

The Development of The Personality Through Education in G.B. Shaw's Pygmalion

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Abstract:

This paper aims to give the analysis of the importance of education through the play Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw. Also, it tells that education is a right movement which changes the life of the person for better. Hence education is the major theme of this play. Moreover, this paper aims to tell that a person will change his life from zero to be hero as we saw that in the heroine of this play as well as it gives some of good features of the learner and the successful teacher.

Key words: (challenge, hope, education life, birth).

Introduction

George Bernard Shaw, born in Dublin in 1856, began his writing career as a novelist and journalist, but gained his great fame as a playwright. Most people consider Shaw the second greatest playwright in the English language, after only Shakespeare. He dominated the English theatre for over sixty years and his influence, name and fame were all pervasive. Shaw is considered as the greatest man of his age and remarks. He was for us, not only a wit who might or might not be funny; he was a philosopher, and a political thinker whose doctrines were quite indubitably true; he was also a great liberator " .

Shaw's Pygmalion (1913) is a complex work of art with a number of themes and ideas. Interestingly, it deals with the theme of education (in

general and language retraining in particular). Moreover, in this play Shaw focuses on the discourse of education and the dynamics of the crucial teacher–student relationship. "Shaw presents the relation between this discourse and other discourses, most importantly class, and the idea of self–fashioning as a complex one. The notion of self–fashioning is of paramount importance. for, as the play also in its own way intimates") Sirajuddin H. and Arana S. F. (2011:147)

Significance of Education:

All religions attach such importance of the education. When the holy Qur'an began to be revealed, the first word was 'Iqra' that means, read. "Education is thus the starting point of every human activity" Damodaran and Nagarajan. Really Education is a motive to progress of the societies. "Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction to surged. Damodaran and Nagarajan

Introduction to Pygmalion

The play Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (1912), like the myth it takes its name from, begins with a man who sets out to prove his talent. A professor of linguistics, named Henry Higgins, selects a poor girl named Eliza from London and decides he will take on the challenge of teaching her proper English and good manners, so that he can “pass her off” as a duchess at a party.

Pygmalion in other words tells the story of an illiterate ignorant poor, young girl who earns her living by selling flowers. she has been disrespected by her society because of her appearance and the dialect she speaks. When given the opportunity, she decides to get language lessons in order to gain the respect of others and improve her overall status in life. One day when the poor girl was selling flowers met two men who are hiding themselves from the rain one of them was Henry Higgins, the eminent professor of phonetics, the author of Higgins Universal Alphabet and the another person was Colonel Pickering, a author of the book Spoken Sanskrit ..when Higgins heard the accent of the girl, he tells Pickering that he can change her life from her own class to be as the girl of high class further to speak and behave as high class just by teaching her.

Education is the best easy way to develop the skills of human being. It can be used by all categories of society. It easily can change life of a person from low class to high class. In Pygmalion, education is used as a tool to enlighten the life of working-class individuals. Actively, Eliza asked Higgins to teach her in order to change her life to be as princess and behave as duchess through education.

Features of the learner vis-a-vice the character of Eliza

Enthusiastically poor girl, Eliza came to Higgins on the second day morning in his house, she expressed her strong desire in Education and her love of learning. Really Eliza has the sharp intelligence and great talent and she promised him to obey his orders and behave respectfully. Fortunately,

Higgins agreed to teach in order to tell that he can able to change the girl from low class to speak and behave as princess within six months only. Higgins wanted to win the bet from Pickering. Eliza's transformation demonstrates that social distinctions such as accents are artificial and suggest that class barriers can be overcome by language training. It becomes questionable however if language reveals or forms one's character. Eliza's outcry at the end of the play denies this idea. Yet she understands herself better. Education is connected with social progress. Eliza's problems show that language alone provides only a superficial transformation. She lacks education to become fully integrated. By this, Shaw illustrates the impossibility of moving classes in those days.

Despite Eliza was stubborn and had no education at all but she was a hardworking student. Firstly, she cleans her body and appeared beautifully and repeating phrases which are learned by Higgins. It is observed that Eliza got the success because of her courageous talents and her ability to challenge the difficulties and sufferings of life.

