

STATEMENT

by

Assoc. Prof. Boryan Georgiev Yanev, PhD
(Faculty of Philology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv)

regarding

The dissertation submitted by

Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova

entitled **“The Bulgarian Complex Mixed Sentence – A Study of Structurographic Models and Syntactic Sketches”**

(full-time PhD student in Professional Field 2.1. Philology, Doctoral Programme “Modern Bulgarian Language,” academic supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Petya Ivanova Nestorova, PhD)

By Order No. RD-22-2498, dated 09 December 2025, from the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the academic jury for the defense of the dissertation entitled “The Bulgarian Complex Mixed Sentence – A Study of Structurographic Models and Syntactic Sketches,” for the award of the educational and scientific degree of “PhD” in the Higher Education Area 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1. Philology, Doctoral Programme “Modern Bulgarian Language.”

The author of the dissertation, Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova, is a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Philology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. She commenced her postgraduate studies under the supervision of the late Assoc. Prof. Petya Barkalova, PhD, and completed them under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Petya Nestorova, PhD.

The set of materials submitted electronically by Krasilina Koleva-Kostova fully complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Doctoral candidate Koleva-Kostova has successfully accumulated the necessary points under the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) in the Humanities for the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor.” She has achieved a total of 105 points, surpassing the minimum requirement of 80. Additionally, she has published five papers related to her dissertation topic in specialized proceedings of student philological conferences and international

grammatical forums held at the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia.

The biographical information provided by the candidate indicates that she is a mature researcher with the essential philological and pedagogical skills required to successfully complete and defend her doctoral thesis.

Her dissertation, titled “The Bulgarian Complex Mixed Sentence – A Study of Structurographic Models and Syntactic Sketches,” is well-structured and balanced in composition. It includes an introduction, three main chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and appendices, all of which are functionally justified and align with the stated research aims and objectives. Each chapter serves a distinct purpose in the overall argument, ensuring a logical progression from the theoretical overview to the methodological framework and finally to the empirical and statistical analysis. Spanning a total of 442 pages, the dissertation presents and illustrates a comprehensive corpus of primary syntactic sketches and statistical data. The conclusions drawn are clearly articulated, well-supported by arguments, and logically derived from the theoretical and empirical research conducted.

The introductory section outlines the research problem, objectives, aims, and both the object and subject of the study, along with the methodology employed. Chapter One is mainly theoretical and historical, organizing the development of the complex mixed sentence and the term “period” within the context of Bulgarian syntactic tradition. Chapter Two lays the theoretical and methodological foundation of the study by introducing essential concepts such as generative grammar, configurational analysis, and structurography. Chapter Three serves as the empirical and analytical core of the dissertation, presenting the results from corpus-based and statistical analyses, along with proposed classifications. The conclusion encapsulates the main scientific findings and contributions, while the appendices provide supplementary material, including the complete corpus of primary syntactic sketches and visual statistical data.

Krasilina Koleva-Kostova's work is dedicated to an in-depth theoretical and empirical investigation of the Bulgarian complex mixed sentence, utilizing contemporary generative and structurographic approaches. The study is firmly rooted in a comprehensive historical-theoretical review of the evolution of the complex sentence concept and the term “period” in Bulgarian syntactic tradition, tracing the development of key classificatory models and scholarly interpretations from the National Revival to the present. The theoretical framework of the dissertation incorporates generative grammar, Government and Binding Theory, configurational

syntactic analysis, and structurography, which represents a new interdisciplinary direction in syntactic research. Central to the analysis are the quantitative parameters of scope and depth, regarded as measurable characteristics of the syntactic organization of complex mixed sentences.

The empirical basis of the study comprises a corpus of 300 complex mixed sentences manually excerpted from the works of Yordan Yovkov and Yordan Radichkov, represented through primary syntactic sketches and structurographic models. By applying statistical prognostic methods, the study uncovers relationships between the linear organization and hierarchical depth of sentence structures, forming the basis for generalizing conclusions. Based on these relationships, the author introduces an original three-component classification of complex mixed sentences into linear, depth-oriented, and combined types. Concurrently, the period is interpreted as a specific variant of the complex mixed sentence, characterized by structural-syntactic features such as bipartition, intonation, and syntactic parallelism.

The comparative analysis of the language used by the examined authors allows us to identify both universal characteristics of the complex mixed sentence and specific markers of individual authorial style.

In conclusion, the dissertation substantiates the claim that the complex mixed sentence can be described as a formalizable, measurable, and typologizable syntactic structure. This finding expands the possibilities for future theoretical, corpus-based, and applied research in Bulgarian syntax. In this respect, the dissertation submitted for evaluation represents a thorough and well-structured study resulting from serious scholarly research. It demonstrates a pronounced innovative and original character, as well as clear scientific potential. The aims, objectives, hypotheses, and methodology are articulated in a highly effective manner and align fully with the subsequent analyses.

The main research sections are both exhaustive and analytical, presenting information in detail and marked by a distinct personal scholarly style. The conclusions drawn are reliable and in-depth, reflecting a solid research design, the author's methodological competence, a sufficiently representative empirical base, and the excellent preparation of Koleva-Kostova. The study shows that the complex mixed sentence can be characterized as a formalizable, measurable, and typologizable syntactic structure, thus broadening the scope for future theoretical and applied research.

I have no remarks regarding the presentation of the text in terms of exposition, style, or terminology. The work is of a very high standard in this respect. Should the

dissertation be published in the future as a monograph—which I unreservedly recommend—it would be beneficial for Krasilina Koleva-Kostova to provide a more explicit argument regarding how the proposed typology of complex mixed sentences ensures the stability and generalizability of the classification. Furthermore, it would be useful to outline the possibilities for its application beyond the analyzed literary corpus, especially since the analyses predominantly rely on quantitative parameters of scope and depth.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that Krasilina Koleva-Kostova possesses the necessary theoretical knowledge and professional skills for conducting independent scholarly research. This capability is undoubtedly augmented by the competent academic supervision provided by her mentors.

The contributions of the study are accurately described in the dissertation abstract, which presents the conducted research in sufficient scope and reliability.

The dissertation contains scientific and applied research results that represent an original contribution to scholarship, meeting all requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations, as well as the Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Overall, the doctoral dissertation demonstrates that Krasilina Koleva-Kostova has in-depth theoretical knowledge and exhibits the qualities necessary for conducting independent scientific research and for the practical analysis of empirical material.

For these reasons, I give my positive evaluation of the research presented in the dissertation, the abstract, the achieved results, and contributions. I confidently recommend that the esteemed academic jury award the educational and scientific degree “PhD/ Doctor” to Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova in Higher Education Area 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1. Philology, Doctoral Programme “Modern Bulgarian Language,” and I wish the candidate many future creative successes.

Author of the statement:

03 February 2026

Assoc. Prof. Boryan Yanev, PhD