

STANDPOINT

By Dr. Nelya Stefanova Ivanova,
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on dissertation paper for awarding of "Doctor of science" scientific degree in the field of
higher education. 2. Humanities professional direction 2.1. Philology (contemporary
Bulgarian language)

Author: Associate Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutzarov, Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski", "Bulgarian language" department.

Topic: "Bulgarian lexical classes and teaching on parts of speech"

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant for the degree

Subject to review

By Order No. P33-4369 of 23rd July 2019 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski" (PU) I have been nominated as a member of the scientific jury for providing a
procedure for the defence of the dissertation on the subject "Bulgarian lexeme classes and the
teaching of parts of speech" for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in
Plovdiv University in the field of higher education. 2. Humanities professional direction 2.1.
Philology (contemporary Bulgarian language)

The author of the dissertation is Ass. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutzarov, Plovdiv
University "Paisii Hilendarski", "Bulgarian language" department.

The presented set of materials on paper by Ass. Prof. Dr. K. Kutzarov is in compliance
with art. 45 (4) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU and
includes the following documents:

- an application to the Rector of the PU for opening a procedure for the dissertations
defence;
- European CV;
- copy of the diploma for the educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- minutes of departmental meetings related to the opening of the procedure and the
preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation;
- author's summary of his dissertation;

- a list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation; copies of scientific publications;
- declaration certifying originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- a reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements for obtaining a scientific degree “doctor of science” in the field 2. Humanities professional direction 2.1. Philology.

Short biographical information

The professional and scientific growth of Ass. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutzarov is closely connected with PU “Paisii Hilendarski”: in 1993 he graduated with bachelor and master degree in “Bulgarian Philology” in PU, in 2000 he successfully defended the dissertation “Continuity in the Bulgarian language “ which was later published as a scientific monograph in 2010. Ass. Prof. Dr. K. Kutzarov together with his scientific work occupied the academic positions of assistant professor (till 2003), senior assistant (till 2005), chief assistant (till 2010), and associate professor in contemporary Bulgarian language at the department of “Bulgarian language” (since 2010) Since 2015 Ass. Prof. Dr. K. Kutzarov has been deputy Dean for Academic Activities of the Faculty of Philology of PU.

2. Relevance of the topic

The systematic description of the words in the contemporary Bulgarian language is in the focus of the dissertation. It is achieved by an innovative view of the researcher concerning the separation of words in classes (lexeme classes, “parts of speech”) on the basis of their semantic, morphological and syntactic characteristics.

The presence of polemic zones in the traditional study of the parts of speech, connected mainly with the grounds of their separation, their number and content, the necessity of overcoming the controversies in the interpretation of the language phenomena and of terminological clarity, the compliance with the specifics of the Bulgarian language and its evolution and present state, as well as finding solutions of discussion topics referring the application of relevant principles of classifying Bulgarian lexeme classes determine the constructed overall concept of the dissertation as important and actual for the Bulgarian linguistics.

3. Knowledge of the problem

An in-depth and critical analysis (in chronological aspect) of the basic views in the centuries-old history of the doctrine of typological division of words: from the very beginning of linguistics to the scientific works of contemporary scientists shows an excellent knowledge

of the subject, knowledge of the details of the basic works in this field. This allows the author to reasonably formulate and develop his research.

The problem of parts of speech is one of the main ones in linguistics, which has a philosophical depth (due to its connection to human thinking and its categories), and the linguistic significance that results from the structure and functioning of language.

The description of each language begins by defining parts of speech as the most general and necessary categories of grammar. The absence of common starting points about the principles of their differentiation and the existence of various approaches (logical-semantic, morphological, syntactic, complex, based on lexical prototypes, concentric description, etc.), as well as their central place in linguistics, generate a huge amount of scientific literature. Considering this, the author, in my opinion, has been able to systematically construct the theoretical context of his research, sift through basic concepts and outline controversial areas and discussion points. It is a correct assumption that the description of all works would be an outrageous deed (p. 5, p. 353), and yet it seems to me that a commentary on the most recent studies on the problems of parts of speech in Bulgarian and Russian (also subject of an understandable interest in the present work) languages from our and foreign scholars published in recent years would not only enrich the theoretical part of the work, but would better highlight the author's new ideas. I am referring to the works of Prof. P. Osenova (2010, 2016), the materials of the scientific symposia (2016, 2018) for the preparation of the fourth academic grammar in Russian language (Russian Grammar 4.0), the Corpus Grammar'2014 project at the Department of Slavic Studies at Stockholm University, Sweden, etc.

4. Research methodology

Conceptually, the dissertation is constructed in a multilayered manner around both axes of the purely scientific (theoretical) perspective of analysis, on one hand, and the morphological level of the modern Bulgarian language (functional perspective), within which the parts of speech as classification models are studied in general and specific (Bulgarian and Russian) linguistics, diachronic studies have been carried out, the vocabulary and grammatical structure of modern Bulgarian have been studied, lexeme classes have been indicated, their semantic morphological and syntactic characteristics have been analyzed.

