

"Pygmalion" like other plays of Shaw is anti-romantic. In "Pygmalion" his anti-romantic attitude is towards a miraculous transfiguration myth has it that Pygmalion was a sculptor. He built a very beautiful statue and prayed to the goddess of love to make it alive. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, turned the statue into a living woman, who is called Galatea. Pygmalion married Galatea. Shaw does not approve of such a miraculous transfiguration. Shaw calls his play a romance for the transfiguration of Eliza from a flower girl into a duchess is not improbable. In his play Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, stands for Pygmalion and Eliza Doolittle, a flower girl, stands for Galatea. Eliza Doolittle is young and graceful but her speech is horrible and her emotions are so undeveloped that she is little more than a statue. Higgins takes up the task of teaching her and within a very short span of time, the very 'squashed cabbage leaf' is



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transformed into 'a duchess' at  
an ambassador's garden party.  
Her speech becomes so refined  
that even Nepommuck does not  
recognise her and thinks her to  
be a Hungarian.