

14 Oct. 2020

S. No 8 B.A.Part-3 English (Hons) Topic: The opening and ending scenes of *Pygmalion* Dr Umesh Prasad Singh, Assistant Prof of English, D. B. College Jaynagar, Contact No 7250460920, Email-ID drumeshsingh131@gmail.com

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Q:-1 What makes the opening scene or the first Act of Shaw's *Pygmalion* amusing?

Ans: - The opening scene of the play begins in a wet summer morning under the portico of St Paul's Church. The very scene provides the play with dramatic excitement as it is raining and people are running about for shelter. But what makes the first scene very enjoyable is Shaw's great capacity of creating comic and ironic situations. Prof Higgins is mistaken for a police. Somebody mistakes him for a mad man and insults him with a mock regard. Even Pickering, scolds him for his uncalled for officiousness. The way in which Prof Higgins and Col-Pickering come to know each other is amusing.

The first meeting of Eliza and Freddy is another amusing scene. Freddy is in hurry to find a taxi. He collides with Eliza and damages her flowers. She accuses him of lack of manners and demands compensation from his mother. At the same time she gets some money from Col-Pickering. When Freddy brings taxi for his mother and sister, he does not find them. Then Eliza hires the taxi and imposes her superiority on Freddy, which is a really amusing scene.

Q:-2 Comment on the ending of *Pygmalion* .

Ans:- Shaw has been a thorough anti-romantic dramatist . But he has given the title of this play a romantic name *Pygmalion*. He himself describes that *Pygmalion* is a romance in fifth Act. But *Pygmalion* is not a romance. It could have been called a romance if Higgins and Eliza had fallen in love and married.

The play deals with the experiment of a phonetician. Prof Higgins is a phonetician. He trains Eliza to speak with a cultivated speech. He treats Eliza just as an object of his experiment. But Eliza

begins to love him. Higgins does not marry her. So Eliza, like a modern girl leaves his house in an angry mood. The play ends at this point unromantically. Here Shaw is highly anti romantic.

Eliza, after leaving the house of Prof Higgins, marries Freddy, a poor uneducated boy. So the readers are disappointed at the end of the play. Many critics have found the ending of the play unbearable and unbelievable. Shaw considers Pygmalion a romance in the fifth Act because of Miss Doolittle's marriage with Freddy. The marriage of Eliza with Freddy leaves much room for criticism. This marriage has little role in this play. The relationship between Eliza and Higgins is a major one which ends up anti romantically.

Thus anti romantic idea is dominant in this play.