

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

IV.1. Analysis of act 1 and interpretation

Table ■

ACT 1 (1st section)

(p.17)

Dialogue :	Diction :
The daughter : No. I've nothing smaller than sixpence.	a tanner : slang term for a coin worth sixpence that is no longer part of the British currency. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>
The flower girl : [<i>hopefully</i>] I can give you change for a tanner, kind lady.	

Table2

ACTII

(p.19)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The gentleman : For a sovereign ? Ive nothing less.</p> <p>The flower girl : Garn ! Oh do buy flower off me, Captain. I can change half-a-crown. Take this for tuppence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sovereign : a gold coin later replaced by the paper one-pound note. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i> • Garn ! : 'Go on !' or 'Get along with you!' Slang expression of disbelief, used coaxingly here. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i> • tuppence : Shaw's spellings correspond to the normal pronunciation of 'twopence' <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>

Table3

ACT1

(p.19)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The bystander : <i>[to the girl]</i> You be careful : give him a flower for it. Theres a bloke here behind taking down every blessed word youre saying. <i>[All turn to the man who is taking notes].</i></p> <p>The flower girl : <i>[springing up terrified]</i> I aint done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bloke : man; slang term recently revived. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i> • blessed : used colloquially as a very mild swear-word.

<p>nothing wrong by speaking to the gentleman. I've a right to sell flowers if I keep off the kerb. [Hysterically] I'm a respectable girl: so help me, I never spoke to him except to ask him to buy a flower off me.</p>	<p>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I aint done nothing : another example of the grammatically incorrect double negative combined with the colloquial 'aint' (isn't) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974) • a respectable girl : not a member of criminal underworld. • so help me : shortened form of 'so help me God' . Eliza is prepared to swear on oath that she has done nothing wrong. (Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)
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Table 4

ACT1

(p. 20)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The note taker : [overbearing but good-humored] Oh, shut up, shut up. Do I look like a policeman ?</p> <p>The flower girl : [far from reassured] Then what did you take down my words for? How do I know whether you took me down right? You just shew me what youve wrote about me. [The note taker opens his book and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what youve wrote : this grammatical form is a sign of lower class speech. (Notes on Pygmalion, 1980) • aint : colloquial (isn't) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)

<p>holds it steadily under her nose, though the pressure of the mob trying to read it over his shoulders would upset a weaker man]. Whats that? That aint proper writing. I cant read that.</p>	
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Table 5

ACT 1

(p.22)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The note taker : Never you mind. They did. [<i>to the girl</i>] How do you come to be up so far east? You were born in Lisson Grove.</p> <p>The flower girl : [<i>appalled</i>] Oh, what harm is there in my leaving Lisson Grove? It wasnt fit for a pig to live in; and I had to pay four-and-six a week. [<i>in tears</i>] Oh, boo - hoo - oo -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisson Grove : in the Edgware Road district of London. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i> • four-and-six a week : a considerable rent for a comfortless bed-sittingroom in Edwardian England. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>

Table 6

ACT 1

(p.23)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The sarcastic one : [<i>amazed</i>] Well, who said I didn't ? Bly me ! you know everything, you do.</p> <p>The flower girl : [<i>still nursing her sense of injury</i>] Aint no call to meddle with me, he aint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bly me ! : this vulgar exclamation is usually spelt 'Blimey!' <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English,</i>

	<p>2974)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aint no call he aint : he has no cause or reason he hasn't.
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Table 7

ACT 1

(p. 23)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The bystander : <i>[to her]</i> Of course he aint. Dont you stand it from him. <i>[To the note taker]</i> See here: what call have you to know about people what never offered to meddle with you ?</p> <p>The flower girl : Let him say what he likes. I dont want to have no truck with him.</p>	<p>have no truck with : idiomatic expression meaning 'have nothing to do with'.</p> <p><i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i></p>

Table 8

ACT 1 (2nd section)

(p.25)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>The daughter : But the cab - <i>[her mother is out of hearing]</i>. Oh, how tiresome!! <i>[She follows angrily]</i>.</p> <p><i>All the rest have gone except the note taker, the gentleman, and the flower girl, who sits arranging her basket, and still pitying herself in murmurs.</i></p> <p>The flower girl : Poor girl ! Hard enough for her to live without being worried and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chivied : Eliza complains that she is being 'worried and chivied' by Higgins. She means chevied, or tormented, or baited. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i> • worried : a nineteenth-century colloquial variant of worried rarely heard today.

chived.

