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REG. NO.: 2016/240827

DEPT.: ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

COURSE: ELS240

THE PRESENTATION OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ANY TWO MODERN COMIC WORKS (VOLPONE AND PYGMALION)

Gender is the state of being male or female while sexuality is every aspect of our being from attitude and value to feelings and experience towards other people. Gender and sexuality in modern comic works is presented from two perspectives- the presentation of female characters in relation to that of male, and the reaction of female characters towards traditional gender representation.

Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion gives an understanding of gender loyalties in the play. Women are presented to be loyal and respectful. Although Eliza was badly treated by Higgins and Pickering, she still remains loyal to them. Higgins treats her like a lesser being because of her gender yet she remains loyal. Again Mrs. Pearce ensures the functioning of Higgin's household and remains him of his own manners. Mrs. Higgins takes Eliza in when she leaves Higgins and Pickering, and helps resolve things in the play. These two characters demonstrate how women might still exert some agency within an oppressive Victorian society. At that, the women cannot escape the constraint of their sexist world.

In contrast, relations between people of opposite gender are generally portrayed by Shaw as antagonistic. Higgins and his mother have a troubled relationship, so does professor and Mrs.

Pearce, but Freedy and Eliza are in a better relationship perhaps due to her feminine dominion. In Shaw's days female characters are subordinate to male character. They were regarded as properties. In this case Eliza's father is a good example by selling Eliza to Higgins as if she is a property. This shows that inequality of the sex is even greater than equality of the class. In other words, Higgins tries to give Eliza two options which placed her under the control of man, Higgins is only interested in what a potential husband can make of Eliza. He does not see her as capable of becoming anything in life. Eliza begins to fight against Higgins opinion by tossing his slippers at him. Eliza demands to be treated as who she is not to be taken as someone who needs to be made into anything else. She wants Higgins kindness and respect and Higgins asserts that without Eliza will go back to her poor personality. He also claim ownership and credit for Eliza by saying Freedy is not good enough for his masterpiece. In this situation, Eliza becomes fed up with being under the control of a man like Higgins, Pickering, her father or a potential husband. In saying this, she could become a teacher of phonetics. She makes claims for her self-control based on her knowledge. She claims that what she has been taught is her own way of creating herself. Higgins is finally impressed by her cleverness and willingness to stand up to herself and her demands.

Shaw's criticism and opinion is expressed in Eliza, whereas females of the period were marked by some kind of hopelessness. Eliza is an independent self confident character. She even uses language training to show superiority over Higgins.

Johnson's *Volpone* reflects the misconception and low status of woman in the renaissance England. Celie's gender makes her a victim of male characters such as Corvino and Volpone who treats her as though she is a possession to be won. Examining the female sexuality and morality is not only the characterization of Celie alone but also that of lady would-be politic. Johnson tries to

reveal how women are caught in a double-bind within the patriarchal structure of renaissance in England. They must conformed to their feminine roles or risk being alienated from their communities.

Celie the wife of Corvino has entirely conformed to her feminine role of a proper married woman but to some extent Corvino the husband and Volpone ,both try to exhibit male authority over celie through sexuality, Corvino attempt to whore her Volpone, who in turn attempt to rape her. Celie represent the stereotypical renaissance idea of women. she is silent, chaste and obedient, the attitude show to work to both her advantage and disadvantage in which her sterling reputation initially gives her credibility in court.

In that of lady would-be she is given a lot of freedom of rooming Venice freely. Lady would-Be also with contrast wit of the renaissance idea of a woman since her an extreme talkative and well educated. She is skilled with language and makes of men in the play like Volpone. Fine her exceptionally annoying.

In conclusion, the differences between Celie and lady Would-Be illustrate different societal role of women in Italian and England which suggest that gender roles are culturally contingent rather than biological determined. In this way the play challenges the stereotypical gender roles and assumption about women, although it affirms stereotypes too. At the very last, Volpone complement the roles of women in the society by showing that women-like men can be well read, virtuous, educating and well spoken.