

## REVIEW

On a Competition for the Academic Position of *Associate Professor*

In direction 2.1. Philology, "Bulgarian language" scientific specialty (Bulgarian lexicology and lexicography), according to the announcement in the State Gazette № 36 of 03.05. 2019

With the candidate Nadezhda Spassova Kostova, Chief Assistant, PhD in the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography at the Bulgarian Language Institute

Reviewer: Lilia Krumova - Tsvetkova, Professor, PhD, Institute of Bulgarian Language

Nadezhda Kostova participated in the competition with 36 publications: 1 monograph, glossary articles in two volumes of the Academic Dictionary of Bulgarian language (Vol. 14 and Vol. 15, a total of 812 standard pages, 1,922 vocabulary items), 4 studies in reviewed collections, 27 scientific papers, most of which published in collections of works from international scientific conferences, etc., 1 review, 1 bibliography (co-authored).

The total number of candidate's publications is 41, of which 2 monographs, one of which based on her doctoral dissertation, articles in 2 volumes of the Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language – volumes 14 and 15, 4 studies, 30 articles and linguistic notes.

Nadezhda Kostova graduated Sofia University with a degree in Bulgarian Philology in 1998. In 2002 – 2005 she was a full-time doctoral student at the Institute of Bulgarian Language, and in 2005 defended her dissertation on the topic: *Basic Verbs of Movement in the Bulgarian Language* (published in 2010, 170 pages) and acquired the *PhD* educational and scientific degree.

For 14 years now she has been working for the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography at the Institute of Bulgarian Language: in 2005 – 2006 she was a researcher, from 2006 to 2011 she was a research associate of II degree, and since 2011 to present she has been a chief assistant. She has a very good philological background, good communication and organizational skills. She has participated in many seminars and lectures to enhance her knowledge and skills.

Nadezhda Kostova works mainly in the field of lexicology, interpretative, bilingual and computer lexicography, phraseology. Her focus is primarily on verbal vocabulary and semantics. Almost all of her work is devoted to verbal semantics and the new verbal vocabulary in the Bulgarian language. Her continued interest in this topic allows her to reach a large scope and depth in her researches. Her work bears a mark of innovation and actuality. Research on the verb is significantly less than that of the noun vocabulary, and so far there is no generalized research in the field.

Her research work qualifying for an academic degree is *Verbal Neologisms in the Bulgarian Language*, 206 p., Sofia, "Avant-garde Prima" Publishing house, ISBN 978-619-

239-107-2, 2018, which summarizes and further develops her observations, analyses and conclusions in the field of verbal neology from a series of previous researches – studies and articles.

I will outline the main contributions of the study:

1. The paper presents a comprehensive study of the innovation processes in the verb system at the end of the XX and the beginning of the XXI century, which is inherently innovative. The changes under consideration cover the emergence of a new verbal vocabulary and the formation of new meanings with existing verbs in the language.

2. The study brilliantly outlines the extra-linguistic and linguistic causes for the innovations under consideration. The ways of the lexical system enrichment are analysed – by borrowing from other languages, by internal borrowing from computer slang and youth jargon, by borrowed translations, by word formation with local and borrowed word-forming components, by semantic development of lexical units existing in the language. All these ways of lexical and semantic enrichment are analysed in relation to the active language trends, as well as in connection with the principle of linguistic economy.

3. The object, subject, aims and tasks of the study are formulated precisely and clearly. The combination of a corpus approach with well-established methods of lexical meanings exploration, such as distributional analysis, component analysis, Philmore's semantic cases theory, and the Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphors, result in a successful outcome.

4. The study has been carried out on a sufficiently rich material – 1,100 verb neologisms, extracted from the electronic corpora of the Bulgarian Language Institute and from the neology dictionaries worked out by the Institute's associates.

5. The lexical verb neologisms in Bulgarian language are thoroughly analysed. An important finding has been reached for the preferential role of word formation and the more limited one – that of borrowing, for the occurrence of this neologic vocabulary, i.e. borrowed verb neologisms are found to be few in number, contrary to the existing public opinion. In addition, these borrowings are adapted into the language system.

6. The specific relationships between the word-formation base and the derived names are traced. The analysis of a specific lexical material outlines the word-formation means, the types and patterns in the formation of verb neologisms. At the same time, word-formation meanings are analysed. Specific analyses and conclusions are made with regard to the verb suffixes *-ира* /-ira/ and *-изира* /-izira/, and their relation to the noun suffixes *-ация* /-atsia/ and *-изация* /-izatsia/. The role of the *-ва* /-va/ and *-н* /-n/ suffixes in the computer field is characterized. Subject of the analysis are also the prefixes *де-* /de-/ and *ре-* /re-/ as well as other local prefixes. The competition of verb neologisms with different suffixes is analysed, as well as the relationship between verb and noun neologisms (with suffix *-не* /-ne/, *-ция* /-tsia/, ending in *-инг* /-ing/, or non-suffix borrowings). The important conclusion is that a large

part of the verb neologisms arise as a result of word-formation integration of noun borrowings in Bulgarian language. The corpus approach plays an important role in clarifying these relationships.

