



## Non-binary and sexual attraction

Intro: Now we have talked about intersectionality and you understand what it means, the Terminology. Lets talk about identity crisis, because these two they go hand in hand. What is really identity Crisis? I had one, some of us black people go also through this here.

Apiyo: But when you say binary or non- binary, Eddie can you really describe what non- binary is. You don't identify as male or female but.. umm am just going to go straight to it because we are friends and I know I can ask you this. So when you are attracted to someone, you are not attracted to somebody because they are male or female but you are attracted to the person or the character or how does this work?

Eddie: There is two things here. First of all, we have this society in the west where we think you gender automatically has to do with who you are attracted to

Apiyo: mmhh

Eddie: And that was actually really confusing, for me because like for a long time, I thought that I was a man and I was meant to be with a woman. But it's so weird because I didn't. And again I don't feel like a man and once I learnt that ohh no actually how you feel about your own gender and who you are attracted to are two separate things.

Apiyo: Okay

Eddie: ... and for me being non-binary is more about how I feel about myself (Apiyo: ohh) and who I am than who I am attracted to. //Apiyo: Okay.

Eddie: ... and I gotta say ever since I am more honest about who I am and like living the way I want to which means I for example, I like to wear nail polish. // Apiyo: oh cool,

Eddie: Make up every now and then

Apiyo: we will have a makeup day one time soon.

Eddie: ohh yes // Apiyo: Mhh, sorry

Eddie: That also umm..like indirectly influenced who I am attracted to. Like I am now much more into people who are also challenging all this norms // Apiyo: mmmhh

Eddie: Because I recognise that it's actually like a really hard thing to just be yourself in a world that constantly tells you,

Apiyo: Yeah, yeah, I get what you mean

Eddie: No there is no way for you to be.

Apiyo: It is and it would be really difficult to have a partner who doesn't understand this or a partner who understands but doesn't support your fight. It's really difficult because being non-binary you face this everyday so you need to have a safe space where you can talk about this, where you can just be you. You know.

Apiyo: Yes, it's true a lot of Africans say this, being non binary or having a third gender like Eddie, is actually a white peoples thing. But that's not true, because if you look at our history and it's not even our history, this still exist right now. If you look at different cultures in different countries for example. If you look at south of Ethiopia, the Ashtime which was a third gender. If you look at Republic of Congo, we have the Mangaiko, which was also a third gender. If you look at Kenya the original terminology for Mashoga, which alot of people use in the coast of Mombasa, they use Mashoga to actually refer to a queer man, originally this terminology was used to refer to a third gender. And last but not least, Angola. They had shamans. Shamans who were called Chibados. These\* (they were born male, who lived most often as women) shamans were allowed to marry men (with no social sanctions). These marriages were considered by the elders, priced and they were really valued. And they were called Grandmother by the elders. The shamans were called Grandmother. This is really something we have in our culture. It's not a white peoples thing. Look it up!

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