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O P I N I O N

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On dissertation thesis for the doctoral scientific degree in “Humanitarian Sciences” university education, “Philology” professional field, code 2.1

Author of the dissertation: Janeta Todorova Zlateva, Assistant at the Contemporary Bulgarian Language Section of the Bulgarian Language Institute at BAS.

Thesis topic: “Dynamics of Duplicity in the Verb System of Contemporary Bulgarian Literary Language”.

The dissertation work is devoted to the verb duplicity in the Bulgarian language, a problem which is important for the language theory and practice that, inexplicably, has been under-researched. That is why the topic of work is relevant and it fills a vacant place in Bulgarian linguistics. The author is well aware of the language studies on duplicity and builds further on what has been created so far.

The work uses a completely appropriate methodology for the set goals of the study. The descriptive-analytic method makes it possible to describe and analyse codification associated with duplicity between the 1940s up to the present, and the comparative method allows to reach significant conclusions about the criteria and the results of codification activity.

The goals and objectives of the study have been successfully achieved. I will try to briefly state the merits of the work.

1. A significant positive side of the work is the perspective from which it examines the duplicity phenomenon. In our linguistics, it has been evaluated rather negatively, and it has been suggested that the assumption of duplicity is a weakness in codification. In her research, Janeta Zlateva, sharing the perception of duplicity of the Prague School of Linguistics, calls for considering duplicity as a positive phenomenon, a source for language enrichment and intellectualizing, a means to

maintain the flexible stability in the language, an instrument facilitating the smooth and painless validation of language changes and their codification.

2. Duplicity has been analysed both theoretically and practically. The theoretical part achieves a scientific knowledge of the essence of duplicity, its functions in the literary-language norms and its basic characteristics. For this purpose, the phenomenon is placed in the broader context of linguistic change, variance and theory of literary languages. The distinction between linguistic and literary norms of the Prague School theory is fundamental to the study.

Duplicity is a kind of linguistic change. The doctoral student analyses the concept of linguistic change in different paradigms in both diachronic and synchronic linguistics. She traces the differences in the outlook to the phenomenon between historical linguistics and structuralism.

She draws up conclusions about the relationship between language change and variance. She clarifies the essence of variance as a two-dimensional phenomenon, representing both a property and a realization, which explains the broad scope of the terms *variant* and *variance*.

She establishes the fundamental distinction between variance and duplicity. The two related phenomena have different functional characteristics, and the boundary between them is in the line of codification – non-codification. Duplicity is a kind of linguistic change within the literary language.

As a result of the analysis, a number of significant conclusions are drawn regarding the phenomena of linguistic change, variance, linguistic norm, literary language standard, codification and their relation to duplicity.

3. In practical terms, the role of verb duplication in codification practice has been studied and traced, the criteria defining codification decisions and the role that duplicity plays as a tool in these decisions are being established. Specific types of verb duplication are considered in terms of language levels. The inclusion of word formation and the exclusion of etymological duplicity are very well motivated within the study. Six cases of phonetic duplicity, 3 cases of word-formation and 3 cases of morphology ones have been considered, tracing the duplicity condition in six Bulgarian grammars issued during the 1930s and 1940s, the Academic Grammar of modern Bulgarian language, original dictionaries and especially in the three

academic spelling dictionaries – of 1983, 2002 and 2016. The comparison allows to establish the dynamics of codification and therefore the dynamics of duplicity in the verb system.

The analysis of codification of the types of verb doublets in each particular case considers the causes of the duplicity occurrence, the corresponding codification decisions and the criteria on which they are based. The analysis is precise and provides a very useful picture of verb duplicity over the years, and the history of the related codification. From the point of view of the phenomenon dynamics, three processes have been outlined: elimination, preservation or limitation of duplicity. In each case, the corresponding author's evaluation is given. I find the analysis made relevant to future codification decisions.

The whole corpus of the verbal vocabulary on which the study is attached in an annex. The lists and comparative graphs present all the doublet verb forms from the sources mentioned above. It is a valuable array that can be used both in theoretical developments and in practical work in the fields of lexicography and linguistic culture.

The doctoral student has four publications on the topic, two of which have been published in the *Bulgarian language* magazine, one in the International Philological Forum, and one has been presented as a report at the International Jubilee Conference at the Bulgarian Language Institute and published in the Jubilee Collection.

The author's dissertation presents the content of the thesis correctly and sufficiently comprehensively.

In conclusion, I would point out that Janeta Todorova Zlateva has presented an in-depth study of the dynamics of duplicity in the verb system of modern Bulgarian literary language. The work is undoubtedly a scientific and applied contribution to Bulgarian linguistics. Therefore, I firmly propose her to be awarded a doctoral scientific degree.

REVIEWER:

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