7. The observations on the occurrence of verb neologisms by transitivity and de-reflection of intransitive reflexive verbs of the type of *усмихвам* /*usmihvam*/ and *усмихвам се* /*usmihvam se*/ are true, but in my opinion, in that case we should not talk about new verbs, but about neosemanticisms, i.e. for new meanings of some verbs, realized not by a secondary nomination, but by a change in the grammatical category of transitivity.

8. The systematic relationships of the new verb units arising from their integration are also traced.

9. A major contribution of the work is the description of verb neosemanticisms. Their analysis is based on the Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphors. The author proceeds from the thesis that verb neosemanticisms are a consequence of conceptual metaphors which precede the secondary nomination of verbs. She creates her own model of analysis in which she looks for similarities between two conceptual domains or two entities. The metaphorical projection is accomplished through a motivational sign and a change of the subject, object or adjunct of the action. Based on a rich material, N. Kostova establishes the conceptual metaphors of the new metaphorical meanings, establishes the types of semantic transfer, the models of secondary nomination. As a result of the analysis of a large number of new verb meanings, she establishes 7 productive secondary nomination models. The analysis of verb neosemanticisms is original, innovative in our lexicology. It is also of great importance to lexicographic practice. The emerging new verb meanings have been formulated with great precision and expertise, and in most cases these are the first formulations in Bulgarian lexicography.

The concept of neosemanticization is complemented by the representation of verb neosemanticisms obtained through metonymization. This process is much more limited and the author identifies two models of secondary nomination of this type.

10. The comprehensive description of verb neologisms includes also a classification according to the field of use, as well as a lexicographic description of this new vocabulary. Of particular interest are the author's observations that verb neologization primarily affects the computer field and youth jargon. The analysis of new computer lexical means in these fields is highly impressive.

The paper *Verb Neologisms in the Bulgarian Language* presents its author as a thorough researcher with analytical skills and the ability to summarize and reach important conclusions on language development.

Nadezhda Kostova's study *Semantics of Movement Verbs in the Bulgarian Language* is also devoted to verbal semantics. Her research is based on her doctoral thesis. This is an impressive work on the meaning of the basic movement verbs in our language. By

combining three different contemporary research methods – component analysis, theory of valence and the case principle – the study reveals the basic semantic features of movement verbs. These three methods complement and verify each other. Component analysis outlines the lexical-semantic group of motion verbs and classifies these verbs. The valence theory presents the blanks, the vacant positions in the lexical meaning of movement verbs, and the semantic connections through which these verbs gain meaningful completion. Then, through the case theory, the case framework of the verb meaning is presented. Valence implies and requires a semantic role or a case, and the case fills in the corresponding valence. The three classifications of movement verbs according to their semantic attributes, the semantic valences and their case relationships completely coincide. For the first time in Bulgarian linguistics, movement verbs are arranged in terms of semantic complexity and presented in a well-structured system.

N. Kostova examines interesting neological processes in her study *New Names for Actions in the Bulgarian Language and Their Lexicographic Presentation*. The subject of study are the new names for actions, mainly with the suffixes *-не* /-ne/ and *-ция* /-tsia/ and ending in *-унг* /-ing/, as well as those created by different word-formation methods in the language. The analysis outlines a number of new processes with these names. There is a significantly greater amount and greater frequency of action names than the corresponding verbs, and in some cases the corresponding verb is completely absent. This, according to the author, is due to the use of action names as terms. This fact, accordingly, reflects on the lexicographic interpretation of action names and verbs, in many cases the name of the action is used as the main and not a derivative word. Contributory conclusions have been drawn about the competition between the new action names.

The extremely large possibilities of the corpus approach in lexicography are implied in the study *Problems of Lexicographic Presentation of Some Verbs for Speech Activity in the Bulgarian Language*. Through a corpus-based study of the verbs *говоря* /to speak/ and *казвам* /to tell/, and a comparison with their presentation in the multivolume Dictionary of Bulgarian Language, N. Kostova proves that the corpus approach provides much greater opportunities than traditional lexicographic methods and approaches. Electronic corpuses not only facilitate and aid the work of the lexicographer. They enable the selection of better and more appropriate illustrative material, reveal correctly and precisely the lexical and syntactic compatibility of lexical units, provide statistical information, etc.

