

STATEMENT

by Prof. Diana Petrova Ivanova, D.Sc. from the Department of Bulgarian at the Faculty of Languages and Literature at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv on the thesis *Bulgarian Lexemic Classes and the Parts of Speech Theory* by Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, PhD, from the Department of Bulgarian at the Faculty of Languages and Literature at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 2. Humanities; Professional field 2.1 Philology (Modern Bulgarian - Morphology).

1. General description of the materials presented

By Order № P 33-4369 / 23.07.2019 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU) I was appointed a member of the scientific council in connection with the procedure for obtaining the degree of *Doctor of Science* by Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, PhD. The submitted materials (thesis and 10 articles) according to the procedure of defense are in conformity with the Higher Education Decree, the Academic Staff Development Decree of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv and meet the minimum national requirements for obtaining the D.Sc. scientific degree.

The candidate submitted a thesis (359 pages) and 10 articles on the thesis topic. The presented works reveal the author's scientific interests in the field of contemporary Bulgarian (Morphology) and relate to a set of problems that fall within the competence of the candidate. The articles were approved - they were presented as papers at scientific conferences and were printed in specialized scientific publications (7 in Bulgaria and 3 abroad (in Poland, Hungary, Turkey)).

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

Konstantin Kutsarov graduated with a degree in Bulgarian Philology from the University of Plovdiv in 1993, after which he worked as a part-time lecturer in Bulgarian for foreign students at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv (1993–1995). From 1995 to 1998 he was a PhD student at the Department of Bulgarian and defended his doctoral thesis in 2000. He consecutively held the positions of expert philologist (1999–2001), assistant professor (2001–2003), senior assistant professor (2003–2005) and chief assistant professor (2005–2010). Since 2010 he has been an associate professor, and since 2015 he has been Vice Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Literature of the University of Plovdiv.

3. Relevance of the topic and compliance of the goals and objectives set

The issues related to the parts of speech and their division are not new, they have been dealt with extensively in both synchronous and diachronic aspects in Bulgarian and foreign linguistics. The relevance of the topic and the theses in the body of the dissertation are manifested in the new reading, in the creation of a new concept, which differs from the traditional grammatical interpretations known so far, in the applied methodology and innovative approach in the study of the problem under consideration.

4. Characterization and evaluation of the thesis paper

The text of the thesis presented is the result of long years of observations and analyses related to the taxonomic issues, after which the author comes to a reconsideration of certain

theses existing as postulates in grammar reference, as a result of which the author creates his scientifically based concept on the basis of certain criteria.

The thesis paper follows the compositional framework of the scientific genre and consists of introduction, 4 chapters, conclusion and bibliography. In three consecutive chapters an extensive historical overview is presented, which traces the emergence and development of the theory of the parts of speech, the author specifying that his attention is directed primarily to distinguished works and significant linguistic schools (in Ancient India, Ancient Hellas, the Alexandrian School, grammarians from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, classical and contemporary authors, including such to this day). Accordingly, the first chapter deals with *the classification of words during the Antiquity and the Middle Ages*. The evolution of the theory of the parts of speech in the 19th c. and 20th c. in chapter two is described quite extensively, with priority being given to the grammatical thought of the Russian linguistic tradition after M.V. Lomonosov (*Development of the theory of the parts of speech in Russian linguistics after the grammar of Mikhail V. Lomonosov*). Special attention is paid to the Bulgarian grammatical experience in describing the parts of speech in the first Bulgarian grammars in the 19th c., as well as in the scientific grammars during the standard period of the Bulgarian literary language in chapter three – *Concepts of the Parts of Speech in Bulgarian Linguistics*. (Probably, given the volume of the thesis paper, the review lacks a description of the theory of the parts of speech in the West European tradition – a problem that could further be added during the publication of this text or reviewed independently in a separate study).

Distancing himself from the traditional statements related to the theory of the parts of speech, the author highlights innovative ideas in publications of Bulgarian and foreign grammarians on this subject in the second half of the 20th c., which are important for reconsidering the systematic description of the types of words in Bulgarian. He finds a breakaway from the classification pattern (without significant changes in the criterion basis) in the Russian linguist Y. S. Maslov's grammar (1981). The author also finds grounds for a new scientific basis of the lexemic classification, accompanied by terminological update (incl. the term *parts of speech*, which has been replaced by the more correct name *word classes*), in M. Moskov's article *The Parts of Speech Problem* (1986). He finds ideas contributing to the parts of speech theory in the postulates of St. Georgiev (from the beginning of the 90s) for the basic classification in the presence of three criteria: semantic-grammatical, morphological and syntactic. Consolidating with the presented theoretical statements, K. Kutzarov further develops them, builds upon them, and forms his own theses for the classification of the parts of speech (word classes) and their division in modern Bulgarian.

The essential part of the thesis is chapter four – *Word Classes in Modern Bulgarian*. Starting from the complexity of lexemes – logically-semantic and grammatical, the author creates a modern innovative taxonomy of words in Bulgarian. It is by the above criteria giving a complex idea of lexemes that he creates a model for typological grouping in the Bulgarian vocabulary. After the description and analysis the author clearly presents in a separate table the taxonomic characteristics of Bulgarian lexemic classes.

In conclusion I will point out that the goals and tasks set in Assoc. Prof. Dr. K. Kutzarov's thesis have been fulfilled. The author reviews a fundamental problem that he interprets innovatively, expresses his own theses differing from the acknowledged traditional postulates, for

which he presents the relevant arguments. The text is written in a clear and scientifically sound language. The same also applies to the ten publications on the topic of the thesis. The abstract (62 pages) presents the content of the thesis objectively.

5. Scientific contributions of the study

The dissertation presented is the first comprehensive scientific study in Bulgarian linguistics related to the parts of speech theory and the classification of lexemes from the Bulgarian vocabulary.

An extensive review has been made with a critical analysis of the development of the parts of speech theory from antiquity to the present day. The author has created his own concept of an innovative classification of the parts of speech (word classes) and their division based on updated principles.

An innovative taxonomic model of twelve lexeme classes in the Bulgarian language is proposed, which follows an order with the following changes compared to the acknowledged 10-member system: a new independent class called *discursive* is introduced, which encompasses only personal pronouns; determinative words occupy an independent place in the participle system; ordinal numbers are redirected to the group of adjectives; the class of pronouns (with the exception of the personal pronouns) is distributed among the discursives, nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

The terminology apparatus has been updated and new morphological categories have been introduced – *appellation* (with reference to the noun), *animation* (with reference to numbers), *awareness of the speaker* (with reference to the verb), *voice and state of activity* (with reference to the participle).

CONCLUSION

The thesis contains scientific results which are a contribution to the field of Bulgarian linguistics and meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Decree of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Academic Staff Development Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Based on the analysis of the study *Bulgarian Lexemic Classes and the Parts of Speech Theory* I give my **positive assessment** and propose to the honorable scientific council to vote in favour of awarding Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, PhD, from the Department of Bulgarian at the Faculty of Languages and Literature of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv the scientific degree Doctor of Science in Philology in the field of higher education 2. *Humanities*; Professional field 2.1 *Philology (Modern Bulgarian - Morphology)*.

Member of the Scientific Council:
Prof. Diana Ivanova, D.Sc.