(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)

not recommended whether talking about **daily** life, or of human interest in **many** kinds of tone like light-hearted, formal, tense, **sarcastic** and impolite. Most of Eliza's tone is not proper because she never has **good** education which will tell her how she should express herself and how she should choose her words. She **says** whatever she likes. Therefore, Profkssor Higgins, whose attention is drawn **by** her **speech**, takes notes of whatever Eliza says. Then, Professor **Higgins** **boasts** to Colonel Pickering that he could teach **Eliza** so successfully that, **in** three months, she could **pass** for a duchess, or get a job serving the middle and **upper** classes. It is a big challenge for Profkssor **Higgins** as a **professional** phonetician to teach Eliza how **to become a** lady, Eliza **agrees to take** lessons **from** Professor Higgins.

For example with reference to Table 4 :

The note taker : [*overbearing but good-humored*] Oh, shut up, shut up. Do **I** look like a policeman?

The flower girl : [*far from reassured*] Then what did you take down my words for? How do I know **whether you took me down right?** You **just shew me what youve wrote about me.** [The note taker opens his book and holds it **steadily** under her nose, though the pressure of the mob trying to read it over his shoulders would upset a weaker man]. **Whats that? That aint proper writing.** I cant read that.

Eliza doesn't like that the note taker writes (Professor Higgins) down what she says, and she feels worried that the note-taker writes something bad about her. Therefore, she expresses her **dislike directly**, tensely **and** excitedly. Actually the topic of the conversation **is** daily life and that why someone (**Mr. Higgins**) is interested **in taking notes** of **Eliza's** language. However, Eliza doesn't understand it, she **thinks** that Mr. Higgins **is** a spy. **All of this can** happen because she never has **good** education. Therefore, she **cannot** understand what Mi. Higgins is **doing**.

Eliza uses the word ‘what youve wrote’ to **ask what Mr. Higgins** writes about and **this** shows her bad *grammar* is and gives a sign of lower class speech. She **also** uses ‘aint’ **as the colloquial of isn’t**.

IV.1. Analysis of act 2 and interpretation

Table 9

ACT 2

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Higgins : Pickering : shall we ask this baggage to sit down, or shall we throw her out of the window?</p> <p>The flower girl : <i>[running away in terror to the piano, where she turns at bay]</i> Ah-ah-oh-ow-ow-ow-oo! <i>[Wounded and whimpering]</i> I wont be called a baggage when Ive offered to pay like any lady.</p> <p><i>Motionless, the two men stare at her from the other side of the room, amazed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baggage : slang term for ‘woman’ <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary & Current English, 1974)</i> • at bay : Shaw employs the metaphor of the hunted animal <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>

Table 10

ACT 2

(p. 42)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs. Pearce : Why not ! But you dont know anything about her. What about her parents? She maybe married.</p>	<p>garn ! : ‘Go on !’ or ‘Get along with you !’ Slang expression of disbelief, used coaxingly here.</p>

Liza	: Gam !	<i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>
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Table1

ACT 2

(p. 42)

Dialogue :	Diction :
Mrs. Pearce : Nonsense, sir. You mustnt talk like that to her.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • off his chump : slang for 'mad', 'crazy'. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i> • balmies : lunatics; from the slang adjective usually spelt 'barmy'. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i>

Dialogue :	Diction :
Mrs. Pearce : I will have to put you here. This will be your bedroom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the likes of me : common Cockney for 'people like me'. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i> • missus : common vulgarism for 'mywife'. <i>madam</i> or <i>ma'am</i>. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i>
Liza : O-h, I couldn't sleep here, missus. It's too good for the likes of me. I should be afraid to touch anything. I aint a duchess yet, you know.	

Table 13

ACT 2 (2nd section)

(p.62)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Doolittle : <i>[with fatherly pride]</i> Well, I never thought she'd clean up as good looking as that, Governor. She's a credit to me, aint she ?</p> <p>Liza : and cold water on tap, just as much as you like, there is. Woolly towels, there is; and a towel horse so hot, it burns your fingers. Soft brushes to scrub yourself, and a wooden bowl of soap smelling like primroses. Now I know why ladies is so clean. Washing's a treat for them. Wish they could see what it is for the like of me !</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the like of me : common Cockney for 'people like me. (<i>Notes on Pygmalion, 1980</i>)

Table 14

ACT 2

(p.63)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Doolittle: Me ! I never brought her up at all, except to give her a lick of strap now and again. Dont put it on me, Governor. She aint accustomed to it, you see : Thats all. But she'll soon pick up your free-and-easy ways.</p> <p>Liza : I'm a good girl, I am; and I wont pick up no free-and-easy ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lick of strap : the right of married men to thrash their wives and children without interference from the police or

	is likely to lead, in her view <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i>
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Table 15