N. Kostova has a number of other articles covering the new verb vocabulary and action names. They are at the core of her academic qualification research work.

N. Kostova's research has contributed to both lexicology and lexicography. The studies discussed above analyse not only the semantics but also the lexicographic representation of the respective vocabulary. Theoretical contributions to lexicography are also her articles on verbs for speech communication (№ 10, 11), adjectives of kinship names (№ 22), verbs for silence (№ 25), verbs in computer technology (№ 21, 32), verbs for action

commencement (№ 26), the prefix *раз-* /raz-/ (№ 13), the lexical unit *пътувам* /to travel/ (№ 17), etc.

We should add to N. Kostova's theoretical contributions also those of her lexicographic practice. Nadezhda Kostova is one of the established **lexicographers** in Bulgaria. She has made a significant contribution to **interpretative lexicography**. Her research activity throughout the years has been accompanied by work in the author's team of the largest and most significant lexicographic project – the multivolume academic interpretive *Dictionary of Bulgarian Language*. She is the author of 812 pages, including 1,922 dictionary articles from volume 14 and volume 15 of the DBL. Working on the Dictionary requires dedication of a lot of work and energy, a great deal of patience and devotion, but most importantly, it requires serious knowledge in the fields of lexicography, grammar, pragmatics, word formation. Nadezhda Kostova has proven that she has these qualities and knowledge. She has developed a number of lexical units from letters P and R, many of which have complex semantic structure. The semantic structure of polysemantic words such as “път”<sup>1</sup> and “път”<sup>2</sup>, “пъхам”<sup>1</sup>, “пъшкам, пяна, пясък, реч, речен, решавам, рибарски, рица, римски, риск, рискувам, рисунка, ритам, ритмика”, etc. has been elaborated.

A serious lexicographic problem in interpretative lexicography is the reflection of prefixed verbs. It is N. Kostova's credit for the research of the verbs with the prefix *раз-* /raz-/. She has participated in the development of the semantic structure of the prefix, independently preparing vocabulary articles of about 300 verbs with this prefix, e.g. *разговарям*<sup>1</sup> and *разговарям*<sup>2</sup>, *разголям*, *разгонвам*, *разгорявам*<sup>1</sup> and *разгорявам*<sup>2</sup>, *разграждам*, *разгромявам*, *разгръщам*, *разгъвам*, *раздавам*, *разделям*, *раздирам*, *раздухвам*, *разигравам*, *разказвам*, *разкарвам*, *разклащам*, *разкривам*<sup>1</sup>, etc.

The candidate has also contributed to **bilingual lexicography**. She participates on the Bulgarian side in the Bulgarian-Slovak Dictionary (Vol. 2, 2013, Vol. 3 under print). She also participated in the development of a dictionary for Bulgarian-foreign vocabulary with models for 2,622 dictionary articles for words from the letters “P, C, T, Ф, X, Ц”. She has contributions also in the field of **computer lexicography** – in the development and testing of the LexIt lexicographic system, in the development of the Infolex information portal, in the expansion of the Neolex information portal, in the expansion of the Bulgarian National Corpus.

Nadezhda Kostova participated in the development of one of the most significant editions of the UBLL *Bibliography on Bulgarian Lexicology, Phraseology and Lexicography 1950 - 2010* (594 p., Sofia, 2012). This is an extremely valuable bibliographic reference book, a source of information needed for scientific research.

The candidate actively participates in scientific forums. She has taken part with reports and speeches in 18 scientific conferences, sessions, symposia in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine, Sweden. Through her reports, she has made her theoretical findings available to linguistic circles.

N. Kostova was a participant in 12 national or international projects. She was the leader of the *Bulgarian-Slovak Dictionary* (2012 - 2014) project. The Institute's projects are

related to studies in lexicology and the creation and completion of electronic corpuses on the Bulgarian language. The international projects concern comparative lexicology and lexicographic studies with the Czech, Slovak and Polish Academies of Sciences.

She has conducted four lecture courses as a part-time lecturer at Sofia University (three in Phonetics and Lexicology and one in *Infolex - a guide to Bulgarian electronic dictionaries*).

N. Kostova's works have been cited 23 times by Bulgarian and foreign scholars.

Nadezhda Kostova's creative work presents her as a well-established scholar with significant contributions to lexicology and lexicography. Her researches outline the new processes and phenomena in the field of verb vocabulary and the perspectives of contemporary Bulgarian lexicography. The documents and materials presented by Nadezhda Spasova Kostova meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the implementation thereof. With complete conviction, I believe that Nadezhda Spasova Kostova should deservedly occupy the academic position of *Associate Professor*.

Reviewer: Prof. Lilia Krumova – Tsvetkova, PhD