

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Galina Mihaylova Petrova, PhD,
Burgas State University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov”

on a dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)”

in: Higher Education Field 2. Humanities

Professional Field 2.1 Philology

Doctoral Programme “Contemporary Bulgarian Language”

Author: Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova

Title: The Bulgarian Complex Mixed Sentence – A Study of Structurographic Models and Syntactic Sketches

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Petya Ivanova Nestorova, PhD, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

By Order No. RD-22-2498 of 09 December 2025 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure the procedure for the defence of a dissertation on the topic The Bulgarian Complex Mixed Sentence – A Study of Structurographic Models and Syntactic Sketches for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)” in Higher Education Field 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1 Philology, Doctoral Programme “Contemporary Bulgarian Language”. The author of the dissertation is Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova – a full-time doctoral candidate at the Department of Bulgarian Language, supervised by Assoc. Prof. Petya Ivanova Nestorova, PhD, at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials submitted by Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova in hard copy complies with Art. 36 (1) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv and includes the following documents:

- application to the Rector to open the procedure for the defence of a dissertation;
- CV in European format;
- minutes of the departmental council related to reporting readiness to open the procedure and to the preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the dissertation topic;
- copies of scientific publications (5 items);
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents;
- compliance statement with the minimum national requirements.

2. Relevance of the topic

The theoretical basis of the study is the generative approach, which is relevant to contemporary linguistics and is applied to the description of syntactic structures of various types and levels of complexity. The work focuses on structural representation and configurational analysis of complex mixed sentences in Bulgarian, using the analytical apparatus of the Government and Binding Theory. The dissertation topic has not been the subject of specialised research in Bulgaria, which determines the scientific novelty of the proposed work.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The work demonstrates a good level of awareness of issues related to the dissertation topic. The list of cited literature includes a sufficiently representative number of works relevant to the research problem.

4. Research methodology

The research algorithm corresponds to the stated aims and tasks: review of the literature on the dissertation topic; creation of a corpus of complex mixed sentences; configurational and functional analysis of syntactic structures; statistical processing of data; comparisons; generalisations; conclusions.

5. Description and evaluation of the dissertation and its contributions

The dissertation is 281 pages long and consists of an introduction, three chapters, findings and conclusion, a list of cited literature, and an appendix of 159 pages.

In the introduction, the object, subject, aims, tasks, and methods of the study are presented. The scope and depth of complex mixed sentences are indicated as the object of study as quantitative characteristics; however, this falls within the subject of study, while the object should be the complex mixed sentences themselves. Two main aims are stated: deriving quantitative parameters from primary syntactic sketches of complex mixed sentences excerpted from works by Y. Yovkov and Y. Radichkov, and classifying complex mixed sentences into subtypes. In order to achieve these aims, 23 tasks are formulated, which could be presented in a more synthesised and systematised form. One of the tasks is related to the linguistic profile of the studied writers, using the concept of “language competence”. However, this is one of the key concepts in generative linguistics introduced by N. Chomsky (alongside innate language faculty and pragmatic competence), and its use here is inappropriate, as this competence is generally defined as the ability to produce grammatically correct language.

In Chapter One, entitled The Complex Sentence and the Term “Period” in the Bulgarian Syntactic Tradition, an extensive review of scholarly works from the National Revival to the present day is offered in order to trace the understanding and definition of the complex mixed sentence, as well as the concept of “period”. The exposition could be more focused and concise by removing information irrelevant to the research topic.

In Chapter Two, entitled Theoretical Platform of the Study, the theoretical and conceptual apparatus of constituent grammar is presented as a basis for creating primary syntactic sketches of complex mixed sentences, as well as syntactic trees. Two classifications of complex mixed sentences are proposed, but it is not specified how they correspond to each other and to the generally accepted classification of this type of complex sentence.

In Chapter Three, entitled Statistical Modelling of the Corpus Resource. Results, quantitative characteristics (33 in total) of complex mixed sentences are derived, as well as statistical data on the linking devices – subordinating and coordinating. On the basis of these data, statistical comparisons are made between the analysed authors. Tree diagrams of complex mixed sentences with different parameters are also presented, which makes the work contributory from an applied scientific perspective.

The conclusion is a summary of the study, consolidating the results and the conclusions reached.

6. Assessment of publications and the doctoral candidate's personal contribution

Five publications on the dissertation topic are presented, three co-authored and two single-authored.

7. Abstract

The abstract accurately reflects the content of the dissertation, as well as its contributions.

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

In future studies, complex mixed sentences from other styles should be included. It would also be interesting to trace translation equivalents of the excerpted sentences.

CONCLUSION

The critical remarks made do not diminish the merits of the proposed work. An independent scientific study has been conducted using a methodology consistent with the stated aims. A coherent scholarly text has been produced with a corpus created specifically for this purpose. The dissertation meets the requirements for awarding a doctoral degree, which gives me grounds to propose that the esteemed jury vote in favour of awarding Krasilina Georgieva Koleva-Kostova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor (PhD)".

06.02.2026

Prepared by (opinion):

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Assoc. Prof. Galina Petrova, PhD