

REVIEW

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

in the field of higher education – "Humanities",

professional area "Philology", code 2.1

of Snezhana Kocheva Aleksandrova – Ph.D. candidate

in the Section for Bulgarian Dialectology and Language Geography

at the Institute for Bulgarian language at BAS

on the subject "DENOMINATIONS RELATED TO CLOTHES AND THEIR
MAKE" (lexicosemantic characterization)"

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Luchia Stefanova Antonova-Vasileva– Institute for Bulgarian
language at BAS

For the defence of the dissertation Snezhana Aleksandrova submits the following material: an autobiography, list of publications (7), dissertation (221 p.), author's abstract of the dissertation (58 p.), copies of the publications related to the dissertation's subject (7).

From the autobiography is evident that Sn. Aleksandrova has completed higher education at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", specialty "Bulgarian Philology". She was a full-time Ph.D. candidate in the Section for Bulgarian Dialectology and Language Geography at IBL at BAS with Ph.D. advisor Ass. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Vitanova in the period 2002-2005 and was deregistered with right of defence. She carried out specialization in Zagreb in the period November 2005 – February 2006 at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts under Prof. Dr. Sanja Vulić – lecturer in Croatian dialectology at the Faculty of Croatian Sciences of the Zagreb University. Unfortunately, later Sn. Aleksandrova broke her active scholarly activity and dedicated herself to work in different units of the Province Administration of her hometown, Plovdiv, which was obviously related to the needs of her life realization. It is a good fact that, nevertheless, Sn. Aleksandrova did not give up her scholarly pursuits, thanks to which we have an opportunity to get acquainted with her completed dissertation.

The dissertation of Sn. Aleksandrova is dedicated to the lexicosemantic characterization of the denominations related to clothes and their make. In the introductory part, she makes a general analysis of the clothing as a specific part of

the material life, which shows important elements of the folk traditions and forms some of the first visual notions of the ethnos. It is correctly emphasized that clothing is a peculiar exponent of group or closer settlement belonging of the individual to a given collective and, moreover, serves as manifestation of internal distinctions between different social layers in the group. The study of the system of denominations, constituting this lexico-thematic group, is an important task that provides possibility for development of the study in lexicosemantic and language geography aspects. Sn. Aleksandrova shows that the former linguistic elaborations on the subject are directed either to the study of definite parts of the clothing – e.g. denominations of aprons, denominations of kerchiefs, etc., or to definite historical periods – e.g. the Bulgarian National Revival. Unlike this, in her dissertation, she makes an attempt at systematization classification and presentation of the areas of dissemination of the lexis naming all main elements of the clothing in the language system of the Bulgarian dialects. This is the main contribution of the dissertation.

Subject of the study are the system relations in the lexicosemantic group for clothing: the methods of formation of the meaning and the paths for emergence of the dialectal lexical similarities and differences in the Bulgarian vernaculars; the finding of the specific language peculiarities and the system relations between the lexical units, the relations between the individual denominations in terms of semantics.

Sn. Aleksandrova makes it her aim to classify the denominations from the lexicosemantic group for clothing in thematic groups and subgroups and to study the paradigmatic relations between the language units by means of the systematic linguistic approach on the methodological basis of the component analysis. She shows that she proceeds from the onomasiological approach in the description of the word semantics, but also applies systematically the semasiological analysis to find the set of meanings (semantic scope), of the interrelations between the individual meanings (semantic structure) and the nature of the semantic relations between the denominations in terms of macrodialect. Moreover, in the dissertation, culturological and contrastive approaches are applied to establish different tendencies in the formation and functioning of the dialectal lexis.

The merits of the dissertation become apparent already during the presentation of its theoretical basis. Here, Sn. Aleksandrova not only outlines the theoretical formulations and the terminology on which her work is based, but also shows her increased interest in the theoretical linguistic investigations, quoting linguists such as N. S. Trubetzkoy, F. de Saussure, E. Coşeriu, M. M. Pokrovsky, J. Trier, W.

