

OPINION
for the DISSERTATION
of
KRASIMIRA GEORGIEVA FUCHEDJIEVA
SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF ETYMOLOGY
ANALYSIS OF BULGARIAN VERBAL VOCABULARY
(ON MATERIAL FROM "BULGARIAN
ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY")

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Krasimira Fuchedjieva's dissertation *SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF THE ETYMOLOGY ANALYSIS OF BULGARIAN VERBAL VOCABULARY (BASED ON MATERIAL FROM THE "BULGARIAN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY")* has a volume of 380 pages, which includes: an introductory part, an exposition with three chapters, a conclusion and an appendix (a catalogue of semantic transitions established in the study, bibliography, two references for the scientific contributions of the dissertation and scientific publications).

The topic of the dissertation work is very well chosen and has great research potential: on the one hand, semantic reconstruction in relation to verbs in general has not been satisfactorily studied in comparative-historical Slavic linguistics, and on the other hand, verb semantics has the specificity through metaphorical and metonymic connections to develop multiple meanings that show interesting and sometimes unexpected dynamics in its historical development. The object of study in the proposed dissertation is a certain number of Bulgarian verbs of domestic origin (commonly used and dialectal), which are distinguished by their

polysemantic structure and are included in the Bulgarian etymological dictionary. This is the place to note that the doctoral student has serious experience (including drafting) in scientific research work in the preparation of the Bulgarian etymological dictionary. The dissertation selected and analyzed verbs from the etymological nest of the verb *пера* [pera] “wash” (from Pros. *per-/ *ръг-/ *para- “to hit”), from the etymological nest of the verb *праскам* [praskam] “sling” and verbs from the lexical-semantic fields “hit”, “eat”, “talk”. Special attention is also paid to several lexemes with hitherto unclear etymology: *лапардосвам* “chatter”, *казвам* “say”, *вадя* “take out”, *обаждам* “call” and *ваджия, ваджишки* “desolate, damn”.

The main goal of the research is "to establish semantic transitions that can be defined as regular in the Bulgarian language, and also in a more general typological plan" (Summary, p. 6), and subsequently - to prepare a catalogue of the established semantic transitions of the examined verbs.

From the extensive bibliographic review on the topic made in the introductory part of the dissertation, it is clear that until now the semantic aspect of the diachronic development of the verbal lexicon has been episodically studied in both Bulgarian and Slavic etymological science. As a methodological starting point for semantic reconstruction in his work K. Fuchedzhieva relies mainly on the comparative studies of Zh. Varbot and H. Dejkova, in which a complex approach to linguistic material is applied: the analysis of semantic fields originating from an etymological nest is combined with the analysis of etymological nests giving rise to a lexical-semantic field. The diachronic study of the verbal lexicon is complemented by a synchronic onomasiological-semasiological approach and component analysis, according to which synchronic semantic relations can often be explained by changes in diachronic development. The cases of the so-called "de-

etymologization" in obscuring the connection source form - meaning, as is e.g. in the case of the verb *непа* [pera] with the original meaning "to beat, strike" to meaning *непа* [pera] "to clean, remove mud, dirt..." (Diss., p. 83). The method of semantic parallels is actively used for the clarification and functioning of verb semantics patterns by "bringing examples of analogical development in unrelated verbs with synonymous meanings as an evidential argument in favor of an assumed semantic development" (Summary, p. 14). The application of such a complex and comprehensive methodology is a great merit of the dissertation and guarantees a high quality of argumentation concerning the mechanisms of semantic derivation and the types of semantic transitions.

The structure of the dissertation is logical, coherent and well argued - thus in a smooth transition the verbs from the Proto-Slavic root **per-/*ръ-/*par-* "hit" from Chapter One are semantically linked to the primary meaning of the Proto-Slavic verb **praskati* > Bulgarian *пракам* [praskam] in Chapter Two of the Exposition, based on the author's hypothesis "Proto-Slav. **praskati* to be regarded as a continuation of Praslav. **prask-*, for which there are semantic grounds to reconstruct the meaning 'strike loudly, with noise!...' (Summary, p. 19).