ACT2

(p.64)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Higgins : I dont want to, Eliza. Do you?</p> <p>Liza : Not me. I dont want never to see him again, I dont. He's a disgrace to me, he is, collecting dust, instead of working at his trade.</p>	<p>♦ collecting dust : Eliza maybe making a joke, punning on the word 'dust' which could be used as a slang term for 'money' in the 19th century, when 'dustman' could be used as the equivalent of 'money grubber' as well as having the standard meaning of 'collector of garbage'. Dust also refers to the material from which human beings are made, which needs the addition of a soul to give it life. Some aspects of Doolittle's personality recall another character from the same novel like Silas Wegg, who gets money out of Boffin and then goes searching for further profit among the dust.</p> <p><i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i></p>

Table 16

ACT 2

(p.66)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Higgins : By Jupiter, she's done it at the first shot. Pickering : we shall make a <i>duchess</i> of her. <i>[To Eliza]</i> Now do you think you could possibly say tea? Not ta-yee, mind : if you evr say ba-yee-ea-yee-da-yee again you shall be dragged round the room three times by the hair of your head. <i>[Fortissimo]</i> T, T, T, T.</p> <p>Liza : <i>[weeping]</i> I cant hear no difference cep that it sounds more genteel-like when you say it.</p>	<p>genteel : like the language of ladies' maids and shop girls, very careful, polite and correct, rather than natural. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i></p>

On Wimple Street, the next morning, when Professor Higgins has just finished showing his equipment and explaining his researches to Colonel Pickering, the housekeeper, Mrs. Pearce announces the arrival of Eliza who is specially dressed for the occasion to propose taking lessons from Higgins. At the first meeting, Eliza still uses many slang terms such as 'balmies', 'off his chump', 'Gam !', 'missus', 'collecting dust'. Most of her slang terms are expressed because Eliza wants to show that she is a good girl although she is poor and uneducated, but she doesn't want other people to think that she is a bad girl or a prostitute. Eliza is so angry and sensitive if someone says something bad about her. She forgets that she is learning to be a lady by using good language. She still says whatever she wants without considering what words are recommended or not. She

expresses herself impolitely, very tense, sarcastic, and informal. Here is an example which gives detail explanations of one episode act 2. (see table 11)

Mrs. Pearce : Nonsense, sir. You mustnt talk like that to her.
Liza : [*rising and squaring herself determinedly*] I'm going away. He's off his chump, he is. I dont want no balmies teaching me.

Eliza uses 'off his chump' and 'balmies', slang terms, to express that she does not care whether or not Mr. Higgins decides to give her lessons in order to become a lady. Eliza thinks that Mr. Higgins is already crazy in thinking that people will harm her. Besides, Eliza can protect herself and she wants Mr. Higgins: not interfere in her life. Eliza chooses 'off his chump' to say that Mr. Higgins is crazy and 'balmies' to say that she does not want to be taught by a crazy (balmies) person. Eliza says all this to Mrs. Pearce with the hope that Mr. Higgins will hear the conversation The topic of the conversation is actually related to human interest, that is Eliza thinks that Mr. Higgins has already interfered with her life, but she says what she thinks in a way not recommended, with sarcastic tone and a little bit pompous.

IV.3. Act 3 and interpretation

Table 17
 ACT 3
 (p. 78)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs. Higgins : [<i>at last, conversationally</i>] Will it rain, do you think? Liza : The shallow depression in the</p>	<p>◆ The shallow depression..... barometrical situation : Eliza's technically-worded speech is in</p>

<p>west of these islands is likely to move slowly in an easterly direction. There are no indications of any great change in the barometrical situation.</p>	<p>the wrong linguistic register for conversation; she has been reading meteorological reports in newspapers. The rest of her conversation, with its beautifully pronounced vulgarism of style and content, is all the more comic for its contrast with the fist pronouncement.</p> <p><i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i></p>
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Table 18

ACT 3.

(p. 78-79)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs. Eynsford Hill : I'm sure I hope it wont turn cold. Theres so much influenza about. It runs right through our whole family regularly every spring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord love you ! : used fo emphasis. <p><i>(Notes on Pygmalion 1980)</i></p>
<p>Liza : <i>[darkly]</i> My aunt died of influenza : so they said.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gin : a popular alcoholic drink among the poor, and among poor women in particular.
<p>Mrs. Eynsford Hill : <i>[clicks her tongue sympathetically]</i> ! !!</p>	
<p>Liza : <i>[in the same tragic tone]</i> But it's my belief they done the old woman in.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Higgins : <i>[puzzled]</i> Done her in?</p>	
<p>Liza : Y-e-e-e-es, Lord love you! Why should she die of influenza? She come through diphtheria right enough the year before. I saw her she was. They all thought she was dead; but my father he kept lading</p>	

gin down her throat til she came to so sudden that she bit the bowl off the spoon.
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Table 19

ACTB

(p.79)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs Eynsford Hill : [<i>startled</i>] Dear me !</p> <p>Liza : [<i>pulling up the indictment</i>] What call would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza? What become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it; and what I say is, them as pinched it done her in.</p>	<p>pinched it : stole it (slang) <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974)</i></p>

