

REVIEW

Of dissertation for awarding a scientific degree – Doctor of Science, by D.Sc. Stoyan Panayotov Burov – Professor Emeritus in St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Higher education area: 2. Humanities

Professional Degree: 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian language)

Author: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov - Bulgarian Language Department, Philological Faculty, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

Topic: Bulgarian lexemic classes and doctrine about speech parts

1. Subject to review

With order No P33-4369 / 23.07.2019 of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU) I was appointed a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for defense of a dissertation on the following topic: Bulgarian lexemic classes and the doctrine about speech parts, for acquiring a scientific degree “Doctor of Science” in the field of Higher Education.

2. Humanities, professional field

2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian language)

The author of the dissertation is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov – Bulgarian Language Department, Philological Faculty - Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

The paper set of materials, presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov complies with Article 45 (4) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University and includes all necessary documents listed in the author's application to the Rector of the University.

The dissertator has attached 10 publications on the topic of the dissertation work.

2. Brief biographical data

Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov has been a doctor since 2001, after successfully defending a dissertation on the following topic: "Futurity in the Bulgarian language". Since 2010, he has been an Associated Professor in the Bulgarian Language Department at PU Paisii Hilendarski; Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Academic Activity; He has published 2 monographs published, more than 10 manuals (most of them co-authored), about 40 articles published in Bulgaria, and about 10 - published abroad. His main scientific activities are in the field of Morphology of Bulgarian

language. He has lectured in all sections of modern Bulgarian language, with emphasis on the course in Morphology.

3. Actuality of the subjects and expedience of the goals and tasks set

The question of words division into speech parts has been subject of lively discussions since antiquity, when the interest in grammar, as an art and / or as a philosophical science arose. It is not exaggerating to say that the history of grammar from antiquity to the present day was largely a history of doctrine about the speech parts. Ancient Greek and ancient Indian heritage in this field is as impressive as an achievement that it has never lost its significance during the centuries. That is why I find right the approach of the dissertator at the beginning of his work to review the classifications of words in antiquity and later in the Middle Ages. The first chapter is devoted to this. The "Bulgarian" contribution to the subject is not omitted here, too: the translated composition of Yoan Ekzarh – "For the Eight Parts of Speech," known from the fourteenth-century transcript.

In spite of the numerous works on the speech parts around the world, so many that hardly anyone would be able to count and summarize them, there is always place for another research, which, having in mind the Bulgarian language has the courage to present to us Konstantin Kutsarov. With this research, he makes a serious request to become an indispensable factor in taking into account the Bulgarian contribution to the doctrine, which unfortunately has not so far manifested itself with a thorough and original theory.

4. Awareness of the problem

The author has excellent knowledge of researches at the core of the doctrine of speech parts in Russia and Bulgaria – especially insightful is presented the Russian school. This decision is based on the fact, that the Bulgarian school is largely grounded on the researches of the Russian scientists. Therefore, in order to understand the history of the Bulgarian doctrine of speech parts, it is necessary to know the rich Russian school. The author has also made effort to study the issue from its very beginning in ancient times in Greece and India, to highlight the contribution of the Alexandrian school, the Latin tradition, as well as medieval and Renaissance achievements in grammar. In this part of his dissertation, he refers mainly to the review works of other scientists, insofar as most of the compositions listed and commented on, are unavailable for reading in translation or in original.

4. Research methodology

In his brief introduction, the author writes that the purpose of the research determines the application of both synchronous and diachronic methods of work: description, classification, systematization, etc. In its essence, the research in the first, second and third chapters, is descriptive. Authors and works are sequentially listed, in some places - in depth, in other places – more

