ways of life even on the questions of women. She completely accepts her inferior position in the society and agrees with her husband in all ways, for example, she supports him when he says "œ you must beat your wives".

She also complains that some women are breaking the traditional taboos. She is shocked by the way Juliette behaves before her father. She reacts toward Juliette "œ Juliette! A girl should never speak when her father`s speaking". She supports the ideas that a girl should marry for the goods of the family and not for her personal interest.

She wants Juliette to make them rich by marrying Mbia. According to her, a girl is not permitted to fall in love out of her will, it is the community`s concern. Despite her strong support on traditions, Bella is also affected by new values, since she is proud when Juliette succeeds and she will marry a "œreal white man".

She is like Abessolo that she is contradictory character, since she wants Juliette to follow traditions while she is appreciating new ways of life. She remains a traditional woman, a shadow of her husband doing everything to please him. The ideas from her husband is enough, she doesn`t need to give her own ideas.

## Ondua

He is the son of Abesollo and Bella. He is more lazy and much more drunkard. He spends all his life drinking palm wine or ark. He is always arrested by the Police for being drunk and disorderly. He is always thinking of drinks before anything else. Even when Atangana concludes the marriage, Ondua cries out "Ah Atangana! What about the drinks?"

He depends entirely on his wife, Monica. She does all the work on the farm. So he is living parasitic life. He is very strange, despite depending on her wife, she still despises women. He says "No sensible man should waste his time trying to reason with them."

Like other men, Ondua opposes secondary school since it corrupts girls. He is proud of his daughter Martalina for following traditions. He is also having contradictions since he wants Martalina to marry a rich suitor who follows new values.

## Atangana

He is the father of Juliette and Oyono. He is the son of Abesolo and Bella. Like other men, he believes that men are superior to women.

According to him, women should do all the working in the farm. He is ignorant and oppressor, he becomes angry when his wife comes late from the bush, wants her come early home and cook for him. He believes that her daughter should make him become rich. So he wants her to marry a person who gives the highest bride price.

After the payment of bride price, he demands fantastic things, such as: A radio with set with gramophone, a bicycle, 4 suits, 5 blankets, a sewing machine, and 10 loin clothes, kitchen ware. Others are 10 sacks of rice, 4 oxen, 15 sheep, 10 goats, 20 pigs, and thirty cases of red wine.

He sees Juliette's education as an investment. He says "when I sent her to Secondary School, I was just saying to everybody 'someday' I will benefit from that." He is angry when Juliette refuses to marry Mbia. He regrets for having spent all cocoa money to educate her. He wants to use the bride price to get his son, Oyono, a wife.

At the beginning Atangana wants to consult his daughter about her marriage, but is prohibited by Abesollo who thinks that this is stupid. He has illusions that Juliette will agree to marry such a great man, but is shocked to see her refusing. He believes Sanga-Titi even when he knows that he is telling lies, and continues to give him more things without realizing that he is just exploiting them.

## Makrita

She is Atangana's wife, and is just like Bella since she believes that women are designed to serve and obey men. She accepts women's inferior position in the society. She is also a woman of contradiction. First she takes Ndi to be good suitor since she helped in the farm. But when she is told that Mbia is now a suitor she immediately follows what has been decided by men.

She is very hard working, spending all day in the farm. She is not pleased with the way Juliette speaks when her father speaks.

Atangana blames her that she has destroyed Juliette.

Like other people in the village, she has also been affected by the new values. To her money proves love and the most important suitor is the one who is wealthy. She even wants to know if Oko has a car or not. To her men are superior and girls have no freedom.

## MBARGA

He is a village headman. He talks of his importance, "A great man like me! Is there any one in the village who doesn't know that I am a very wise man?" He demands that the villagers should recognize his greatness hence he has been blessed by the dead fathers of the village in a dream. He is not afraid of Mbia, hence he is nearly as big as Mbia.

He is proud and arrogant of his position. He wants to be introduced to Mbia as the village headman. He later introduces himself.

Mbaga is Polygamist; he has twelve wives and think of marring another. He also uses his position in corrupt way. He distills "Arki" in his own house and he is not arrested. He shows a lot of concern during Juliette's marriage, hence he expected to benefit from it.