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs. Eynsford Hill : Do you mean that he drank?</p> <p>Liza : Drank! My word! Something chronic.</p>	<p>something chronic : colloquial understatement for 'very heavily'. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i></p>

Table21

ACTB

(p.79-80)

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Mrs. Eynsford Hill : How dreadful for you !</p> <p>Liza : <i>Not a bit. I never did him no harm what I could see. But then he did not keep it up regular. [Cheerfully] On the burst, as you might say, from time to time. And always more agreeable when he had drop in. when he was out of work, my mother used to give him fourpence and tell him to go out and not come back until he'd drunk himself cheerful and loving-like. Theres lots of women has to make their husbands drunk to make them fit to live with. [Now quite as her ease] You see, it's like this. If a man has a bit of conscience, it always takes him when he's sober; and then it makes him low-spirited. A drop of booze just takes that off and makes him happy. [To Freddy, who is in convulsions of suppressed laughter] Here! what are you sniggering at?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular : vulgar use of adjective in place of <i>adverb</i>. • he had drop in : variant of colloquialism 'he had a drop taken', meaning he had drunk a good deal of alcohol. <i>(Notes on Pygmalion, 1980)</i> • booze : alcohol, slang word. <i>(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1.974)</i>

Dialogue :	Diction :
<p>Freddy : <i>[opening the door for her] Are you walking</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not bloody likely : a word that

<p>across the Park, Miss Doolittle? If so - Liza : [<i>with perfectly elegant diction</i>] Walk! Not</p>	<p>everyone know but it is taboo in middle-class polite usage; it could not be uttered by ladies. for 'bloody' is an essentially meaningless word, a simple intensifier. (Its derivation from the medieval religious oath, 'By our lady', would have been unknown to all except students of etymology) <i>(Notes on Pymalion, 1980)</i></p>
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This act shows that Eliza has already made some improvement of becoming a lady. While waiting for Eliza, Professor Higgins makes tactless conversation and, in particular, comments on the dangerousness of speaking one's thoughts honestly in society. Then, Eliza enters, looking so beautiful that everyone is impressed and Freddy falls in love with her on the spot. Mr. Higgins has already changed Eliza into a duchess and Eliza also follows all his instructions. Eliza's way of speaking is already in a manner of Standard English. However, the trouble is, as Higgins foresees, that Eliza knows how to speak but not what to say. For example, this can be seen when people talk about the weather. (see table 17)

Mrs. Higgins : [*at last, conversationally*] Will it rain, do you think?

Liza : The shallow depression in the west of these islands is likely to move slowly in an easterly direction. There are no indications of any great change in the barometrical situation.

Eliza's language is beautiful but her technically-worded speech is in the wrong linguistic register for conversation. She has been reading meteorological reports in the newspapers and then she practices it; however, it doesn't look

beautiful and sounds so funny and strange. The rest of her conversation, with its beautifully **pronounced** vulgarism of style **and** content, is all the more comic for its contrast with the first pronouncement. **She uses** sophisticated diction **but using an** inappropriate sentence.

IV.4. Analysis of the end of the play

However, a few months **later, at a reception at an embassy in** London, **Eliza causes a great** stir with her beauty, her graceful manners **and** her lovely speech. **It can be** seen that the renowned phonetician Nepommuck, a former pupil of Higgins', is convinced that **she** is a **Hungarian** princess. The **flower girl has been** transformed **into a** fine young **lady**.

Peking : Well, E l i , now for it. Are you ready ?

Liza : Are you nervous, Colonel ?

Pickering : Frightfully. I feel exactly as I felt before my first battle. It's the first time *that* frightens.

Liza : *It is* not the *first time for me, Colonel. I have done this fifty times - hundred of times - in my little piggery in Angel Court in my daydreams. I am in a dream now. Promise me not to let Professor Higgins wake me; for if he does I shall forget everything and talk as I used to in Drury Lane.*

Being **trained by** Professor **Higgins** everyday, Eliza **faces a** reformation **and** an improvement in her grammar, pronunciation, **and** also diction. She chooses **good** language to explain her confidence that she is **ready** for the party.

Another example of **Eliza's improvement** in her way of **speaking**.

ACT 5 (p.125)

Liza : How do you do, Professor Higgins ? Are you quite well ?

Higgins[chocking] : Am I - [*He can say no more*]

Liza : But of course you are : you are never ill. So glad to see you again, **Colonel Pickering**. [*He rises hastily, and they shake hands*]. Quite chilly this morning, isn't it? [*She sits down on his left. He sits beside her*].

Eliza greets Professor Higgins and Colonel Pickering in exact pronunciation and grammar and she also uses good diction like the use of the tag question 'isn't if?' in a proper way and she doesn't use 'aint' anymore.