The construction of this large-scale and sophisticated analytical platform has been achieved by the application of an adequate research methodology of the research. The author uses the basic linguistic methods: descriptive, systematic and structural, comparative, functional.

The erudition, the analytical skills, the precise academic language (together with the fresh

metaphorical way of presentation), demonstrated by the author, make the presentation of the dissertation logical, reasoned and readable.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and the contributions

The dissertation consists of an introduction, 4 chapters, Conclusion, Appendix (Taxonomic characteristic of the Bulgarian lexeme classes), Bibliography. The size of the dissertation (without the bibliography) is 359 pages. The introduction (p. 4-5) briefly sets out the relevance, purpose, objectives and methodology of the intended study. The marginalization of the problem of parts of speech in Bulgarian linguistics and the existing unified classification model in systematic scientific development and in specialized linguistic handbooks is specially outlined.

Chapter 1 Classification of Words in Antiquity and the Middle Ages (p. 6 - 31) provides an overview of the oldest grammatical studies that contain knowledge of parts of speech: ancient Indian Vedic texts written in Sanskrit, the works of Panini, but mainly the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers, among which Aristarchus stood out, who initiated the scientifically based interpretation of parts of speech, commenting on Latin grammars and Renaissance authors. The importance of Chapter 2 in the dissertation *Development of the Study of the parts of speech in Russian linguistics after the grammar of Lomonsov* (p. 31 - 135) is determined by the theoretical significance of works on parts of speech of Russian linguists in the 19th and 20th centuries. Another important factor for the attention to the Russian linguistic tradition, by which the author is reasonably guided, is the similarity between the two languages, which determines the identity of the classification principles. The conceptual diversity of the works of remarkable linguists (A. Shakhmatov, A. Peshkovski, L. Shcherba, V. Vinogradov et al.), as well as the taxonomy in the last academic grammar in Russian dated 1980), are presented correctly and analytically. The chronological principle of exposition, though making the content a bit heavy in this section, allows the author to show the searches, the emergence of new rational "beads," and non-standard solutions in the study of the parts of speech which lead to progress. The ideas for the priority of the morphological criterion in the classification model of parts of speech in the Bulgarian language, for the treatment of defects in the paradigms of certain words, the specific place of numerical names and pronouns in taxonomy, etc. undergo continuity and development in the present work. Notwithstanding the large number of pages in this part, it seems to me that the author could have included some of the latest works by Russian scholars on the issues of parts of speech (A. Zimmerling /2017/ for the place of parts of speech; E. Kirov /2018, 2019/ about the hybrid

parts of speech, etc.). But we should point out that in referring this chapter (**author's summary of his dissertation**, r.15) the continuing discussion in Russian scientific circles is mentioned.

Chapter 3 Concepts of Parts of speech in Bulgarian Linguistics (pp. 135 - 239) is equally important in conceptual terms is - a real treasure of the historical path of Bulgarian linguistics and the place of study of the parts of speech in it: from the first New Bulgarian language grammar ("Bulgarian grammar", 1835) by N. Rilski in the works of Hr. Pavlovich, Iv. Bogorov, brothers. Tsankovi, Y. Gruev, T. Khrulev etc. to the works of P. Kalkandzhiev, N. Kostov, A. Teodorov-Balan, Art. Stoyanov, the Bulgarian Yu. Maslov, as well as the scientific works of our contemporaries: Professors M. Moskov, P. Pashov, St. Georgiev, Iv. Kutsarov, R. Nitsolova. The review is analytical, contains many valuable comparisons and references to authors and ideas (including contemporary linguistic controversies, p. 162, etc.), as well as clear critical positions on the concept (p. 142, 161, 171, 181, 182, 218, etc.). The focus is placed on the new and non-standard solutions for the parts of speech in the Bulgarian language, found mainly in the works of M. Moskov, Art. Georgiev, Y. Maslov. Particular emphasis is placed on the introduction of new terms, as well as on the critical attitude to the use of the basic term "parts of speech", traced by classical linguistics, considered by many scholars to be "inappropriate and incorrect", "a term soon to be extinct" (p. 211-212, etc.).

The precision of the terminology apparatus is a matter to which the author places a very important place in the next chapter 4 Classes of words in modern Bulgarian (239-352). The fundamental and semantically multidimensional concepts such as "word", "lexeme", "parts of speech" are clarified ", "Classes (groups) of words in the language ", "classes of lexemes in the language ", "morphological category ", "lexical and grammatical class", etc. The author convincingly confirms his position that the correct defining is "classes of lexemes in the language "(P. 242), the lexeme is considered to be a "linguistic unit in its paradigm wholeness" (p. 245), as well as "any meaningful unit having structural creative potential to function in the speech" (p. 246). Making the terminology apparatus precise is not purposeless: its correctness is not just a support (skeleton) of the classification model built by the author, but it allows the model to be verified, which in turn is a guarantee of its effectiveness. According to the specifics of the Bulgarian grammatical system, the significance of each of the principles of classification of Bulgarian lexemes is presented: logical-semantic (independent and non-independent lexemes), morphological (variable and invariable), syntactic (independent / full nouns and incomplete nouns) and service and asyntagmatic). The position of the priority of the morphological criterion of classification has been consistently

applied, as well as the mandatory requirement for the presence of "at least one semantically intrinsic grammatical category" (p. 254).