He is very cunning; he flatters Mbia so much so that Mbia goes on giving him more battles of wine. He gives a crazy idea of taking Juliette around all offices to find a suitor. He is so ignorant that he cannot easily recognize Sanga "Titi's lies hence he gives him two rams so that he can purify the village. He is also fooled into believing that Oko is a great man, greater than Mbia.

Like other elders, he supports traditions. He is against Juliette being given a chance to speak. He convinces members to allow Mbia to marry Juliette since he is an important man in the government.

## SANGATITI

He is a false Witch doctor. He is very cunning and interested in getting rich by cheating the villagers, so he takes advantage of their ignorance. He uses his mirror, antelope horns, etc. to fool people.

First he listens to what the villagers say and then says as if he knew it before. His mirror tells him nothing. He hears what Atangana says about the stolen money and pretends to have discovered it before and the villagers are impressed.

He creates threats and fear among the villagers. He is therefore, a corrupt man who uses villager's ignorance to exploit them. When they realize him, they chase him.

## MBIA

He is a second suitor who is a great civil servant. He pompously introduces himself that he works in a large office and the secretary of state known him personally. He is accepted to marry Juliette even if he is closely related to her. He pays the bride price of 200,000francs.

He is polygamist, as he has eight wives and Juliette is going to be the ninth. He is also liar, he gives the villagers a lot of lies when the villagers demand a lot of things from him. He says he has to leave since he has to attend a cocktail party at the secretary of state's private residence, but spends the rest of the day drinking Arki at Mbaga's place.

Mbia is arrogant and lacks respect to the family; hence he wants to pay and leaves at once. He has a petty dream of becoming a great man in the state. He is rejected by Juliette. He becomes angry and threatens the villagers of bringing ten Police commissioners to come and deal with them. Mbia is corrupt and is part of the ruling class in town who get rich from villagers.

## JULIETTE

She is a daughter of Atangana and granddaughter of Abessolo. She represents the educated young girls who have begun going against the traditional values. She has been studying at Libamba Secondary School and has passed the exam, hence everybody is happy and proud of her success.

She has fallen in love with fellow student Oko, who she wants to marry. The family chooses her the suitors, that is Ndi and Mbia, and they want her to marry Mbia because he is a great man. To attain her goal she decides to take the money secretly from her father Atangana and gives it to Kouma so that Oko can use it as a bride price.

She fights for freedom of women and the chance to express herself confidently. She identifies her position, that she needs to be free and sticks to Oko, her choice. She is an intelligent girl, and she is fighting against oppression of men against women.

She wants to teach men that women are also important in the society, since they can make wise decisions, which might lead to development. Juliette stands as an icon for necessary changes in the society, which is women emancipation.

## OKO

He is a schoolboy who wants to marry Juliette. He is not accepted by Juliette's family since he is a student and hence poor. He becomes angry when he hears that Mbia is the chosen suitor. He is given money by Juliette, stolen from Atangana. He is educated and is after changes, and he is against traditions. He doesn't want to see women being oppressed, that is why he wants to fight for Juliette's freedom to speak. He comes to Atangana's home like a great man and pays 300,000 francs. He succeeds to attain his goal, by taking the advantage of the ignorance of the society.

## THEMATIC ANALYSIS

### TRUE LOVE..

Is something needed so much by many people in our daily life since it makes people to live in peace and to be comfortable in their life. In this play, JULLIETTE has shown true love to OKO because she struggles a lot to make sure that their marriage plan succeeds even though she enters into conflict with her all family members.

### BETRAY..

This is normal things happen in our daily life. In this play, JULLIETTE betrays their traditional culture of being chosen by their own suitor, since women are not allowed to choose their loved suitor, only men are allowed.

### AWARENES..

Is the situation of knowledge of what happens in your daily life. In this play, JULLIETTE is aware of her rights, she knows that, to choose their own suitors is right than men decided to choose instead of her.

### CHANGES..

Is the situation of someone making something different than before. In this play, JULLIETTE makes changes of bad traditional of being chosen suitor, since he succeeds their mission to be married by OKO instead of MBIA.

### TRADITIONAL..

Is the way of doing something that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people. In this play,

women are not allowed to choose their beloved suitor, also women are not allowed to eat VIBES. Also there is a bride price, man must pay to the daughter's family as to marry her.

