

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

On the Dissertation for the Award of the Educational and Scientific PhD degree

Topic of the Dissertation:

### NAMES RELATED TO CLOTHING AND ITS MAKING

(Lexico-Semantic Characteristic)

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#### 1. RELEVANCE OF THE PROBLEM DEVELOPED IN THE DISSERTATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND APPLICABLE TERMS

Having clothing (which is one of the substantial elements of human civilization) as an object of scientific interest and focusing on the names of clothing and its making in Bulgarian dialects, the dissertation of Snezhana Aleksandrova fits perfectly in the large frame of scientific researches of Bulgarian and hence European heritage, identity and culture.

Prior to Snezhana Aleksandrova's academic activity, Bulgarian forematology was the object of scientific interest by quite a few historians, archeologists, ethnologists, cultural anthropologists, art history experts, linguists. Despite the voluminous literature on this topic there are still unexplored facts. In linguistics, the gathered lexical materials from Bulgarian dialects are so far too insufficient, and there are significant deficiencies with regard to their completeness. It is necessary to accumulate a more comprehensive vocabulary from Bulgarian dialects in order to reveal the enormous richness of Bulgarian language.

The dissertation reviewed fills the lack of a comprehensive lexico-semantic study (in linguo-geographic terms) of the system of names for clothing in Bulgarian dialects, since the previous linguistic developments in this sphere were directed only to certain parts of clothing or to particular periods. Snezhana Aleksandrova's paper is the first attempt at systemizing, classifying and presenting the areas of spread of the names for clothing in the language system of Bulgarian dialects.

#### 2. SPECIFICS OF THE TOPIC

When evaluating the research, the specific activities for its fulfillment must be taken into account. The lexical material on everyday and festive traditional clothing and its accessories was gathered through fieldwork in Gela village (Shiroka Laka region), from the archive of the Historical museum in Smolyan and the archive of the Bulgarian Dialect Dictionary at the Department of Bulgarian Dialectology and Linguistic Geography of the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", as well as from published sources – dialect dictionaries and monographs, lexical maps, ethnological studies etc., created over a period of more than a century.

### 3. DOES THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE KNOW THE STATE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The bibliography cited in the dissertation is comprehensive. It consists of 473 units, 393 of which are titles of scientific studies (11 using the Latin alphabet and the rest the Cyrillic) and 80 of sources. The list covers the oldest works (of D. Marinov, N. S. Derzhavin, P. G. Bogatiryov, Iv. Shishmanov, M. Arnaudov, Hr. Vakarelski, Y. Ivanov) and the most recent ones related directly to the topic of the paper, as well as general studies on linguistics, in particular lexicology and dialectology. The selection and range of the literature read is enough for me to summarize that Snezhana Aleksandrova knows the scientific achievements related to her research very well. The citations in the paper are correct and meet the established academic standards.

### 4. COMMENT ON THE SELECTED METHODS

The methods selected by the doctoral candidate are adequate to the set goals and tasks, correspond to the modern level of science, complement each other and compensate each other for their limitations and deficits. In the exposition which is mostly analytical, the main method for describing the dialect names is the onomasiological one, and for revealing the set of meanings (semantic volume), the interrelation between the individual meanings (semantic structure) and the character of the semantic relations between the names in macro-dialectal terms – the semasiological method is applied. For the classification in thematic groups in which the object names reflect a certain area of reality is used the method of field structure. Through it the thematic presentation of the vocabulary has the advantage of establishing more completely and comprehensively the relationship between names and objects and phenomena they denote. The method of the dialectal questionnaire applied by Snezhana Aleksandrova during her preparatory field studies (duly described in one of the preliminary publications on the topic of the dissertation) belongs to the specific tools of dialectology. The synchrono-typological and the linguo-geographic methods are also applied in the research. The etymological analysis helps derive facts from related and not related languages and reveals the history of words through documented ancient forms and meanings. And some quantitative indicators are used to illustrate certain phenomena and tendencies. The comparative method is applied in establishing the mutual influences between dialect vocabulary and standard language, between vernaculars themselves and in defining loanwords from foreign languages. And, where it is needed, the culturological approach is also used. The whole study is subject to the systemic approach which is defining not only in lexicology but in the study of dialect vocabulary.

