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**S. No 6 B.A.Part-3 English (Hons) Topic: The theme of *Pygmalion***

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**The theme of the play *Pygmalion*.**

Shaw did not like to write the romantic theme or about the emotional relationship of men and women. He wanted to propagate his ideas through his plays. In *Pygmalion* he highlights his view that by the change in pronunciation the change in the society can be brought about.

This play *Pygmalion* deals with the theme of a universal problem of education that education creates a desire for better life style which it hardly provides. Eliza is the example of a girl who receives education of proper pronunciation. After the proper training of speaking English correctly she finds herself completely changed. She longs for a better life style but her education of Phonetics fails to provide her with that. Her education leads her to unrest. This is the main theme of this drama that education leads one to unrest.

The national problem of correct pronunciation is the subsidiary theme of this play. In this play Shaw has taken a phonetician as a protagonist, who changes a flower girl, Eliza, into a refined lady by teaching her correct pronunciation. The change in the flower girl proves that teaching pronunciation is neither impossible nor uncommon. Eliza is a memorable character for she proves that refinement in speech can bring about a change in personality.

Shaw is highly critical of the present condition of England as the people of the different parts of the country are speaking English differently. There is no uniformity in their speeches. Shaw believes that the difference in their pronunciation causes the difference in their society. He thinks that by the acceptance of one pronunciation they can reduce the class discontent. He holds the view -when there will be one pronunciation there will be less friction in the society. Shaw points out the unscientific nature of English pronunciation. He seems to be

interested in removing the anomalies in the spoken form of English language.

Thus in this play Shaw deals with the theme of correct pronunciation and the dark side of education which leads the student to a discontent life