

OPINION

by Dr. Laska Angelova Laskova, Associate Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

on a dissertation submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities; Professional field 2.1 Philology

Author of the dissertation: Malina Georgieva Stoycheva,
PhD student at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", BAS
Title of the dissertation: Techniques for expanding simple groups with a noun in their composition
Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ruska Stancheva

1. Relevance of the problem addressed in the dissertation in scientific and/or applied scientific terms. The doctoral student's research focuses on the noun phrase, a central object of modelling in any syntactic theory. Particular emphasis is placed on a problem that has actively engaged the scholarly community in recent decades: the distinction between a simple syntactic group and a compound lexical unit. The study works within a theoretical framework that is among the most recent in the Bulgarian linguistic tradition, namely that of the Normative Grammar. The fact that the conclusions are based on work with real usages attested in the Bulgarian National Corpus makes an excellent impression.

2. Knowledge of the state of the problem and the literature. Malina Stoycheva is well acquainted with the main works relevant to the problem under investigation. The bibliography lists 76 titles in Bulgarian, English, Czech, and Polish.

3. Comment on the selected methodology. Comparative analysis occupies a key place in distinguishing between a noun phrase and a compound lexical unit, as well as in presenting the constituent and dependency approaches to modelling the object of study. In the empirical part, the descriptive and analytical methods are leading: the possible expansions are described for each of the nine simple groups ($N \rightarrow A$, $N \rightarrow N$, $N \rightarrow Adv$, $N \rightarrow Num$, $N \rightarrow Pr$ and $Num \rightarrow N$, $A \rightarrow N$, $Pr \rightarrow N$, $Inc \rightarrow N$), and, on the basis of examples from the Bulgarian National Corpus, generalizations are drawn regarding the position, grammatical class, and functions of the modifiers. I consider the methodology thus selected to be adequate to the aims and tasks of the dissertation.

4. Brief analytical characterization of the scientific and/or applied scientific contributions of the dissertation. The doctoral student analytically examines different definitions of the noun phrase and systematizes criteria for distinguishing it from a compound lexical unit. The five simple groups with a noun as head have been typologized. In accordance

with the main principles of the dependency approach and the conceptual apparatus of the Normative Grammar, the techniques for expanding the nine simple groups with elements from different classes are presented. In addition to the contributions already noted, the development of a positional model of expansions may also be mentioned, as it is important for the description of the syntactic organization of the Bulgarian noun group.

5. Assessment of the publications related to the dissertation. The doctoral student has three publications on the topic in the journal *Bulgarian Language*, which examine, respectively, preposed expansions in noun–noun groups $N \rightarrow N$, expansion techniques in groups with a noun as head and an adjective as dependent $N \rightarrow A$, and expansion techniques in groups with a noun as head and an adverb as dependent $N \rightarrow Adv$. All three articles have a clear thematic and methodological parallel with the dissertation and may be regarded as an approbation of substantial parts of the study.

6. Dissertation abstract. The dissertation abstract provides a clear understanding of the research tasks set in the work, the methods applied, the chosen theoretical framework, the results obtained, the structure of the exposition itself, and the main contributions of the dissertation.

7. Conclusion. The dissertation *Techniques for Expanding Simple Groups Containing a Noun* meets all the criteria for the successful achievement of the stated research aim. At the same time, the skills demonstrated in analyzing the empirical material, the consistent and non-contradictory presentation of the conclusions drawn, the clear and concise style, and the logical and transparent structure of the work are noteworthy. The dissertation has indisputable scientific contributions in accordance with the national requirements, which gives me grounds to vote in favor of awarding Malina Georgieva Stoycheva the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”.

23.05.2026

Statement prepared by:

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