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THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND SOCIAL CLASS IN SHAW'S *PYGMALION*
(A STUDY OF ELIZA'S UTTERANCES)

A THESIS



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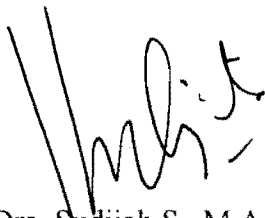
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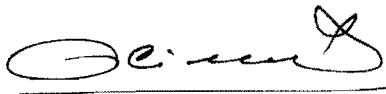
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ABSTRACT

Language is indissolubly linked with the members of society in which it is spoken, and social factors are inevitably reflected in their speech. Social factors have big influence toward the variety of language (Downes). From this point of view, the language use of people in general, including a character in a drama, may influence their social factors.

In concern to this, the writer chooses one of Shaw's most popular plays, i.e. *Pygmalion*. According to Hillegass, this play had two purposes: one was to show that people's manner of speaking depends greatly on their success or failure in life; second was to show that phonetics could enable someone to change his accent. In this play phonetics provides away to social advancement (20).

The writer only concentrates on one of the main characters of this play, i.e. "Eliza Doolittle." The reason is because the writer wants to focus on the development of Eliza's utterances as reflected in her sentence structures which lead to the change of her social status. The social factors are based on Hymes "SPEAKING" components which are taken from the content of Eliza's utterances and context of the play. Then the writer analyzes the language and social factors stage by stage and compares them to determine the development of Eliza's utterances from stage 1 to stage 2 and also to find out the factors that affect the language change.

The conclusion shows that Eliza's utterances gradually change from stage 1 to stage 2, especially in her use of double negatives, the use of "aint" and the use of functional improprieties. Her tendency of using more complex sentences also increases in stage 2. From the five "SPEAKING" components: Setting and scene, Participant, Ends, Keys and Act sequence; Setting is the main factor which affect the changes of Eliza's utterances.