



Presentation of Social Reality in the Pygmalion of George Bernard Shaw

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1.Abstract: Present research paper aimed to examine the social reality in George Bernard Shaw's famous play Pygmalion. George Bernard Shaw is the most popular playwright of 20th century. He is famous for his realistic writings. George Bernard Shaw had written the realism about psychological behavior of people, politics, human relationships, economics and love. In his plays, Shaw presented what actually happening in the surrounding. In few plays he just did the presentation of the things happening around him and in few of them he tried to highlight some good and bad things as well as he criticized the negative aspects of the society for the reformation. By shows plays, he had put his impact on his audiences in the Pygmalion. Shaw has flashed the social differences and the difference between peoples thinking about lower and higher classes.

We will find the reality of society about lower classes but at the end we will notice that it's all about the atmosphere and surrounding in which an individual grows.

2.Keywords: George Bernard Shaw, Reality, Pygmalion, Lower class, Higher class, Surrounding, Realism.

3.Introduction:

George Bernard Shaw is the writer who had won the Nobel Prize and the Academy Award together. He wrote more than 60 plays. George Bernard Shaw was born on 26th July 1856. He died on 2nd November 1950. He arrived at London in search of work for his living. Many of his plays were unsuccessful but later he wrote Pygmalion and become famous writer. George Bernard Shaw is an Irish writer. He is a realist. He expressed his thoughts about people and Society in a straight and simple way.

Pygmalion the title of the drama is an inspiration from a Greek mythology. Pygmalion was a Carver and he carved a beautiful girl statue and fell in its love. Day by day his love towards the statue grows more and more. Pygmalion pray God to make the statue live and next day it happens. The statue becomes live and Pygmalion get marry with the statue girl. Such kind of story happens in this drama of George Bernard Shaw the protagonist characters Henry Higgins is just like Pygmalion and the statue Girl the other protagonist Eliza Doolittle. Henry Higgins trains the girl to behave like a noble lady and felt an attachment towards her. Let us discuss the realistic story from this drama 'Pygmalion' written by George Bernard Shaw.

4. Review of Literature:

By going through many essays, articles, journals and research papers, websites, published books by authors, researcher found the presentation of realism in the writings of George Bernard Shaw. Peter Rudnitsky in his book, 'Hidden Realities', put



example of literary, psychoanalysis and humanism expressed the roots of creativity and criticism. George Bernard Shaw put the truth of society through his 'Glimpse of Reality: Roots of Creativity and Criticism' found in short writing.

Lots of literary works have been brought forward on the realism will become helpful for the research study.

5. Objectives:

1. To study the realistic presentation of George Bernard Shaw through Pygmalion.
2. To find out the styles of G B Shaw in play writing.
3. To study the useful outcomes from the realistic literature of famous playwright George Bernard Shaw for the welding of society.

6. Methodology:

The primary source for data is obtained from the English writings of G B Shaw, criticisms by critics and syllabus of master levels.

The method which is helpful to complete this research paper is only observation method. By using this method the researcher has gone through different literature, articles, journals, essays, research papers, critical works, and websites to find out related study materials and selected plays of G B Shaw. Few books written by various authors have been overlooked to collect the authentic data for research paper to make study more reliable.

7. Discussion:

- **The presentation of social reality in the 'Pygmalion'.**

In the beginning scene of display all the characters of the story appears simultaneously. The scene is outside of a station. It's a Stormy night with heavy rainfall. Mrs. Eynsford-Hill is waiting for taxi outside the station with her daughter Clara and son Freddy.

Mrs. Eynsford-Hill asks Freddy to go and get a taxi to reach home. Suddenly Freddy collides with the flower girl, Eliza Doolittle. At the same time the girl starts quarrel with Freddy because her flowers are scattered on the ground at that time and other important character of the play Henry Higgins who is a phonetic expert notices the conversation between Eliza and Freddy and note down something in his diary. Henry Higgins talks with girl and tells her origin. Another person Colonel Pickering is also present there and he is observing everything in this way all the characters of this play appear in the first scene.

The very first scene is realistic there is no need to think more while reading the drama. The realistic presentation of the scene attracts the audience because the places are tangible and real which are relevant to audiences' real life. In a very simple way he started the play with a Stormy night. People are eager to rush their homes. The way Freddy doing efforts to get a taxi, the flower girl, everything is realistic. This is a very simple and direct presentation of human life through the play. Nothing is imaginary, nothing is intangible. Simply the scene appears in front of the eyes of reader because all these things we all have experienced in our own lives. The creativity of drama drive people involve in the drama in very simple way is a specialty of George Bernard Shaw.



When Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins were interacting with each other, Eliza argued with Henry about what he had noted down in his diary. Then Henry says that Eliza belongs to the lower class. In this scene Henry Higgins who was a phonetics expert was guessing people's native places by listening to their speaking style and accent. People amazed and while Eliza came to notice that he was noting everything about her, she thought he was a policeman but it was nothing like that. He was studying the phonetics of people.

Such incidents also happen in real life too. We could find very less fiction and imagination in George Bernard Shaw's writing. Though the flower girl talked rudely with Henry Higgins, he decides and discuss with Colonel Pickering to have a bet to change the behavior of talking style of flower girl Eliza from a lower class to higher class. They both fixed the time of six months and all the play revolves around the theme of teaching Eliza to become a noble lady.

