

PEER REVIEW

On the dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the Professional field 2.1. Philology, Scientific specialty: *General and comparative linguistics*

Author of the dissertation: Krasimira Georgieva Fuchedzhieva, part-time doctoral student in the Section for Bulgarian Etymology at the Institute of Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lubomir Andreychin"

Topic of the dissertation: *Semantic aspects of the etymological analysis of the Bulgarian verbal lexicon (based on material from the "Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary")*

Research supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristina Peleva Dejkova

Reviewer: Marinela Paraskova Mladenova, Professor of General and Comparative Linguistics (Slavic Linguistics) at Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad

1. Data about the PhD student, dissertation, abstract and publications

1.1. Data about the PhD student

Krasimira Georgieva Fuchedzhieva graduated in Bulgarian Philology at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1998 and worked successively as an office organizer and editor in various media. Since 2013, she has held the position of "philologist" at the Institute of Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with the main task of scientific assistance and research on the project "Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary", including

the compilation of the dictionary. In 2014 she was enrolled as a part-time PhD student in the Section of Bulgarian Etymology (scientific specialty "General and Comparative Linguistics") with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristina Deykova. In 2018, by the decision of the Scientific Council of the IBE (Protocol No. 11 of 23.07.2018), she was dismissed with the right to defend. The set of materials submitted by the PhD student is in full compliance with the requirements of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for the occupation of academic positions at IBE "Prof. It includes. From the submitted Reference it can be seen that the dissertation fully fulfils the national minimum scientometric requirements for the degree of PhD and has 120 points (against the required 80). 1. 2. Dissertation and abstract data

The dissertation submitted by PhD student Krasimira Fuchedzhieva consists of 380 pages, of which an introductory part (7- 80 pages), an outline consisting of three chapters (81-309 pages), a conclusion (310-319), an appendix (320-363), a bibliography including 177 bibliographic units (364-376) and a reference to the scientific contributions in the dissertation (377-380). The attached Abstract (42 pages) presents in detail and correctly the aims and objectives of the research, the methodology used, the structure of the dissertation and the contributions made. From the outset, it should be said that the work presented for defence is among the rare recent linguistic research that can justifiably be described as 'linguistic archaeology'. Its problematics require both thorough and focused linguistic and Slavic training, as well as linguistic intuition, patience, passion and dedication. Qualities which the author of this serious study definitely possesses and without which the complex vertical and horizontal analysis of the linguistic material in the dissertation under review could hardly have been successfully realized. In the introductory part the object and subject of the study, the objectives and the tasks for their achievement are very clearly defined. Verbs of domestic origin from two etymological nests have been selected, as well as verbs of different origin from the lexico-semantic

fields 'udryam', 'yam', 'speak', having high inflectional frequency in the Bulgarian language and its dialects. Although the author stresses that some of the established degrees in the semantic development of the verbs mentioned above serve as a starting point for the choice of these lexico-semantic fields (p. 10), it would be good if this clarification were expanded a little at the beginning to make the motivation for the choice of these particular verbs clearer. The aim of the study is, on the basis of the selected lexical material analysed systematically, to identify semantic transitions that could be defined as regular both in the Bulgarian language and in a more general typological perspective (p. 10). This aim has also an applied aspect: the author envisages the preparation of a catalogue of semantic transitions directly related to the etymological practice in the "Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary". In order to achieve the main goal, seven tasks have been formulated, to which the PhD student has consistently adhered in the course of the research. Very good impression is made by the concise and mastered language in the presentation of the main theoretical sources on which she relies in her analysis, the critical approach in their interpretation, and the effort to define precisely and unambiguously all the concepts used in the process of the work. In the theoretical part, in my opinion, it would have been better to cite some of the authors in the original rather than through another author (at least those that are available in libraries in Bulgaria or online, such as the studies of Bogdanov, Katz, Arutyunova, Telia, etc., cited through E. Pernishka).

