

## REVIEW

By Prof. Irena Vassileva, PhD, European Polytechnical University

About a thesis for the acquirement of the educational and scientific degree "PhD"

Author of the thesis: Adriana Borisova Hristova

Topic of the thesis: LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF BULGARIAN PHILOSOPHICAL TERMINOLOGY

### 1. Relevance of the problem developed in the thesis

The problem developed in the thesis is relevant insofar as such an extensive and comprehensive linguistic characteristic of the Bulgarian philosophical terminology is done for the first time. This terminology is considered from the point of view of its formation from a historical viewpoint (which adds a diachronic perspective to the otherwise synchronous study), the ways of term formation and their sources, structure, form and semantic characteristics and relations of terms, as well as the processes of terminologization, re-terminologization and de-terminologization. All these aspects are developed in great detail and supported by a large number of examples.

### 2. Knowledge of the state of the problem and the scientific literature

The thesis refers to a large number of publications on the topic, which can also be seen from the bibliography. It is noteworthy, however, that Bulgarian and Russian authors dominate, and publications in other languages are mostly in secondary citations. In addition, the parts of the thesis of a theoretical nature (eg. Chapter 2, Chapter 3) demonstrate almost whole pages consisting of direct citations instead of attempts to paraphrase or summarize. In some places it is not very clearly indicated which the direct quotation is, where exactly it is taken from, especially when reviewing the concepts of philosophy in Chapter 3. When quoting from foreign languages, it is not stated whose translations these are, especially considering that the bibliography contains titles in Spanish, French and German, which (according to the CV) the author does not speak. Besides, there is notable absence of authors such as Eugen Wüster (eg "Einführung in die allgemeine Terminologielehre und terminologische Lexikographie. 3rd Edition, Romanistischer Verlag, Bonn 1991, ISBN 3-924888-48-5), considered to be the founder of modern terminology and the Viennese school, as well as Rita Temmerman (e.g. 2000: Towards New Ways of Terminology Description. The Sociocognitive-Approach, Amsterdam / Philadelphia, John Benjamins Publishing) from more recent times.

### **3. Comments on the selected methodology**

The study is based on a corpus of "2149 terms and terminological phrases" (p. 10), excerpted from extremely diverse sources. It would be helpful to explain on what principle exactly these terms were chosen and how this corresponds to the objectives of the study. Some quantitative analysis is performed on the diachronic part of the corpus. On page 12 it is claimed that the method of component analysis is also used, but in text such elements can hardly be noticed. In short, the methodology of the research in its various parts is mainly descriptive and classificatory, and not analytical and / or quantitative.

### **4. Scientific and applied contributions of the thesis**

The contributions of the thesis consist mainly in the presentation of a detailed structural-semantic linguistic analysis of the Bulgarian philosophical terminology, including the sources of formation of philosophical terms in synchronous and diachronic aspects, their development, the processes of terminologization, re-terminologisation and de-terminologisation, the description of semantic fields, as well as of a classification model.

As I mentioned above, and as stated in the "Contributions", the results of the research are directly applicable to the creation of a dictionary of philosophical terms. The outcomes can also make a significant contribution to the "correct use of philosophical terminological vocabulary in official business styles, in journalism, in the media and in everyday language" (Extended Abstract, p. 44).

### **5. Evaluation of the publications related to the thesis**

Of the 8 publications presented on the topic, 3 can be considered as articles, since the rest are less than 10 pages, and the publication in the AzBuki newspaper has no place in such a list at all. The three articles in question are co-authored with I. Hristov (numbers 5, 7 and 8 in the list), and the last two coincide to a large extent in terms of content. The other articles also show a high degree of closeness and even uniformity of individual parts, with no self-citations. Nevertheless, these articles examine in depth the development of the Bulgarian philosophical terminology from the Middle Ages in various aspects, so that their contribution to the field is unquestionable. All articles on the topic are included (sometimes verbatim) in the thesis with some additions (for example parts 5.1. And 5.2. - article 1; part 5.3. - articles 7 and 8, etc.). The number of citations is limited, again citing almost exclusively the above-mentioned articles in co-authorship.

### **6. Critical remarks**

The main critical remarks were made in points 2 and 3 above, namely: lack of sufficient sources in foreign languages other than Russian and secondary citations; too long direct quotations, most of which are from one source (Popova, 2012); insufficiently critical presentation of different points of view; lack of justification for the choice of the analyzed terms - usually the criterion is their frequency in the relevant scientific field on the basis of databases; in some places there are lists of examples that are too long and leave the impression of 'filling in volume'; publications with very limited, insufficient volume, presented as articles; identity of portions of the articles, especially in their theoretical parts.

Recommendation: if the thesis is to be published, the above weaknesses should be corrected at the expense of the volume, which would lead to a tight, consistent with international standards, and useful text.

7. **The extended abstract** correctly reflects the main points and scientific contributions of the thesis.

#### 8. Other issues

There are inaccuracies in the "Report on the implementation of the national minimum requirements", namely: Under item 2 - articles and reports and item 5 - citations, some of the publications are co-authored, which was not taken into account in the calculation of the points. The same applies to the points for compiling dictionaries, where the maximum number of points is endorsed despite the numerous co-authors. This document must be corrected in accordance with the requirements of the law.

#### 9. Conclusion

My general assessment of the thesis, the extended abstract and the scientific publications of Adriana Hristova is positive. The doctoral student possesses the necessary theoretical knowledge and applied skills for independent research in the field of terminology. The thesis contains mainly applied contributions, directly applicable in the practice of compiling dictionaries, as well as in the training of philosophy students. The structure and content of the presented thesis and extended abstract fully meet the requirements of "Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria" and the regulations for its application in BAS. This gives me reason to propose to the academic board to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) to Adriana Hristova in the professional field 2.1. "Philology - Bulgarian language".

**Date:** 07.09.2020

**Reviewer:** Prof. Irena Vassileva, PhD

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