### SUPERSTITION..

Is the situation of someone believing to someone who can solve the problem facing them through the evil believe. In this play, JULLIETTE'S FAMILY believe that, SANGATITI as a witch doctor can

know who are stole money as a bride price from NDI and MBIA 3,000 francs.

#### POLYGAMY..

Is the situation of some one to be married more than one wife. In this play MVOUTESSI Men are polygamous and this make Women to become more inferior. Example MBIA has 8 wives.

#### PROTEST..

Is the situation of some one be against with opposition side. In this play, JULLIETTE is protest against their family of being chosen suitors to marry her.

#### NEPOTISM..

is the situation of Some one get favour from other side. In this play, MBIA get from VILLAGERS as to Marru JULLIETTE since he is CIVIL SERVANT and a rich man.

#### INFLUENCE OF MONEY..

In this play, every member in MVOUTESSI VILLAGE wants MARRY to marry MBIA, just because he is great civil servant since they hope that, they can get favour from him more than NDI and OKO.

#### ILLUSION..

Is the situation of Someone make lie among some one. In this play, MBIA make lie to JULLIETTE FAMILY, since he is a 8 WIFES.

#### i. Tradition and Family

##### a) Economy

The people depend on agriculture as the economics of the village. The main crops are plantation, corn and groundnuts. Also they have their own crafts, for example Atangana is making a basket while Abesolo is sculpturing or carving.

Women are the main producers in the farms, for example Atangana`s wife has not come back early from the farm. She arrives from the farm with a basket full of cassava, banana, sugar cane, etc.

##### b) Religion.

Most of the villagers still keep many traditional beliefs. They believe in their gods and spirits for example owls and chimpanzees represent the evil spirits of the past. They also believe strongly in the power of their dead ancestors who watch over the society from the spirit world.

##### c) Bride price.

Men are supposed to pay bride price so as to have wife. The girl for whom higher bride price is paid is valued more.

##### d) Taboo

Women are not allowed to eat vipers and young men eat only by special permission. For example, Mbaga complains of the young people Belinga and Owono because of eating the viper without elder`s permission.

##### e) Traditional Dances

There are dances called "Nyengâ" which are performed by Mezoe, Oyono and Ondua.

##### f) Meetings

People seem to have tendency of meeting to discuss important issues like marriage. The drum is used for calling people. For example, when mbia arrives, the drum is beaten to invite people.

#### g) Polygamy

Mvoutessi men are polygamous and this makes women become more inferior. For example, Mbia has eight wives and if he marries Julliette she will be the ninth wife.

#### h) Eating Etiquette

The author shows that traditionally children are supposed to observe eating manners. When eating the elders are heard scolding the children who don't eat properly.

#### i) Position of women

Women occupy an inferior position in the society.

Firstly, women do nearly all work.

Most men do not go to the farm except few like Ndi. Women are also expected to come back home early after shamba work and do the cooking. When they come late, even if they have been working, they are trouble. For example, Makrita is still in the shamba but Atangana is complaining.

Secondly, women have no say in the society, even on matters that concern their life.

For example, Julliette is not asked about the man she wants to marry.

Thirdly, traditionally,

girls for whom a high bride price is paid are respected more because high bride price is the recognition of obedience and hardworking.

Last but not least, women are beaten in the society so as to make them obedient to their husband. Abesolo, for example is complaining because things are changing and sometimes women are asked for an opinion. He insists "I warn you again, you must beat your wives! yes beat them! And treat your daughters just the same way"

#### j) Family and Community

An individual is supposed to be loyal to the family and community at large. Individual's wishes are not such important. Bella for example, tells Julliette, "since when do girls fall in love without the permission of their family?". Therefore, love and marriage are the matters to be decided by the family in accordance with the norms and values of the community.

Her bride price is to be used by Oyono, her brother to pay the bride price for the wife she want to marry.

#### k) Change

Although the villagers are still leading a large traditional life, the coming of the Europeans has introduced many changes into the society.

Education changes the altitude of the young. They start go against their traditions. Julliette, for example, goes against the traditions like the bride price. To her, bride price has no great meaning, that is why she even steals the bride price and give it to Oko.

She also, dares to speak before men like her father Atangana which is contrary to the norms of the society

*Damian - May 31, 2017, 4:10 pm*

Thank for your knowledge to us ..