In relation to the verbs *пракам* [praskam] and *праця* [prasstya], Chapter Two discusses a number of verbs traditionally considered to be onomatopoeic (rasp, bang, clap, etc.), where Fuchedzhieva rightly argues that the diachronic semantic development indicates a transition from verbs with the suffix *-sk-* for intensity to interjection, rather than the other way around (Dis., p. 114-125); similarly, for the verb *лунам* [lupam], the author disputes the etymology proposed in the BER from the Proto-Slavic sound simile **lupъ*, and derives it semantically and word-forming from the IE verbal root **leu-p-* 'cut off, separate', i.e. *луп* [lup] comes from *лунам* [lupam] (Diss., p. 170).

The etymological studies at the end of the Exposition reveal both Fuchedzhieva's skills in multifaceted analysis and synthesis of linguistic data and her impressive linguistic competence - particularly convincing, in my opinion, is the evidence for the domestic origin of the lexeme *ваджия* [vadjia] "as a noun derived from *вадя* [vadya] "slander", which may also explain the dual semantics of the word (Dis., pp. 300-304).

The attached Catalogue (Diss., pp. 320-364) includes 42 established semantic transitions in the Bulgarian verbal lexicon, in the clarification of which convincing parallels of a similar semantic development in other languages (ancient and modern, placed in the relevant historical and cultural context) are cited). Among them, particularly interesting as an atypical development from the primitive meaning are the transitions 'hit, beat' → 'hit' → 'crazed, mad' and 'throw' → 'send (something, someone) somewhere, to another place' in the verbs from Proto-Slav. root *per-/*ръг-/*par-; 'I hit hard' → 'I trample, trample' → 'I eat (drink) a lot' and 'I strike hard with noise' → 'I talk fast' / 'I talk nonsense' with regard to the verb *праскам* [praskam]; 'shine, shine' → 'hit (hard)' with regard to the verbs *блестя*, *светя*, *свиткам* 'shine, bend'; 'injury' → 'arguing' with regard to the verbs *кастрия*, *дялам*, *жуля* [kastraya, dialam, julya] 'castrate, dilam, chew, etc.'; 'make something visible, show' → 'say, announce' with regard to the verbs *казвам*, *явявам* (*се*), *разкривам* "say, appear, reveal".

The developed catalogue is unique for the Bulgarian verb system and it has successfully achieved the most important practical goal of the research - to start a reference of diachronic semantic patterns in the Bulgarian lexicon, which will be useful for the work on the Bulgarian Etymological Dictionary. It can be said that the Catalogue represents the most significant contribution of the dissertation work, as it establishes regular semantic transitions not only for the Bulgarian language, but also in a general typological sense.

Among the other indisputable contributions of the dissertation the unity of diachronic (comparative-historical) and synchronic (typological) analysis in the applied methodology; the study of a large amount of dialect vocabulary that preserved the original connection with the etymon; the proposed essential additions and corrections of previously existing problematic verb etymologies, etc.

I would recommend to the author that the Greek examples be specified as Old Greek or Modern Greek, because the vocabulary is studied both diachronically, and synchronically; I also note a certain inconsistency and errors in the spelling of the Greek words (in the original or in a Latin transcription - Summary, p. 26), as well as in determining them as Doric or Ionic (e.g. with πλήσσω and πλήττω - Diss., p. 85).

The conclusion of the dissertation (pp. 310-320) emphasizes the most significant benefits of the study of diachronic semantic regularities in the analyzed verbs: facilitating etymologization in words with ambiguous etymons, solving the problems of homonyms in the language, better interpretation of semantic derivation in polysemantic verbs.

The Summary corresponds to the Dissertation by presenting its content in a summarized form, outlining the highlights and systematizing the results. In the period 2017-2021 K. Fuchedzhieva has also submitted five articles related to the topic of the dissertation.

The dissertation SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF BULGARIAN VERBAL VOCABULARY (BASED ON MATERIAL FROM "BULGARIAN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY) is distinguished by the precision and comprehensiveness of a serious academic work and has a high scientific value with a significant contribution to Bulgarian and Slavic etymological science. All the outstanding merits of the dissertation single out Krasimira Fuchedzhieva as an undisputed professional and thorough researcher

and give me full reason to recommend that she be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Reviewer:

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