

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Tsvetanka Dimchova Avramova, PhD, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
on a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in higher education area 2, professional field 2.1. *Philology*,
doctoral programme *Germanic languages: English language*

Author: Cornelia Borislavova Choroleeva

Topic: “Formation of telescopic words in the English and the Bulgarian Language”

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Snezha Todorova Tsoneva-Matthewson, PhD, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, Faculty of Philology, Department of English Studies

1. General Review of the Procedure and doctoral student

By order No. P 33-4897/08.10.2020 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" I was approved to be a member of the scientific jury on the procedure for defence of a dissertation and awarding the scientific degree "Doctor" to KORNELIA BORISLAVOVA CHOROLEEVA, doctoral student in an independent programme in higher education area 2. Professional field 2.1 Philology, doctoral programme: German languages: English language, with the topic "Formation of telescopic words in the English and the Bulgarian Language" and supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezha Todorova Tsoneva-Matthewson, PhD.

The set of materials presented by the doctoral student is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for Development of the Academic staff of Plovdiv University.

Cornelia Choroleeva graduated from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, specialty of English Philology with a specialization of Translation of Legal, Economic, Scientific-Technical, Socio-Political and Literary Texts. The doctoral student also has a Master's degree in the speciality of Society and Politics from the Central European University in Warsaw, Poland, accredited by Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. Since 2005 the doctoral student has been a senior teacher of English at the University of Food Technologies in the city of Plovdiv. In addition to English, she also speaks Russian, Spanish, Polish, and Italian to varying degrees, which gives her the opportunity to get acquainted with the scientific literature on the topic of the dissertation in the original.

2. Relevance of the topic

Due to the peripheral place of telescoping in the formation of new words in the Bulgarian language, it has almost not been studied in our country. In the last few decades, however, under the strong influence of the English language, its role has been growing and this has made it necessary to study it. Cornelia Choroleeva's dissertation is a good attempt to fill the gap on this issue, not only in Bulgarian studies, but also in English studies, where telescoping is a subject of unceasing controversy and disagreement regarding its nature and scope.

All this makes the research topic relevant and dissertable.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The doctoral student is well acquainted with the researched problematics. The author competently and critically presents the researches and disputes concerning the nature and place of telescoping among the other word-formation methods, both in English and in Bulgarian derivatology, also paying attention to the researches on the considered problematics in the Spanish and Italian linguistics. All this helps her to offer her *own* structural and semantic definition of telescoping.

4. Research methodology

The chosen methodology, based on the theoretical models of cognitive linguistics, in particular the formulations of the Theory of Conceptual Integration or Blending, as well as the Framework Semantics, considering frameworks as dynamic structures, allows the achievement of the set goals of the dissertation.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The object of research in the dissertation are words from different fields of use, formed by telescoping in English and Bulgarian. **The subject** of the research is the formation of the meaning of telescopic words and their cognate constructions in the two compared languages – English and Bulgarian.

The objectives of the analysis are to establish the ways in which the meaning is built, by building conceptual integration networks, and to determine the degree and nature of the influence of the English language on the Bulgarian language (see page 9 of the dissertation).

To achieve them, a wide corpus of examples (1833 lexical items in English and 361 in Bulgarian), excerpted from Internet reference sources, English and Bulgarian dictionaries, books in English and articles, have been analysed.

Contributions

A significant *contribution* of the dissertation is the application of the cognitive approach in the analysis of telescopic words – an approach used sporadically by very few Bulgarian linguists and (almost) not applied in the Bulgarian derivation. For the purposes of the formal-structural analysis of the language material in English, the prototype approach is used, which helps to illustrate the diversity of structural types in the studied language corpus. Based on the analysis of the language material, the author draws conclusions about the construction and interpretation of the meaning of telescopic formations through conceptual integration networks.

K. Choroleeva shows excellent awareness of the cognitive studies on which she builds her semantic analysis. Such a wide study of telescoping and telescopic words, as well as the application of the cognitive approach in the analysis of their meaning in Bulgarian linguistics, has been done for the first time.

The very focusing on telescoping – not only in the Bulgarian language, but also in comparative terms, is in itself a contribution of the dissertation, because, as noted, the phenomenon of telescoping has not been well studied in the Bulgarian derivation.

The suggested author's definitions of telescoping (structural – referring to the morpheme structure of derived words) and semantic (definition of meaning based on the applied cognitive approach) are also contributing to the dissertation.

6. Assessment of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

On the topic of the dissertation are presented 7 papers in Bulgarian and English, exploring individual aspects of the considered problematics. The papers were published in Bulgarian periodicals.

The acquaintance with the dissertation work and the presented papers gives me grounds to claim that the research has been carried out personally and conscientiously by the doctoral student, with correct reference and citation of other people's opinions. The conclusions made in the dissertation follow logically from the conducted analysis.

Critical remarks and recommendations:

(1) In her effort to cover as many phenomena and examples as possible, the author also considers formations with a disputed status, at least as far as the Bulgarian language is concerned – the so-called abbreviated composites, containing an abbreviated first part and a whole word, which make up a fairly large amount of the studied material. Although it is stipulated that it cannot be stated that **in the Bulgarian language** (bolding added by me, T.A.) they should be considered as a variant of the telescopic words (see p. 10), the abbreviated composites are nevertheless considered on an equal footing with other structural types, and this does not, in my view, lead to marking clearer boundaries between telescoping and other, "related" word-formation modes (composition and abbreviation). In my opinion, only the words obtained by the so-called prototype telescoping should be characterized as indisputable manifestations of telescoping.

(2) It would be good in the study of telescopic formations to make a clearer distinction between the morpheme level and the word-formation level – for instance, in “words with the suffix **-ing**” (p. 196 et seq.), “words with the suffix **-(a)(t)ion**” (p. 198 et seq.), “words with the suffix **-ment**” (p. 200 et seq.) and others, it should be pointed out that these suffixes stand out in the morphemic structure but not in the word-forming structure of the words, i.e. they do not perform the functions of word-forming formants. In fact, in many places in the dissertation, perhaps due to insufficiently precise expression, the impression of mixing the two levels is created – the morphemic one and the word-formation one, respectively of morphemic and word-formation analysis.

7. Abstract

The abstract correctly presents the content of the dissertation and correctly reflects the achieved results.

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

The dissertation is the first comprehensive comparative study of the issues related to telescopic word formation in English and Bulgarian and could serve as a basis for further development.

In view of the importance of the research and the achieved results, I recommend (after appropriate corrections) publishing it and designing the appendices as dictionaries of telescopic words in English and Bulgarian.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains **scientific results that represent an original contribution to science** and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The doctoral student Cornelia Borislavova Choroleeva has deep theoretical knowledge and demonstrates skills for conducting independent research.

This gives me reasons to confidently give my **positive assessment** of the conducted study and **to propose to the honourable scientific jury to award Cornelia Borislavova Choroleeva the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** in higher education area 2., professional field 2.1. Philology, doctoral programme German languages: English language.

Sofia, 30 September 2020

Statement of opinion prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Avramova, PhD