In the theoretical part of the dissertation the doctoral candidate talks in detail about the reasons for the application of each of these methods in her work and demonstrates a very good fundamental knowledge with regard to the methodological apparatus of the examined scientific field. In the process of fulfilling her tasks, she uses extremely precisely the various research procedures.

### 5. BRIEF ANALYTICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISSERTATION

In order to achieve the set goals and objectives, the dissertation consists of introduction, theoretical section, classification section and reference annexes.

Structured in accordance with the requirements for a “small” doctorate, the introduction reveals the need of a study on the posing issues in scientific and applicable terms, precisely and clearly defines the object and the subject of the research, formulates its goals and tasks, specifies the methods to be used, sets the chronological framework of the described language facts (the period from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 70’s of 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the prevailing part of the dialect names related to clothing and its making is registered).

In the theoretical section, the basic conceptual apparatus is presented, previous researches are summarized and unresolved issues are identified. The style and the analytical approach in this section of the dissertation allows to summarize that Snezhana Aleksandrova is well acquainted with the achievements of knowledge in the field examined by her; she is able to systematize the known scientific results by successfully differentiating between numerous research works, and handles the conceptual apparatus and the terminology of the research area perfectly.

The classification section is a unique thematic dictionary in which the lexemes are distributed in several thematic groups: general names for clothing, names for women’s outer clothing and names for men’s outer clothing. In the class of objects denoting clothing in general are included thematic groups of names for shoes and adornments with separate subgroups. Names for colors of clothing accessories, footwear and decoration are included. The classification is made on the basis of extra- and intra-lingual features and the separate thematic subdivisions are united by conceptual criteria based on common semantic features and are distributed by territorial range. Words are hierarchically organized as a genus to species or as a part to whole, and distributed by gender and age features. In the classification of the lexical material the onomasiological approach is applied - the nomination of one and the same fact from the extra-lingual reality is presented and all names for its expression are given. When compiling the vocabulary the doctoral candidate follows the same pattern of description which serves as a matrix and allows for comparability of the obtained results. After the examination of each group a deductive summary is made of the observations, as well an analysis of the lexico-semantic features of the dialect vocabulary included in the respective subdivision.

In the final conclusions the results of the matrix description of the empirical material are summarized at a new, higher level of deduction. I would say, with no exaggeration, that this section of the dissertation is a model of methodological implementation – the candidate sets a pattern for future research by applying the principles of classificatory description.

The paper is supplied with the reference apparatus necessary for every modern scientific study: lists of literature cited and reference books used, as well as a list of the abbreviations (geographic regions, territorial dialects and authors).

## 6. NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have the following notes and recommendations on the dissertation:

✓ With regard to the structure:

In accordance with the structural requirements of the dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific PhD degree its first chapter should begin with an analysis of the results of the scientific studies on the problem discussed, and the conclusion should include still unresolved scientific tasks; then the candidate should declare her own scientific intentions.

The second chapter should be devoted to the theoretical formulations of the research – methods and means necessary to achieve the set goal. Snezhana Aleksandrova doesn't follow the established standard and starts in reverse order. In the first 45 pages she discusses the theoretical and methodological questions – starting from the field of lexicology as a more general linguistic discipline, continuing with the more specific dialectology по-частната диалектология and only after that reviewing the scientific studies on forematology as a very narrowly specialized sphere of knowledge. This changes the focus which should be on the main topic from the beginning, and for a long time the reader remains perplexed why in a dissertation in which, according to the title, the author should speak of terminology of clothing, in fact she discusses the systemic character of the vocabulary and the Prague linguistic circle. I recommend for her to follow the regulated arrangement of the paper's sections according to the standardized model in order to achieve optimality of the presentation, and at the same time to reduce the volume of the theoretical section which, in its current form, takes up too much room (with its 45 pages) within the dissertation whose main part consists of 120 pages.