These kinds of incidents are realistic because in real life such things had happened in society. Some people do experiments on other people for survey, for research, for writing stories and dramas and psychological experiments. There is good sense of reality in the scenes of present drama. Colonel Pickering challenges Henry Higgins to prepare Eliza Doolittle as a noble girl and present her in an ambassador's party which is scheduled to happen after 6 months. Eliza Doolittle herself offers fees to train her as a noble lady as she wanted to become a flower seller with good manners because she thought that if she talk like a noble, she could do a job at bigger flower shop and can sell her goods with manners.

The training started, few days later Alfred Doolittle, who is the father of Eliza Doolittle, arrives at Henry Higgins' home and asks for his daughter Eliza. Henry Higgins tells Eliza that her father had come over there to take her away with him. Same time Alfred think that she might had dressed up with costly Robes and Henry will not allow her to go out with the dresses she is wearing then he demands for money Alfred get 5 pounds from Henry Higgins and went back from his house.

Eliza Doolittle encounters with her father and collide with him. He was going off but her father, Alfred Doolittle said, 'I am sorry miss, I hit you by mistake.' He didn't notice that she was Eliza, his own daughter. Everyone who were present there, were amazed that Eliza have tremendous changes occurred in her appearance, that her own father could not recognize her. This was amazing factor of appearance changes in Eliza Doolittle because of Henry Higgins.

Such behavior of lusty people is also observed around us. Just like Eliza's father, who had demanded money instead of taking his daughter to his own house. George Bernard Shaw had put the real things that happen in common life in front of audiences through his drama. Such kind of fathers are also seen. Those who sell their children, wives, daughters for the sake of money to fulfill their needs. They sell their loved ones for money to purchase alcohol. It is a cruel reality which is commonly found around us. Shaw has put for notice in the drama 'Pygmalion' as well the training profession of Henry Higgins, loyal made Mrs. Pearce, the trustworthy friendship between Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering, who was a linguistic colleague. All these real human behaviors along with the Eliza's desire to upgrade herself to become a good professional. All these are a real human behavior George Bernard Shaw presented all these things very simply without any exaggeration



blended in the drama this realistic presentation touches audiences hurts due to exact picturizing the social things or has become popular as a realist.

After completion of 6 month training represented a laser in front of Higgins mother to test Eliz's nobility, the guests where Mrs. Eynsford her daughter clearer along with her son Freddie Elise talks very politely with the guests but she made some mistakes near shore has not shown the drastic change happens suddenly in Eliza. There is also realistic feature of drama presentation. Again Henry Higgins starts doing corrections in a Eliza's behavior. In this scene, there is no imaginary part used as we compare with others imaginative stories. We could have found the 100% changes in the behavior of the protagonist and the story will proceed positively towards the Happy Ending. But in George Bernard Shaw's writing we find only reality.

Further Eliza performed very well in other parties. Higgins has succeeded in his experiment. Later she came to notice that the changes happened in her behavior was a part of a bet between Higgins and Colonel Pickering. She felt disappointed and Cursed Higgins for his deed. Higgins explained her that he had taken many efforts to bring nobility within herself and he had done nothing wrong with her. The drama proceeds further towards conclusion. Many little things are there, many events. Eliza went to Higgins' mother's house, Higgins came over there in search of her, she don't wanted to bear him anymore but Higgins felt an attachment towards her. Later he offers her to live with him but due to his rude behavior she refused. She asks him to change his rudeness into kindness but he says that he will not change anymore. She has to accept him as he is. She refused and accepted the love proposal of Freddy because he respected her and crazily passionate towards her.

In the above portion of the drama, there is no fantasy mixed regarding love. There is no artificial thing mixed for happy ending of the drama. The scene is put in the drama as it is happened in the practical real life. In such a way, the drama propagates towards end and we find the realistic incidents rather than the exaggeration and imagination. This is the best style of presenting reality of human life to the audiences through the drama and George Bernard Shaw had done this very well through the 'Pygmalion'.

8. Conclusion:

As George Bernard Shaw is a realist and greatest dramatist of 20th century we have found the social reality and the people behavior which happens around us through this drama. It shows that fiction can make us happy for a very little time but when we come to notice that the real life and the drama also have similarities. Then people make their sense to accept the reality in the drama as well in their own real lives because fictitious and imaginative drama only tells human mind what should happen good at the end but in real life that never happens. There are a lot of critical situations occur in human life. Then we always have to prepare ourselves to overcome the adverse situations. In George Bernard Shaw's Dramas, we could easily find the social reality that we face in our life and by studying these Dramas we can conclude that we should also have the courage to face the situations in the real life too. We must have to be prepared.

Many people we came across, that behave like professionals. They don't have sentiments and attachments with anyone. They just want their experiments gets succeeded, their profits in the business and their planned achievements. They don't



think of others' feelings and emotions they just think of their own self. George Bernard Shaw has presented the realities that happen truly in the real life of human being. We can imply all those things to correct the mistakes in our life. George Bernard Shaw is not only the realistic playwright; he is also a social reformer who inspires people through his realistic dramas. It's all up to the audiences that what useful lesson they should get from the drama with entertainment. George Bernard Shaw had commented on the society's behavior of differentiating people on the basis of their classes. There is always a gap between lower and higher class. People are ill-treated due to this aspect. Shaw had tried to focus this thing and showed that the class does not matter it's all about the surrounding of an individual. Anyone can adopt the competencies and skills of behavior by cohabitation.

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