recapitulative and fast, accompanied by critical analyzes and notes. The dissertator shows very good skills to present and summarize the essence of the relevant compositions, as well as to express his attitude towards them. An objective picture is given of both the achievements and the weak points in the cogitations of Russian and Bulgarian scientists and grammarians. Up to now, no one in Bulgarian linguistics has presented such a wide and complete panorama of the compositions on the subject. The first three chapters sufficiently, even more than sufficiently, prepare the reader to become familiar with the author's division of words into speech parts, made in chapter four, and with the contribution of this work to the theory and history of the doctrine.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation, in volume of 369 pages, consists of introduction, four chapters, conclusion, one application and bibliography. The introduction is very short - only two pages long. The conclusion is also not large (4 pages in total) and in volume it is not suitable for work claiming a major doctorate. The bibliographic apparatus includes 124 titles; there are gaps in contemporary authors and works, e.g. the author missed the great and interesting in view of the subject grammar of Kotova and Yanakiev – “Bulgarian language grammar for those who speak Russian” (2001). Citations in the text do not refer technically to the citations of the authors and titles in the bibliography. As noted, the first chapter deals with the classifications of words during antiquity and the Middle Ages. The second chapter is entitled "Development of the speech parts doctrine in Russian linguistics after the grammar of Mihail V. Lomonosov". The third chapter examines the concepts for the speech parts in Bulgarian linguistics in historical order - beginning with Neofit Rilski and ending with Ruselina Nitsolova. The fourth chapter, which is the most voluminous, presents the concept of the author of the work for the number, division, and nature of word classes in modern Bulgarian language. There are some interesting innovations here, some of which are quite challenging in terms of tradition. In most cases, the author reasonably upholds his own understanding, but there are also some contradictions in the classifications, which will be discussed below. The dissertation, like his other works, in general is written in polemical and bold language and style, but the presentation goes smoothly, the cogitations are clear, accurate, understandable. However, it seems to me that, compared to the book about participles and to some articles here, the author presents himself staid, probably his experience and age impact, though none of the challenging hypotheses are forgotten here either.

7. Contribution and importance of the work to science and practice

The second and third chapters contribute to the history of Russian and Bulgarian doctrine about the speech parts. There every linguist may find something that interests him, but has remained unnoticed by him so far. This is because the author has a keen eye for details, even when they are

related to an off-topic issue. After the publication of the work, the historical foreshortening can be used by the Bulgarian linguists for various references. Chapter four makes significant contribution to the theory and practice of speech parts doctrine. According to the author, the parts of speech are 12: discursive, noun, numeral, adjective, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction, particle, determinative, interjection. As can be inferred, the pronouns have been dropped from the "traditional" 10 parts of speech, but the author adds to the list three new parts: participle, determinative, discursive. His view of the participle, as a separate part of the speech has already been known to the reader, from the book "Bulgarian Participle" (2012), as well as from some of his articles. However, the question of the status of past continuous active participle stays open. The pronouns are not regarded as a separate part of speech and in some works of Russian linguists, i.e. K. Kutsarov's opinion does not come up empty. The question of the peculiarities of pronouns among other parts of the speech is also brought up in the book of R. Nitsolova. In general, pronouns can actually be "scattered" among the other parts of speech, depending on what they replace or refer to: pronominal nouns, pronominal adjectives, pronominal numerals, and pronominal adverbs. So far, in most works of Bulgarian linguists there is no unity: the pronominal adverbs are considered as a type of adverbs, while the others are treated properly as pronouns. This contradiction is eliminated in the book of R. Nitsolova. K. Kutsarov proceeds as follows: he separates the personal pronouns into a separate part of speech called "discursive" and the other known types of pronouns refers to nouns, adjectives and adverbs. The author assumes that in order for a class of variable full-meaning words to be a separate part of speech, all words in the class must have at least one common grammatical category (p. 254). In this sense, pronouns do not really form a homogeneous group. The ordinal numerals are correctly referred to the class of adjectives. Similar to St. Georgiev, K. Kutsarov separates the modal particles as speech parts, called "determinatives", but does not find sufficient grounds to distinguish the so-called predicative adverbs into the speech part "predicative". At this point, his objections do not take into account some serious arguments, placed in the works of Y. Maslov, especially R. Rusinov and others. The terms "determinative" and "discursive" at this stage should be considered working terms. It should also be noted that if the words in language are one hundred thousand or even many more, there is no way this plurality of words to be fit within 10-12 parts of speech without some compromises with the classification criteria. There will always be words that will be debatable which part of speech they belong to, and there will always be forms that will be debatable whether they are forms or individual words. K. Kutsarov's attempt to classify words into grammatical classes, and to "delegate a primary status" for each class to one of three criteria: logical-semantic, morphological, and syntactic, deserves special attention.

The author realizes that his classification, like any other, will cause arguments, discussions, and objections. He ends his work precisely in the following words: "there is no classification model that is not vulnerable" (p. 356). The good thing in this case is that the work opens prospects for new linguistic researches, which will undoubtedly occur.