✓ With regard to the completeness of the bibliography:

It would be better if the bibliography includes some of the newest studies on clothing in the Middle Ages – of I. Chokoev (2003, 2008), M. Dolmova-Lukanovska (2011), M. Dzhambazova (2012), N. Hrisimov (2006, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015), S. Arizanova (2012, 2013-2014, 2014a, b, 2015, 2016), K. Atanasova (2016, 2018), M. Tomova-Mihneva (2018), T. Ilieva (2020a, b). Although these publications are not dialectological, they could be useful for the work of the doctoral candidate in comparative terms. For example a comparison of the data in T. Ilieva's publication (2020b) with those in Snezhana Aleksandrova's paper will allow to follow the changes in the semantics of the forematological terms which are found both in medieval literature, respectively Church Slavic, and in today's Bulgarian dialects, e.g. *дипла* *dipla* 'double cloak' in the Church Slavic and *дунло* *diplo* 'long outer wedding garment, pinafore type' in Smolyan region and Shiroka Laka region; *рѹѡа* *rouba* in Old Bulgarian 'old fabric; poor piece of clothing' (mostly plural) and *рѹба* *ruba* 'women's outerwear (woollen)' in Tihomir, Kardzhali region; Gabrovo region; V. Tarnovo region; Kyustendil region; Bansko; Petrich region.

✓ With regard to the Classification:

On page 77 the candidate writes: “*καλὸν*’ *kalòp* through the Turkish word *kalip*, *kalup* ‘casting mold; something cast in a mold; a piece of wood, carved in the shape of a foot and put in shoes to keep their form’ from the Arab word *qalib* ‘metal mold; shoe mold’ which comes from the Middle Greek *καλόπους*, comprising of *καλόν* ‘wood’ и *πούς* ‘foot’, id est ‘wooden foot’ (BER II: 179)”. The interpretation of the Greek composite is wrong. It is formed from *καλός* ‘хубав’ and *πούς* ‘foot’, literally ‘nice (i.e. well made) foot’.

Further written on page 78 is: “The loanwords from Europe are also included in the group of general names for clothing, for example *порталу* *portàli* in Thessaloniki region, probably directly or indirectly through Modern Greek, Middle Greek *πόρτα* ‘door’ from the Latin word *porta* ‘door’ (BER V: 532)”. The etymology suggested is wrong. This word is Slavic and its meaning is *прѹтъ* ‘a piece of fabric, plural – a piece of clothing’.

For optimizing the use of the thematic directory I would recommend that:

- Next to the number of the onomasiological nest is added the number of the thematic group to which it belongs.
- An alphabetical index is made of the words included in the thematic directory and next to each of them the address of the onomasiological nest to which they belongs is given.

This way it will be possible to make quick inquiries of each word and its different meanings in the different vernaculars (heterosemy).

The abstract is written in accordance with the requirements and correctly describes all important parts of the dissertation. The five academic merits outlined in it, are a real achievement of the doctoral candidate.

Snezhana Aleksandrova has seven publications on the topic of the dissertation in various thematic corpuses (three of them in foreign academic journals, which in itself speaks of their high standard). They are a considerable part of the dissertation presented for defense, and have already received a positive evaluation prior to their publication. Some of the results of the research have received recognition in a critical academic environment at seven international scientific forums (two of them abroad – Moscow and Lodenica, Slovakia). All this testifies to the successful acceptance of Snezhana Aleksandrova as a young scientist in the international scientific space. Her specialization at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts must be mentioned here as well (in Zagreb, after winning a competition of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science for the period of November 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006), under the academic supervision of Prof. Sanja Vulic, PhD, a lecturer on Croatian dialectology at the Faculty of Croatian Sciences – Zagreb University.

I don't know the candidate personally but the presented CV impresses with her various skills, knowledge of four foreign languages, amazing professional realization as a senior manager at the Plovdiv Regional Council, successful management of various projects and participation in them. And against the background of all this – a fruitful scientific activity. All this speaks of a person of exceptional qualities.

Considering the quality of the research work on the dissertation, the significance of the results achieved, the indisputable originality of the main conclusions, the academic merits presented in the paper and the maturity of the candidate, I highly recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury award Snezhana Kocheva the educational and scientific PhD degree, professional field: Philology, scientific specialty "Bulgarian Language".

Sofia,  
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