

SHORT REVIEW

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Yordanov Dagnev

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of a dissertation for granting a PhD degree in Area of Higher Education: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, Doctoral program General and Comparative Linguistics

Author : Pavlina Stefanova Petkova

Topic : "The concept of "air" in Bulgarian and English through the perspective of cultural linguistics"

Supervisor : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryan Georgiev Yanev – "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv

By order No. PD-22-281 of 06.02.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for ensuring a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "The concept of "air" in the Bulgarian and English languages through the perspective of cultural linguistics" for the acquisition of PhD degree in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, doctoral program General and Comparative Linguistics. The author of the dissertation is Pavlina Stefanova Petkova – a full-time doctoral student to the department "General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language" with supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryan Georgiev Yanev from the University Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" .

The set of materials presented by doctoral student Pavlina Stefanova Petkova on electronic media is in full compliance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

The doctoral candidate Petkova also has more than the required number of points in connection with the requirements for holding scientific degrees and academic positions in the LDASRB - Humanities, for the PhD degree, and has also produced four publications on the topic of the dissertation in specialized publications.

The candidate's CV shows that she possesses the necessary linguistic competence to successfully complete her doctoral thesis. Doctoral candidate Petkova has solid experience as a teacher and administrator in the field of secondary education.

The dissertation on the topic "The concept of "air" in the Bulgarian and English languages through the perspective of cultural linguistics" has a volume of 391 non-standard computer pages and is skillfully composed in 7 main parts - an introduction with all the necessary introductory markers, six main chapters and concluding elements (conclusion, literature used), accompanied by appendices containing lexicographic information about the studied lexemes, thematic groups and a psycholinguistic experiment.

P. Petkova's study reflects contemporary trends in the development of linguistics, with a strong interest in the aspects of the interaction of language, culture and thinking, as well as the need for a complex description of the notion of "concept" through the prism of the comparison between English and Bulgarian linguistic culture.

Doctoral student P. Petkova demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the topic. The goals, objectives, hypotheses and methodology are well formulated and correspond to the analyses carried out subsequently. The theoretical apparatus is multi-layered and uses the latest developments in the field of linguoculturology, mainly from the Russian school, but also refers to modern Western trends in cognitive linguistics.

In methodological terms, the extremely comprehensive lexicographical analysis of the studied concepts in Bulgarian and English makes a serious impression. The conclusions reached by Petkova, based on the analysis of the semantic, word-forming and structural-syntactic connections of the studied linguistic realia, objectified through paremiological constructions, are in harmony with the latest research in the field of cultural anthropology and cultural linguistics. The skillfully proposed comparative framework of the dissertation work illuminates significant aspects of the Bulgarian and English linguistic and cultural picture in a very precise and comprehensive manner.

Doctoral student Petkova presents four publications related to her dissertation, which have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

The dissertation abstract presents the research conducted in a comprehensive and credible manner, and the contributions of the research are described correctly.

I would recommend that the candidate continue with the research of the analyzed topic by looking for other interactions at the conceptual and linguistic level with other, related concepts. It would also be essential to use the theoretical tools of Western cognitive-linguistic thought related to the study of conceptology.

Therefore, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by the dissertation work, the abstract, the achieved results and contributions, and I recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor of Philosophy' to

Pavlina Stefanova Petkova in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1.
Philology, Doctoral program - General and Comparative Linguistics.

20.03. 2025

Author of the review :

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Dagnev/