

Citation information. *in esse: English Studies in Albania*. Volume 3, Issue 2, Page 103-112.
ISSN 2078 – 7413.

Semiotics and Gender Discrimination in Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*

Rabindra Kumar VERMA, *Manipal University, Jaipur (Rajasthan), India*

rkverma1984@gmail.com

Abstract

In *Pygmalion*, Shaw discusses his view of the articulation of sounds in the English language through his mouthpiece, Henry Higgins. For his experiment of phonetics, Higgins chooses Eliza Doolittle, a flower girl who speaks cockney English. Higgins's behaviour towards her draws the reader's attention because he discriminates between sexes on the basis of language. Higgins's engendered language reflects an inferior Eliza to him. He shows his hatred of women by maintaining that women upset everything the moment he allows them to enter his life. He dislikes their company and friendship. His aggressive nature and abusive behaviour are coded in the language he uses against Eliza. Besides this, Shaw also discusses class system in the British society. Class discrimination widens the gap between Higgins and Eliza at the end of the play. The paper is a discussion on the discrimination between sexes on the basis of language of the play. It deals with various aspects of semiotics and discrimination between sexes.

Keywords: *semiotics, language, sex, and gender*