

REVIEW

by **Prof. Kina Atanasova Vachkova, PhD**, guest-lecturer at
Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

of the doctoral dissertation by **Assoc. prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov**, from Paisiy Hilensarsky University of Plovdiv, Department of Bulgarian Language, entitled *The Bulgarian lexeme classes and parts of speech theory*, regarding an application for a **Doctor Habilitatus** academic degree in the Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1 Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language).

1. Basis for evaluation and eligibility of the candidate

I present the evaluation below in my capacity of a member of the Academic Jury, appointed by the Rector of Plovdiv University with Ordinance № P33 – 4369 от 23.07.201, regarding a habilitation procedure for a Doctor Habilitatus academic degree in the Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1 Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

The candidate is Assoc. prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, PhD, from Plovdiv University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Bulgarian Language, with a doctoral dissertation entitled *The Bulgarian lexeme classes and parts of speech theory*.

The evaluation is based on the following documents submitted by the candidate, in accordance with Article 45 (4) from the Regulation for Development of Academic Staff in Plovdiv University: Application form for participating in the habilitation procedure; Europass CV, copy of the PhD certificate, minutes of department meetings, regarding initiating the procedure and discussion of the dissertation in the department; the doctoral dissertation itself; short summary of the dissertation; list of academic publications related to the topic of the dissertation (10 copies of articles with abstracts in English and Bulgarian); a document which guarantees that the publications submitted meet the minimal national requirements for assigning a Doctor Habilitatus degree, a declaration of genuineness of submitted documents, a document which guarantees that all procedures and specific requirements of the Faculty of Humanities in Plovdiv University are met.

2. Short bio note about the applicant

Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov graduated from Paisiy Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv with a degree in Bulgarian Philology in 1993. From 1995 to 1998 he was a doctoral student with the Department of Bulgarian language at Plovdiv University. He obtained his PhD in 2000 with a dissertation in the field of morphology of modern Bulgarian language. From 2001 to 2003 he was an assistant professor, from 2003 to 2005 - senior assistant professor, from 2005 to 2009 - chief assistant professor, and from 2009 to 2019 - associate professor in the Department of Bulgarian Language at Plovdiv University. From 2016 until now he has been a vice-dean of the faculty of Humanities at Plovdiv University.

3. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the research aims and tasks

Although the worldwide controversy over the various aspects of lexical taxonomy has been going on for nearly thirty centuries, the issue discussed in the thesis is topical, especially in Bulgarian linguistics, in which the issue remains underestimated, both in terms of the criteria on which the taxonomy is based, and the number of parts of speech. Therefore, the

main task of the author - to justify the division of the words in the modern Bulgarian lexicon on scientific criteria - is appropriate.

4. Familiarity with the research area

The author has an in-depth familiarity with the researched topic. This is especially evident from the comprehensive review which traces the emergence and development of the parts of speech theory from antiquity to the present day. He does an analytical, critical and creative review of some of the key works of prominent writers from Ancient India, Hellas, the Alexandrian school, Latin grammarians, medieval and Renaissance authors, Russian and Bulgarian linguistic traditions.

5. Research methodology

Kutsarov uses a wide range of research methods - description, historical and contemporary comparative analysis, structural approach, classification and systematization. This interdisciplinary approach allows him to achieve the set goal and to find an adequate solution to the tasks in the dissertation.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis

The structure of the thesis is appropriate for its content: it consists of an introduction, 4 chapters, conclusion with an attached table with the results of the study, and bibliography. The first three chapters present the development of the classification of words from antiquity to the present day. Chapter one deals with this classification in Antiquity and the Middle Ages - from the grammarians in Ancient India to Lomonosov, including nine schools and 23 authors. The subject of Chapter Two is the development of the doctrine of parts of speech in Russian linguistics after Lomonosov's grammar in 19th-20th centuries. Nineteen authors and the Academic Grammar of the Russian language (1982) have been chronologically studied. The author agrees with some of the views, while disputing others. He convincingly defends the choice of a thorough analysis of the Russian linguistic school.

