STANDPOINT

from prof. Petya Nacheva Osenova, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski"

on the dissertation for awarding of the scientific degree **'Doctor of Science '**

in the professional area 2.1 Philology *(Contemporary Bulgarian Language)*

Author: associate professor PhD Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

Topic: Bulgarian lexeme classes and the study of the parts of speech

1. General introduction of the procedure and the applicant

In relation to the procedure for awarding the scientific degree 'doctor of science' the applicant - associate professor PhD Konstantin Kutsarov - has provided the full documentation on paper. The provided documents comply to Article 45(4) from the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski".

The applicant has a sufficient number of publications on the dissertation topic. These are 10 articles, three of which have been published in foreign editions.

Associate professor PhD K. Kutsarov became a PhD in 2000. His whole scientific and lecturing career has been related to philology. From 2015 to 2019 he was a vice-dean on learning activities and student problems.

These brief bio-facts represent the applicant as a serious scientist and a reliable lecturer and administrator.

2. The importance of the topic

The topic of modeling parts-of-speech, or in other words – word classes, in Bulgarian is of exclusive importance not only for the Bulgarian linguistics but also for the foreign one. The part-of-speech classifications are the basis for typological comparisons with the other languages. Additionally, they reflect the interaction among the levels of morphology, syntax and semantics. The varieties of models that were introduced by the applicant show the difficulties in interpreting the linguistic phenomena on one level or another. In this sense the main task of the dissertation "to build a modern and innovative taxonomy of words in contemporary Bulgarian" (p. 27 from the Resume) is coming completely on time.

3. Knowledge of the problem

Assoc. prof. Kutsarov knows in details the main concepts about the parts-of-speech (word classes). When problems are considered on which big quantities of literature is available, it is important to show skills for selecting the fundamental conceptual approaches. Assoc. prof. Kutsarov has

perfectly handled this difficult task. The applicant has presented the various points of view in the foreign and Bulgarian linguistics through a deep critical analysis. He has underlined both – the positive and weak points in each opinion.

4. Method of survey

In this work a number of synchronic and diachronic methods have been used. These are: the descriptive method, the contrastive method in a historical as well as in a contemporary plan, the classification, the critical and structural analysis.

These methods are very adequate for achieving the dissertation goal, namely – a logically grounded and scientifically sound systematization of the parts-of-speech (or as introduced in the dissertation – lexeme classes) to be modeled.

5. Characteristics of the dissertation and evaluation of the novel contributions

The dissertation has 369 standard pages. It comprises an introduction, four main sections, conclusion and a list of cited literature publications. The introduction brings into the topic and sets the main aims and tasks of the survey. The first three sections present the concepts about the parts-of-speech in various linguistic contexts (classical historical, Russian and Bulgarian). The fourth section describes the classification of the applicant together with the arguments for the specific decisions. The contributions of the dissertations are correctly presented by the applicant. However, here I will summarize them as follows: very valuable and very thorough from a conceptual point of view overview of the studies on the parts-of-speech (with a focus on languages that are genealogically close to Bulgarian, such as Russian); application of contemporary taxonomy methods that take into account the interaction among the morphological, syntactic and semantic criteria; a very carefully grounded proposal for the actualization of the current terminology that is related to the presented studies; the creation of an original and non-traditional model of the Bulgarian parts-of-speech that include 12 lexeme classes; novel ideas on the semantics and grammatical categories of these lexeme classes. According to me, the applicant's approach is correct in the sense that it considers the fact that various classification criteria have different impact depending on the lexeme class type. Sometimes the morphological criterion dominates, and sometimes – the syntactic and/or the semantic one(s).

However, in my opinion, there are more 'hybrid' categories in a parts-of-speech classification. For example, the problem with 'който' (koyto, who-relative) as a subordinator and an adjective (according to the proposed classification) can be solved by inheriting information from both parts of speech and by introducing a category 'adjective-subordinator'. In such a case the word който (koyto, who-relative) will inflect as an adjective (morphological criterion) but will connect sentences as a subordinator (syntactic criterion).

6. Estimation of the publications and the personal contribution of the applicant

The publications of the associate professor Kutsarov are 10. They refer to various topics that have become part of the dissertation. These topics include: the separate autonomic status of the gerund in the parts-of-speech group; the distinguishing of the determinatives as a separate

part-of-speech; the parts-of-speech in the ancient times and in Russian linguistics. All the provided publications are original.

7. The Resume

The Resume adheres to all normative requirements. It correctly and fully reflects the content of the dissertation.

8. Recommendations for the future usage of the dissertation contributions and results

The scientific results in the associate professor Kutsarov's text are unquestionable. Despite the acceptance or rejection of his classification by the linguists (such as, the exclusion of the pronoun as part-of-speech; the redistribution of the ordinal numerals to the adjectives; the formation of a lexeme class of just three words, etc.), the proposed model of 12 parts-of-speech is a theoretically grounded and thus a possible approach. The main challenge before the applicant remains the application of the model in practice due to the fact that the status quo – such as the traditional classification of the parts-of-speech – is difficult to alter. At the same time, I see a more direct perspective of the scientific results in the typological surveys and in teaching language modeling in master and doctoral programs.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation includes scientific and scientific-applied results that are an important contribution to the philology. These results meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), of the Regulations of LDASRB and the corresponding Regulations of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". The provided materials and dissertation results completely adhere to the specific requirements of the Philological Faculty, accepted in relation to the Regulations of the Plovdiv University for applying LDASRB.

The dissertation shows that the applicant possesses profound theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the professional area 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language). He demonstrates qualities and skills for doing research with original and significant scientific results.

Taking into account all my considerations above, I convincingly give my positive evaluation of the presented dissertation and I propose to the respected scientific committee to award the scientific degree 'doctor of science' to the associate professor Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov in the higher education area 2. Humanities, in professional area 2.1 Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language).

11.10. 2019   **Standpoint author**:

                                              Prof. Dr. Petya Osenova