Porzig, L. Weisgerber, L. V. Shcherba, V. V. Vinogradov, F. P. Filin, Em. Pernishka, Y. Dapcheva and many others.

It is indicative that the theoretical formulations have been developed in 3 parts:

II. 1. Scholarly approaches, methods, criteria and terminology...; II. 2. System relations – general peculiarities and differences in the Bulgarian vernaculars; II. 3. Review of scholarly investigations... This shows the in-depth way in which the Ph.D. candidate approaches her scholarly work. She treats important questions of the lexicological investigations as this of a centre (core, core semantic signs) and periphery of the lexical meanings, categorial semantic seme (archeseme) and type (differential) semes; motivational semantic sign, lexicosemantic variants of the polysemantic word; dialectal semantic set; lexical series; diatopy (i.e. the spatial dimension of the language in its unity and territorial variations); science of clothing (forematology), clothing (foreme) space and many others. This detailed description of the theoretical formulations for lexical and dialectological investigations has been made with big skill and represents a serious contribution to the Bulgarian dialectal lexicology. I could only note here that, in my opinion, it is possible in future investigations to expand the question of the lexicosemantic paradigm. In the dissertation, it has been mentioned, but it remains to be studied in the traditional sense – in the series of the synonymic sets. Here and further in the work, the question of the lexicosemantic paradigm is not treated in case of motivational models of the same type as this is done by V. Radeva (Radeva, V. The lexical wealth of the Bulgarian vernaculars. Sofia: Narodna Prosveta, 1982: pp. 56-57) when the denominations are related in closer unity based on their common meaning, and, at the same time, they only differ in one semantic sign – of the type of *бобеница, леитеница, нахутница, фийница* – ‘rest after the separation of the beans in case of leguminous plants’; denominations such as *говедар, козар, овчар* and other similar lexical series that does not represent synonyms. Moreover, since the Ph.D. candidate also quotes the work by Rudolf Hallig and Walther von Wartburg (Hallig, Wartburg 1963) about the register of prescientific notions of knowledge of the world, I would recommend that in future she also adds to her scholarly observations the material from the European Linguistic Atlas whose questionnaire is based exactly on this register.

Main for the dissertation is part III. Classification of denominations related to clothes and their make, which has been defined by the Ph.D. candidate as applied. In it, actually, the main theoretical formulations presented in the work are applied, but, in doing so, in-depth investigations of the lexicosemantic peculiarities and interrelations of the lexemes from the studied field are also made, which, in my opinion, exceeds the parameters of an applied study.

The material has been successfully organized in several lexicosemantic groups united by their common subject relation to the notion ‘a thing made by man, intended

for covering or putting on the body' and one thematic group of denominations for designation of qualities related to terms for colour, which is added to the very same objects.

During the study of the denominations for clothes in each of the differentiated thematic groups (or, more exactly, subgroups), following unified criteria in terms of onomasiology and semasiology to analyze the lexicosemantic and the etymological characteristics (when determining the origin of the words), the manifestations of a system of the specialized lexis for clothing are found, taking into account its diversity. A unified composition framework is followed for the consistent examination of the independent lexemes and the naming word combinations.

