

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background of the Study**

In this major thesis, I intend to discuss George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion and Willy Russell's Educating Rita. These two plays share the same issues which are male characters' unfair treatment towards the female protagonists and their struggle against it. These two plays also want to show the development of the two female protagonists through education.

Pygmalion is originally written in 1912. The female protagonist, Eliza Doolittle, comes from a poor family and speaks with a terrible accent, and because of that reason, she gets the unfair treatment from Professor Higgins, a scientist of phonetics. Educating Rita is written in 1985. The female protagonist, Rita, feels that her life is mapped out by her family and friends. This is even worse by the fact that her husband urges her to have a baby and forbids her in having a higher education. These two plays are written in

different period; however, both plays show that inequality to women still exists.

In this major thesis, I propose to analyze portrayal of the female protagonists in the two plays. According to A.S Hornby in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, portrayal is defined as “the act of showing or describing somebody or something in a picture, play, book, etc” (Hornby, 2005: 1172). Through portrayal of the female protagonists, I will analyze their position in the different periods of twentieth century and the changes of the female protagonists after being enlightened by education.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Having read the two plays, I would like to analyze the following problems as follows:

1. How is each female protagonist portrayed in the two plays?
2. How do the two female protagonists develop?

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study is done in order:

1. To show how each female protagonist is portrayed in the two plays.
2. To show how the two female protagonists develop.

### **Method of research**

In this major thesis, I am using library research. First of all, I read the two plays which are George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion and Willy Russell's Educating Rita as the primary texts. Then, I also try to find some additional information from reference books and internet to support my study of these two plays.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

This major thesis is divided into four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Portrayal of the Female Protagonists in George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Chapter Three is Portrayal of The Female Protagonists in Willy Russell's Educating Rita. Chapter Four is the Conclusion which consists of the conclusion of the study and the comparison between the two plays. The last part is Bibliography, consisting of the list of references used in analyzing the two plays and Appendix, consisting of Synopsis of the Literary Works and Biographies of the two playwrights.