8. Assessment of dissertation publications

The author has presented 10 articles related to the topic of the dissertation, which were published between 2011 and 2019. Four of them were published in the Scientific Works of Plovdiv University, the rest - in jubilee medleys or in medleys with reports, read in conferences. One of the articles was published in Poland, one - in Hungary, one - in Turkey, the rest - in Bulgaria (Sofia, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo).

It is worth noting that in a number of other articles not listed here, as well as in the monograph "Bulgarian Participle", some of the problems in the dissertation topic are concentrated. The dissertation is a creative summary, theoretical understanding of the author's hypotheses and opinions, expressed on various occasions in his different publications. In this sense, it does not come into empty space, nor can it surprise us with its problems. It was an expected work by all, who more or less monitor the scientific development of Konstantin Kutsarov.

It is also necessary to note that the current production of Konstantin Kutsarov covers the minimum required number of points (350), according to the national criteria for obtaining the scientific degree – "Doctor of Science".

9. Personal involvement of the author

The dissertation is an original composition, entirely created by Konstantin Kutsarov and belonging to its author. This is work, result of a lengthy, nearly 10-year research on the subject.

10. Auto essay

The content of the auto essay / 64 pages / reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation. It also gives 6 points of self-assessment of the work contribution that I find to be fully relevant.

11. Critical comments and recommendations

Quite a lot of critical remarks and recommendations can be made to improve the work before it is printed as a book. One of my main notes is that in the fourth chapter, where the semantic and grammatical features of each of the 12 speech parts are summarized, many works of Bulgarian linguists outside the category of grammar are ignored. The exception is the quoted articles and monographs on individual issues of grammar classes and categories.

Therefore, some of the author's remarks are not at the level of contemporary scientific thought in Bulgarian linguistics, they sound old-fashioned or present "news" already sufficiently developed by

other authors. I do not find ground for pronouns, such as who, whom, someone, nobody, etc. to refer without stipulation, to the adjectives, if they replace or refer to nouns. In addition, what is the difference between who and he – both of them have a movable referent. That is why I think so-called "discursives" are actually pronominal nouns. There is certain basis for separation only in the primary personal and secondary personal pronouns: "I" serves for self-naming, "You" for naming the interlocutor.

I do not agree that the reflexive pronominal particles: "*se*" and "*si*" are nouns (p. 296?!). It is too extravagant and even inadequate to deny the existence of reflexive verbs in Bulgarian language. The note that the particles "*se*" and "*si*" with self-reflexive verbs from the following type: "*gordeya se*", "*spomnyam si*" should be spliced with the verb form, does not take into account the mobility of particles due to their status as a tick ("*gordeya se*", but "*az se gordeya*", "*toi se e gordyal*", etc.), unlike in Russian, where "*-ся*," "*-сь*" are elements of the form. Such elementary errors are unacceptable in doctoral work. I also consider deliberate the opinion that the voice is participle, but not verb category, and that the reflexive-passive verb forms are not passive, as it seems to me to be a deliberate the denial of temporal meaning, expressed with analytical forms of the auxiliary verb and active past participle.

It seems to me superfluous the cogitations about the differences between a lexeme and a word; let us leave this topic to the lexicologists –the grammarians classify words, not lexemes. As it is well known, the basic unit of grammar is the word, not the lexeme.

These notes cannot compromise the high quality of work.

12. Personal impressions

Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov is a scientist with innovative thinking – has a taste for discussion topics, likes provoking scientific thought. It is commendable that he wants to open his page in Bulgarian linguistics, which he undoubtedly opens with this dissertation.

13. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contribution and results

I suggest that the author carefully listens to all well-intentioned notes and recommendations so that he can improve his work before publishing it, as consecutive monograph. The Russian school role in speech parts doctrine can be translated into Russian, in order to become available for the Russian linguists.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation has all the necessary scientific qualities in order to award the author – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, with the degree of Doctor of Sciences. I give my positive assessment of his work without remorse and propose to the members of the honorable scientific jury, to award the degree of Doctor of Sciences Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, in the field of Higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian language).

1 October 2019

Reviewer:
Corresponding Member of BAS,
Professor D.Sc. Stoyan BUROV