

REVIEW

Of the Dissertation on

NAMES RELATED TO CLOTHING AND ITS MAKING (Lexico-Semantic Characteristic)

Author: **Snezhana Kocheva Aleksandrova**

Doctoral Candidate at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir
Andreychin" – BAS

for the award of the educational and scientific PhD degree
Professional field: Philology, code 2.1.

Reviewer: Yordanka Tsenkova Zaharieva, PhD, D.Sc., Professor at the
University of Library Studies and Information Technologies – Sofia

Reason for the Review. Following order RD-09-38/July 20th, 2020 for organizing a scientific jury, issued by the director of the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", and acting on the decision of said jury from August 6th, 2020, I was appointed as the reviewer of Snezhana Aleksandrova's dissertation on "Names Related to Clothing and its Making (Lexico-Semantic Characteristic)" for the award of the educational and scientific PhD degree. The scientific supervisor of the dissertation is associate professor Mariyana Hristova Vitanova, PhD.

The materials presented by the doctoral candidate fully meets the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff and its Rules of Procedure. The dissertation has already been discussed at the Department of Bulgarian Dialectology and Linguistic Geography of the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" and is approved for public defence. The doctoral candidate has taken into consideration the recommendations made.

Information about the Doctoral Candidate. Snezhana Aleksandrova has a Master's degree in Bulgarian Philology from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. She continues her philological studies as a full-time doctoral student (2002–2005) at

the Department of Bulgarian Dialectology and Linguistic Geography of the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”, specializes at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (2005–2006), and delivers lectures on “Introduction to Administration” as a part-time lecturer at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Her organizational, consulting and managerial activity at Regional Administration of Plovdiv (where she works and manages projects in the sphere of education, culture and business under operational programs, programs of interregional and international cooperation), is impressive. Her expert qualification is verified by the necessary documents. Her career development starts with teaching, and today she is chief expert at the “Education and Business Development” department of Plovdiv Municipality.

Assessment of the Relevance. The topic of the paper presented for reviewing fills a serious gap in the scientific knowledge of Bulgarian language picture.

Many ethnological, linguistic and, more specifically, dialectal studies are related to the topic of clothing and its names, but they are either limited as object and subject, or as volume, or as temporal parameters, or are subordinated to other goals and tasks. It is not easy to gather in one place the material from these publications and arrange it in the correct classification scheme. But this challenge is successfully solved by Snezhana Aleksandrova. The dialectological aspect thematically united by words for garments (clothing) and also including names of shoes, adornments and colors, was the missing link in Bulgarian linguistic science. Something that seriously hindered the interpretations of humanitarian and social researchers tempted by this topic.

Snezhana Aleksandrova’s dissertation (which I also perceive as interdisciplinary), is a platform from which further studies of the language expression of Bulgarian forensic culture will be developed, enriched and interpreted.

Degree of Familiarity with the Problem. The issues of human clothing are intensely studied and examined in a comparative aspect. Today’s volume of information is very difficult to filtrate, process and examine. The doctoral candidate has overcome the problem caused by the information overload and over-choice by relying on the well-established methodology of Bulgarian dialectological researches and the theoretical works of esteemed scholars. The theoretic frame of the study is very precise and detailed, all issues are thoroughly examined (in the survey are included 394 publications on the problem) and the author has clearly stated her

position and defined both the terminology she works with and her choice of approaches to analysis.

Methodology. The choice of the component analysis applied to the gathered resource material supports the systematicity and the structural organization of the dissertation. Modern studies use additional methods to check the relevance of the results, and so a combined approach is formed, relative to the analyzed material. The selected time parameters – from late 19th century to the third quarter of 20th century – a very intensive period with regard to extra linguistic factors - impose retrospective by default.

With the research goal in mind – “classification of the names from the lexico-semantic group in thematic groups and subgroups and examination of the paradigmatic relations between the language units through the systemic linguistic approach on the methodological basis of component analysis” (p. 5) – six tasks are formulated, which lead to its fulfillment. The tasks set (p. 6) – presentation of the theoretical frame and the scientific theses on the issue, classification by conceptual criteria, analysis of the lexico-semantic specifics of the dialectal vocabulary – are completed diligently and scientifically objectively.

Reliability of the Material. Both the volume of the source material (80 titles) and its selection (works of esteemed Bulgarian dialectologists) are impressive. It is also impressive that the doctoral candidate doesn't rely only on the office analysis – part of the vocabulary is gathered in person. Field work offers unique, valuable and useful experience and angles to the topic. The cycle of the dialectological survey from A to Z is completed, and it is obvious that the researcher is objective, which guarantees the quality of the performed analysis of 1721 language units (1673 according to the doctoral candidate) – an enormous and labor-consuming research activity from which the conclusions are made.

Academic Merits. The study of the names for clothes leads to results and conclusions of contributing character in theoretical and practical terms. The dissertation fills a considerable gap not only in the sphere of dialectology or linguistics. It is a contribution to the study of the language conceptualization, to the non-material culture of Bulgarians and to the spiritual sphere as a whole, at least in several respects: generalization and thematic unification of the lexical richness of the examined names from the dialects, greater clarity with regard to their areal distribution, semantics and etymology. The paper could be defined as a contribution to the preservation of the non-material cultural heritage on Bulgarian territory.

A positive moment is that connections are established between the information from different sources, which is just as important as the development of new ideas. Tracking of interlingual contacts and etymologies in the researched material brings an additional aspect expanding the ideas of cross-cultural interactions on Bulgarian territory and illuminates the development of intertwined meanings of lexemes.

In other words, the paper expands the aperture of knowledge of the language picture of Bulgarian forensic culture.

In its practical aspects the paper creates a basis for further interactive developments (electronic database for maps, reference books, dictionaries). On the whole, it can be used as a corrective in future interpretations.

Evaluation of the Publications on the Topic. The doctoral candidate has presented a list and scanned copies of seven publications on the topic, three of which are from international scientific forums and four – from national scientific forums. The publications are included in indexed journals. Two observed citations so far are mentioned.

The Abstract of the Dissertation. The abstract of 58 pages corresponds to the structure and the contents of the dissertation.

Other Aspects. The paper is written scientifically competently and follows the Bulgarian linguistic tradition. Its content is thorough and objective. I appreciate the summaries and the conclusions made after each chapter.

I hold some reservation with regard to the proposed layout of the paper as far as its rubricating is concerned. Because there are two parts (chapters) – the first presents the theoretical aspect and the second is the practical one – in my opinion the second one is too large. It is logical for the additional names related to clothing (names for shoes, adornments, colors) to be included in a new chapter. The introduction and the summary are part of the composition of the dissertation, regardless of the number of chapters.

I expected a bit more with regard to the perspectives of the research.

And one quantitative clarification – according to the doctoral candidate, her dissertation consists of 220 pages (539 357 characters with spaces), which means that it actually contains 300 standard pages.

Summary. My evaluation of Snezhana Aleksandrova's comprehensive and precise dissertation titled "**Names Related to Clothing and its Making (Lexico-Semantic Characteristic)**" is positive. In my opinion its publication and/or its distribution in an appropriate form would be useful. I will vote in favor of the dissertation presented and recommend that the members of the esteemed jury award Snezhana Kocheva Aleksandrova the educational and scientific PhD degree, professional field: Philology, code 2.1.

August 24, 2020

Reviewer:

Prof. Yordanka Zaharieva, PhD, D.Sc.