The morphological and semantic categories of Bulgarian lexemes analyzed in this approach, allow the author to distinguish 12 lexeme classes (as opposed to the traditional 10): discursive (I, you, he / incomplete lexeme /), noun, noun (only plural), adjective, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction, particle, determinative, interjection. For each lexeme class, the combination of distribution principles is presented, and in some cases the irrelevance of their action. The analysis is extremely detailed and factual, proving the need for changes made by the author in the traditional division, number and composition of lexeme classes: the separation of participles and determinants as autonomous classes, the absence of the pronoun as a part of speech, but the inclusion of discourse, as an autonomous class, change of the composition of the numerals as autonomous classes, etc. These innovations allow the author to present the grammatical system of the Bulgarian language in a theoretical model, which contains fewer contradictions, which reflects the current state of the language, takes into account the realized "potential" of Bulgarian words in use, their functionality. The terms, used to designate the new autonomous classes (discursive, determinative), because of their closeness to other, similar, linguistic terms is the thing that bothers me.

The results of the analysis are summarized and presented in the form of a table Taxonomic Characteristics of the Bulgarian Lexeme Classes (p. 357-360), showing the unique combination of the logical-semantic, morphological and syntactic characteristics of the Lexeme classes in the Bulgarian language, distinguished by the author.

In conclusion (p. 352-357), the author commented on the tasks of research and the results of the study.

The bibliography (p. 360-369) contains 127 titles in Bulgarian, Russian, Polish, English, German and French.

The dissertation work "The Bulgarian lexeme classes and the study of the parts of speech" by Dr. K. Kutsarov contains indisputable scientific and applied scientific contributions. With the large-scale research platform built by the author, it drives a unique theoretical knowledge of general and Slavic linguistics, in the context of which the achievements of Bulgarian linguistics are also placed. Comments, comparisons and systematizations made, the stated research positions and decisions, the suggestions for refining the terminology both in the fundamental terms and those related to some grammatical categories of Bulgarian lexemes (p. 189, 272-274, 289, etc.) .), not only confirm the author's scientific erudition, but they will

certainly find continuity and motivate the emergence of new linguistic works. Comparative research with other languages would, in my view, would be particularly beneficial.

Developing a topic related to some of the most fundamental entities in linguistics - the parts of speech, the author is able to identify and trace trends in the huge scientific production devoted to them, to discover new things and to describe them. This "thread" of eccentricity, which the author takes from ancient times to the present day, characterizes the dissertation as extremely suitable for getting acquainted with the development of the problem of parts of speech and its present state, as well as for the development of linguistics as a science, in specialized lecture courses, in the preparation of students and doctoral students, in the development of reference books, and scientific publications.

The main contributory character of the dissertation lays in the developed classification model of the Bulgarian lexeme classes, which takes into account the specifics and dynamics of the Bulgarian language system, its current state. A thorough review of the whole "inventory" of Bulgarian grammar has been made in functional terms. There are 12 lexeme classes in the Bulgarian language based on relevant principles. The terminology apparatus has been précised. These achievements (if one goes beyond the apparent comfort of the traditional) would facilitate the study of Bulgarian grammar, since they enhance the prognostic capabilities of the students regarding the realization of the potential in the language system of Bulgarian language.

The taxonomic characterization of the Bulgarian lexemes will certainly be used in lexicographic practice in their description in dictionaries and in the systems for automatic speech processing.

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

The basic theses of the research of the dissertation are reported at scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad. There are 10 publications – 7 in Bulgarian scientific papers and 3 – abroad. This scientific activity ensures a good presentation of the dissertation among scientific circles in Bulgaria and abroad. An indicator of the relevance and resonance of Dr. Kutzarov's ideas are the citations in scientific works, for which a reference is applied.

7. Author's summary of his dissertation

The author's summary of his dissertation presents fully and logically consecutively the contents and the main results of the dissertation.

8. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

The recommendations I formulated in the course of the presentation could be taken into account in the forthcoming publication of the dissertation, which I strongly recommend, but they do not in any way diminish its merits.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov presents a well-grounded and in-depth dissertation containing scientific and applied results that make an original contribution to Bulgarian linguistics and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulation for applying LDASRB and the corresponding Regulation of PU “Paisii Hilendarski”. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond completely to the specific requirements of the philological faculty, adopted in reference to the Regulation of PU for applying LDASRB.

The dissertation shows that the applicant has profound theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific subject “Contemporary Bulgarian language” and demonstrates skills and qualities to carry out research leading to original and scientific contribution.

Having in mind the above, I am absolutely convinced to give my positive assessment for the research carried out, presented by the dissertation, author’s summary of his dissertation, the results achieved and contribution and I suggest the honorable jury should award the scientific degree “doctor of science” to Konstantin Ivanov Kutzarov in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities professional direction 2.1. Philology. (Contemporary Bulgarian language)

27 .09. 2019

Author of the Standpoint:

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(prof. dr. Nelya Ivanova)