The lexemes are correctly examined by uniting them according to their main sememe whereupon three main types of dialectal denominations – structural (lexemic, phonetic, grammatical, word-forming), territorial (according to the boundaries of the area) and etymological (when determining the ratio between domestic and loan words with inclusion of oppositions of newer to older denominations), are examined. The correlations between the denominations have been studied depending on the nature of the differential sign, on the basis of which the words may be compared with each other, differentiated, united and may form relations of variability, differentiation and sameness. The general peculiarities that determine the place of the denominations and their lexicosemantic development have been generalized with conclusions for each semantic group. This part of the work has been elaborated very diligently and exhaustively, with rich dialectal material from written and from archival sources having been used. In individual cases, questions related to the determination of the differential signs and the relations in the case of some denominations may be asked. Thus for example, the Ph.D. candidate defines an opposition 'workday – Sunday', finding expression in the oppositions: *вълненик* 'workday low-cut sleeveless dress' – *свадбарски сърмен вълненик* 'wedding low-cut sleeveless dress' in Shiroka Laka Region. But, in my opinion, it may be noted that in the presence of this semantic opposition, the main motivational sign marked in the lexemes themselves is 'made of wool'. It has been additionally specified with modifiers of attributive type *свадбарски сърмен* of which the first one is related to the semantic sign 'Sunday', and the second one – again to the initial material that, however, is a characteristic attribute of the Sunday clothing. The opposition workday – Sunday is actually expressed with absence – presence of additional attributive differential signs of the denominations.

Questions of the same type may be also asked to the lexical series including word combinations: a) attributive word combinations – *бяла сая*, etc.; b) prepositional word combinations – *антерийка с крила*, etc.; c) word combinations composed of two denominations with permanent first component – *чокмен сукман*, etc.

The question may be also asked if in case of denominations such as *червено джубе*, *зелено джубе* there is an internal dialectal opposition according to a semantic sign or, in them, the colour is only marked attributively as the characterization of the initial material.

Sn. Aleksandrova also studies some denominations of unclear etymology, by making suggestions to find their motivational sign – cf. *незришка антерийа* – ‘long outer garment open along the whole front length, with front parts wrapped at the lower parts. As a whole, her study has been carried out competently and carefully. At its end, as well as after each part, clear and precise conclusions, which also contain quantitative characteristics, have been drawn. In the dissertation, 167 lexical units classified in six thematic groups that are united by unity in their meaning, are in system type-kind relations and are opposed according to various semantic signs, such as ‘part – whole’, ‘male – female’, etc., have been studied. Lexical series of many members in correlation *sememe – lexemes* (contrastive dialectal words) emerge at macrodialectal level. The non-contrastive dialectal words, which are characterized by the correlation *sememe – lexeme*, are also characterized quantitatively – 44 or 2.6% of all denominations. The main types of dialectal differences in the lexis – phonetic, word-forming and semantic dialectal words, have been derived. When studying the semantic structure, non-derivative and derivative dialectal denominations have been noted. Observations on the semantic scope of the denominations, the greater part of which are monosemantic, but some are included with individual meanings in different vernaculars in several thematic groups simultaneously, which has been traced consistently in the denominations for outer women’s and outer men’s clothing (e.g. *антерия*, *джамадан*, etc. – ‘kind of outer women’s garment’ and ‘kind of outer men’s garment’), have been also made. The kind segmentation in the semantics in some denominations – cf. *аба*, which is especially frequent phenomenon in the denominations for colours – cf. *сур*, *плав*, etc., has been traced.

In conclusion, it may be summarized that the work presents exhaustive material for the studied lexico-thematic group, which has been analyzed profoundly and consistently. The same applies to the publications in connection with the subject of the doctoral thesis, which even exceed the requirements in terms of number. The author’s abstract of the dissertation reflects precisely the contents of the work and the conclusions and contributions made in it. The Ph.D. candidate attains the set objectives and carries out the set tasks at a high scholarly level and shows marked skill for elaboration of theoretical problems from the field of the dialectal lexicology. The individual questions posed in the review do not belittle the overall value of the work, but only show the depth with which it has been developed. The material submitted for the defence show that she meets and even exceeds the minimum national requirements. Her work completely meets the requirements of the

Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), as well as of the Implementing Regulations on DASRBA, the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Occupation of Academic Positions in BAS and in IBL to BAS “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”. All this warrants my confident recommendation to the members of the scholarly jury to award to Snezhana Kocheva Aleksandrova the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in the field of higher education – “Humanities”, professional area “Philology”, code 2.1.

12.10.2020

Reviewer:

Sofia

(Prof. Dr. Luchia Antonova-Vasileva)