Absolutely Eliza has only been made a lady, her soul has also awakened. She has acquired self-confidence and that search for identity and belongingness which was the most serious problem that confronted her after Higgins's experiment, has been successfully completed.

Eliza is from low class and she does not receive education at all. She is crude, ill-mannered, and saucy girl. But when Eliza makes her appearance at Mrs. Higgins' house, that we know that Eliza possesses a

great deal of native intelligence, that she has a perfect ear for all sorts of sounds, an excellent ability at reproducing sounds, a superb memory, and a passionate desire to improve herself. Her great desire is appeared when Eliza weeps and says " I have not got sixty pounds " (Pygmalion P 159). She weeps because she has not money to pay in order to get the education. Really, we could not imagine what kind of desire she has. Undoubtedly, she has a great desire which helps her to achieve her goal easily. In sum the student should have a great desire and self confidence in the same time.

Teaching style of Higgins

First, the teacher is not like a candle lights up the people and burn himself but the teacher is as the sun enlightens the earth, and gives the warmth or as the moon dispels the darkness and brightens the ground.

The teacher here is Henry Higgins who is a celebrate professor of phonetics and he is entirely devoted to the subject. Higgins, the Victorian professor/dialect expert who wagers that he can teach a lower-class girl to speak proper English and thus transform her into a lady.

Actually, Higgins has good and bad features in his character such as any person. Despite Higgins has his faults such as he swears dreadfully and he is untidy, slovenly in his habit and furious but there is much good in his character.

Higgins has his high standards of sexual morality as well as his whole scientific devotion to his subject. He is gentle. kind and soft-spoken. He can

be quite friendly and playful when the occasion so requires. Higgins has sharp smart because he knew the class of Eliza through her speech in first time. He told that he could teach her and change her personality and her identity from flower lady to be as the princess or as duchess within six months only. Higgins agreed to teach Eliza in order to win the bet. In reality Shaw mentioned that the character of Professor Henry Higgins was inspired by several British professors of phonetics: Alexander Melville Bell, Alexander J. Ellis, Tito Tagliarini, but above all, the cantankerous Henry Sweet.

The Mythology of teaching in the play

Through the character of Higgins, Shaw conveys some of his great ideas. One of these great ideas is the method of teaching. Higgins gets our admiration by his method in teaching Eliza. First professor Higgins orders his house-keeper Mrs. Pearce to bath the Eliza and scrub her naked body with a brush and soap and if she creates any problem, to give her sound beating in order to make her more obedient. He also asks the house keeper to give fresh dresses to her so that she may be dressed like a lady according to the latest fashion. Actually, Professor Higgins first tries to develop the appearance of Eliza. Powerfully he uses his great way to teach this poor girl in order to make her like duchess or princess. When the poor girl objects and wept because she does not want to be naked in bath ,Professor Higgins threatens her to throw her out .After that he uses his kind speak to tell her that she will live with him for six months in order to learn how to speak and behave beautifully, like a duchess or princess. "The Pygmalion method of

self-fulfilling prophecy is directly defined through the superior and subordinate relationship. This relationship can be expressed most clearly in the teacher-student relationship. Not only is this relationship a clear expression of superior and subordinate, but it is also one of the most important relationships as it is the societal equivalent of a new set of relatives. Every educator has the potential to be as influential as a family member in a student's life. Educators have the distinct and crucial role of shaping a developing mind and member of society. This goes for not only early education, but high education as well." Burgess (2007). Really Higgins and another decent character, Colonel Pickering give her a lot of high dresses and jewelries. Then gradually he teaches her how to develop her language. Education in phonetics is as ordeal for her but she has courage talent so is strongly able to face the ordeal. Higgins uses the test to know the benefit of his way from time to time. All these things make him get the successfully achieve his goal to change the life of that poor girl who sells the rose in the street to behave as duchess.

Conclusion

Ingenuity of G. B. Shaw appeared in this play, which brought together a model of the patient struggling student who wanted to overcome upon the difficulties of the life with full hope to change her life to be better through the education, and the talented teacher who collect between cruelty and kindness in dealing with his student. Every character in the play Pygmalion, has his own way to achieve his goal successfully. Through this

play the importance and benefit of the education and teaching appeared clearly here.

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