Chapter Four called *Word classes in the Bulgarian language* (pp. 239-351) takes the central place in the dissertation. In it the author develops his own views on the doctrine of parts of speech, defends the idea of classes of lexemes in the language, a term that he prefers, proves that the terms *word* and *lexeme* overlap to a different extent in empty and meaningful words. Before proceeding to the taxonomy of the lexeme classes in contemporary Bulgarian language, Kutzarov updates the fundamental question of the principles of classification. He justifies the criteria used for their application (logical-semantic, morphological and semantic), relevant to different degrees for the different groups of lexemes. He convincingly states his obligatory requirements for the formation of lexical classes. Only then does he propose, based on the criteria he put forward, a 12-member lexical class system in contemporary Bulgarian, opposed to the classic 10-member one.

What follows is a description of the segmented 12 classes individually, with a search in each of them for a unique combination of criteria distribution. Two of the classes (discursive and participle) are given autonomy, while a third (pronoun) is dropped, with its verbal stock distributed to 4 other classes. There is a justifiable redistribution of other groups of lexemes to certain lexical classes (for example, the ordinal number go to the adjectives). In doing so, the author consistently follows his criteria, which makes his thesis convincing.

There is a consistent bibliography containing 119 titles in Bulgarian, Russian, English, German, French, Polish and more languages and electronic publications.

7. Contributions of the thesis to academic debate and practice

The reviewed thesis is the first large-scale study of the parts of speech in Bulgarian linguistics. Innovative solutions have been offered regarding the principles of classification of lexemes, and based on their application, a functional model consisting of 12 classes for taxonomy of lexemes in contemporary Bulgarian has been drawn up. The terminological inventory has been updated and modernised. The development of the parts of speech theory from antiquity to the present day is presented analytically and contains new facts. In addition to serious academic research, there are practical contributions, especially in the field of Bulgarian education.

8. Evaluation of the publications related to the thesis topic

The publications on the topic of the dissertation (10 articles of varying length) present various contributions to the research topic. All articles are written by the author alone (without co-authors). 3 of them were published in scientific journals abroad (Poland, Hungary, Turkey), and 7 - in Bulgaria (in authoritative collections and in scientific periodicals). Some were presented as talks at academic conferences. In addition, the author added a brief annotation in Bulgarian and English to each publication, which clearly showed its role in the research process.

9. Author's personal contribution

The author's personal involvement in the research is obvious. The formulated contributions and the results obtained are his own. If his opinion on a particular issue coincided with the opinion of another author who wrote on the topic before him, he correctly cited the source, as stated in the Declaration of Authenticity.

The attached certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements for the degree of Doctor Habilitatus, according to which the minimum required 350 points have been reached, is true to reality.

10. Dissertation summary

The summary of the dissertation correctly presents its content, and reflects its main results and contributions. It has the necessary academic quality and meets all requirements.

11. Critical comments and recommendations

Despite the elegant language, style and spelling of the dissertation, I dare to recommend that the author should avoid the verb "се явява" (from the Russian "является" - "appears"). Some of the not-so-important historical review texts could be shortened prior to publication.

12. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

I recommend that the dissertation, due to its important scientific and applied contributions, should be published as a book (in paper and / or in electronic form) so that it can be accessed by a wide range of specialists and other interested parties.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation presents **results of academic and applied value, which makes it an original contribution to academic debate.** It meets all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB, and the corresponding Regulations of Plovdiv University. The submitted materials and the dissertation fully meet the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University regarding the implementation of ZRARB.

The dissertation shows that the applicant Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov possesses deep theoretical knowledge and professional skills in philology (Modern Bulgarian language), and demonstrates the qualities and skills for conducting research and obtaining original and significant academic contributions.

In view of the above, I give my **positive assessment** of the research, presented in the dissertation, the summary, the achieved results and contributions, and **I propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the degree of Doctor Habiliatus** to Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

12.10. 2019 г.

Reviewer:

Prof. Kina Atanasova Vachkova, PhD