

LANGUAGE, CLASS AND EDUCATION IN BERNARD SHAW'S PYGMALION.

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Abstract

In this paper, I support the claim that there is an inevitable relationship between language and social class to which the speaker (character) belongs. Literary Language, the paper claims, is a manifestation of the verbal practices done by real speakers in real communicative situations. Bernard Shaw, the paper illustrates, has successfully used the concept of "language variation" as a stylistic device to reveal some significant social aspects of Liza, the main character of the play. Drawing on Basil Bernstein's (1971) distinction between elaborated code and restricted code, the paper compares between Liza as a low class illiterate speaker and the same Liza after having intensive linguistic training by Prof. Higgins. The analysis is based on some selected extracts of Liza's speech in different conversational scenes in the play.

Key words: *restricted code, elaborated code, illocutionary act, language variation, social class.*

