

Opinion
on Marianna Georgieva's Dissertation
"The Joke about the Father in Konstantin Pavlov's Grotesque World"
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Marianna Georgieva's dissertation "The Joke about the Father in Konstantin Pavlov's Grotesque World" presents an innovative interpretive perspective on Konstantin Pavlov's poetic heritage. A defining feature of this perspective is its striving for wholeness. After reading of Marianna Georgieva's PhD thesis, we do not gain insight into a particular problem of Pavlov's poetry, but about the poet's entire oeuvre. Even when discussing individual works of the author, Georgieva speaks from the position of an understanding of the ideas and devices that run through all of Pavlov's texts.

The coherence of the study comes from a central idea that is traced in the works of K. Pavlov: it is the problematic or absent figure of the father in the psychoanalytic sense of the word, understood as a set of stable norms and rules, as a stable symbolic order, the absence of which leads to the paranoid experience of the world as a threat that invades from outside and gives rise to the fragmentation of the ideas and grotesque and hybrid image structures. I would define the dissertation as a "narrative" about the world of a man that psychoanalysis has difficulty accessing: not the neurotic described by Freud with his typical father figure and Oedipus complex, but the psychotic who has a problem with the father's presence and, consequently, with Oedipus.

I would highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the research. The leading idea - the psychotic structure, which is explicated in Pavlov's poetry - presupposes a good knowledge of psychoanalysis. At the same time, however, Georgieva shows a serious competence in terms of

literature on Konstantin Pavlov. Her erudition is not merely demonstrated, but is involved in the research work.

I would also draw attention to the PhD student's good knowledge of the literature of modernism. Georgieva manages to find the right contexts in which to inscribe the literary quests of K. Pavlov. The study would also have been impossible without the doctoral student's in-depth insight into the literary-historical situation in which K. Pavlov's legacy exists: the literary institutions of the communist Bulgaria.

I strongly recommend that Marianna Georgieva be awarded the PhD Degree in the scientific field 2.1. Philology.

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