This fact, however, does not disturb the overall positive impression of the correctness of the citation of the sources used, as well as of the serious theoretical background of the dissertation topic, allowing her to deal, in her own words, with "such an elusive, mobile, diffuse and divergent matter, not amenable to unambiguous and categorical systematization, which the semantic aspect of etymological analysis deals with" (43 p.). Here we should also note the very successful choice of the topic of the dissertation, stemming from the etymological practice of the "Bulgarian Etymological

Dictionary" and directly related to the work on it. In this sense, the contributions of this research are, besides theoretical, also of an applied nature. The complexity of the semantic aspect of etymological analysis requires a very well thought out and implemented methodology. A task that the dissertator handles more than well, applying a complex of different synchronic and diachronic approaches in the search for answers to the questions that concern her as a researcher and as an accomplished etymologist: which meanings regularly give rise to specific other meanings and why this happens, i.e. what are the logical relations between two meanings (primary and secondary) in order to be able to establish possible relations of derivation that could optimize the work on the "Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary" (p. 80).

The substantive part of the dissertation research is located in the next three chapters, where the author definitely feels "in her own waters". This helps her to produce a text that reads with interest and ease, despite the complexity - and at times - problematic nature of the etymological analysis and the semantic transitions under consideration. Some of the judgments in a study of this type are hypothetical in nature, but together they allow the dissertation to reveal to the fullest extent her potential as an erudite and thoughtful researcher who asks questions and searches for their answers, proposing her own semantic reconstructions of the primary meanings of certain phonological verbs (pràskam and pràstja) when their etymology does not fully satisfy her (pp. 106-122). The depth of her analysis is combined with excellent bibliographical awareness, allowing her to readily resort to examples from various authors to support the thesis she defends or to oppose other researchers, locating her argument in the broad context of the Proto-Slavic and Indo-European lexical heritage. Her research work in this and in the third part (Semantic development of Bulgarian verbs of different origin from the same lexico-semantic field) reveals her as a conscientious and talented etymologist, striving to justify the proposed semantic reconstructions as convincingly as possible.

The same approach is found in the next chapter, which presents an analysis of the semantic development of verbs from three lexico-semantic groups with high frequency among the dialectal lexicon in the Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary ('udryam', 'yam', 'speak'). Throughout the text, one can very clearly sense the dissertator's personal attitude towards her chosen topic: she asks questions, points to answers, cites research, makes comments, demonstrating throughout her skill as an astute observer and skilled analyst, supporting each claim or hypothesis with numerous examples and cogent argumentation. The dissertation has a very well-thought-out structure, through which the main goal set at the beginning is consistently realized: on the basis of concrete lexical material, examined systematically, to identify semantic transitions that can be defined as regular in the Bulgarian language, and in a more general typological plan (10).

The CATALOGUE OF SEMANTIC TRANSITIONS prepared as an appendix is a logical conclusion of the study. In the now familiar precise and laconic style, it defines the principles to which it adheres in its compilation: the establishment of at least two cases of parallel development in words of different origin will be taken as a sign of the regularity of the particular semantic transition (76 p.).

The open-ended nature of the catalogue is an indication that the author's work on this interesting and challenging topic will not end with the defense of this thesis; I believe that many more of her serious publications on this topic are forthcoming.

The dissertation has a definite contribution to make both in terms of methodology and the issues developed. I fully accept the seven scientific contributions formulated and summarized at the end of the dissertation (pp. 377-380).

The dissertator has published five articles directly related to the issues developed in her dissertation. These fully meet the requirement for the number of scientific publications on the dissertation topic.

3. Conclusion

The presented dissertation is a serious, very well realized as conception and execution scientific research, with an undeniable contribution to the field of theoretical and applied etymology. Krasimira Fuchedzhieva demonstrates skills of precise analysis and summarization of linguistic facts, combined with bibliographical competence and excellent methodological preparation. The dissertation presents a researcher with undoubted potential for future development in the field of lexical semantics and etymology.

I express my strong positive evaluation and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to take a decision on awarding Krasimira Georgieva Fuchedzhieva, part-time PhD student at the Section of Bulgarian Etymology at the Institute of Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreichin, to the degree of Doctor of Education and Science in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. General and Comparative Linguistics.

General and Comparative Literature:

Blagoevgrad

15.06.2023

Prof. Ph.D.. Marinela Mladenova