

OPINION

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lachezar Lyubenov Perchekliyski**

for the dissertation thesis of **Zornitsa Lyubenova Ivanova** –

"Development of the administrative vocabulary and terminology in the New Bulgarian literary language (from the Liberation to the Second World War)",

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

in the professional field 2.1. Philology,

scientific specialty *Bulgarian language - History of the Bulgarian literary language*

Research supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladislav Milanov

1. Biography

Zornitsa Ivanova was born in 1995. From 2014 to 2018, she studied Bulgarian philology at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". At the same university, she received a master's degree in the educational program "Linguistics - language system and speech practices" (2018 - 2019). In 2020, she won a doctoral competition in the history of the new Bulgarian literary language. She was enrolled as a part-time doctoral student at the "Bulgarian Language" department of the Faculty of Slavic Philology under the scientific supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladislav Milanov.

During her doctoral studies, Zornitsa Ivanova had a total of 8 publications, 5 of which were on the subject of her dissertation. She participated in the implementation of two scientific research projects, one of which is national. At Sofia University, she led seminars on Bulgarian dialectology. She speaks English fluently.

2. Dissertation thesis

The dissertation thesis (with a total volume of 205 pages) includes the following main parts: **Introduction:** pp. 4 – 10; **Chapter I.** *Theoretical background of the research:* pp. 11 – 20; **Chapter II.** *Socio-cultural and historical situation of the period from the Liberation to the Second World War:* pp. 21 – 49; **Chapter III.** *Classification of the administrative vocabulary:* pp. 50 – 153; **Chapter IV.** *Administrative style and administrative vocabulary:* pp. 154 – 199; **Conclusion:** pp. 200 – 201; **Bibliography:** pp. 204 – 205.

With her dissertation, Zornitsa Ivanova fills a gap in Bulgarian historical

linguistics related to the stylistic construction of our national literary language. The main aims of the work are: 1) to trace the development of the administrative vocabulary and terminology in the period from the Liberation to the Second World War, and 2) to make a scientifically based classification of the linguistic units that form the formal business style in the new Bulgarian literary language. The material has been excerpted from administrative texts, diverse in terms of genre and subject, written in the period 1878 - 1940. The language in normative acts and documents issued by the most important state structures in Bulgaria - princely/royal institution, parliament, council of ministers, judicial and law enforcement authorities, etc. is examined. In order to obtain better results, Ivanova uses a variety of research methods and approaches (classification, analysis, comparison, etc.) in her work.

The author places the topic in a certain context, making a historical review of studies in the period examined in the dissertation. It pays serious attention to the various linguistic, cultural, social, economic and political processes and factors in post-liberation Bulgaria (p. 6), which have an impact on the formation of the language apparatus of the formal business style. The vocabulary is analyzed in terms of origin, nature and methods of establishment. The "paths and models of its entry and confirmation in the legal and administrative discourse" are indicated (p. 5). When analyzing the lexemes, the author presents their independent meaning and establishes their connections and relationships with other words in the text (p. 7), thereby forming different lexical-semantic groups. The conclusions of the research show that immediately after the Liberation, Church Slavonic and Russian administrative lexicon laid the foundations of the business style. Under the influence of further historical and cultural circumstances, the terminology was borrowed (directly or through the Russian language) primarily from French and German, to a lesser extent from English. The author notes that some of the archaic lexicon and word combinations have been preserved in modern Bulgarian legislation. A large percentage of the linguistic terminological inventory imposed in the administrative language in the period from the Liberation to the Second World War has been dropped "due to a change in the reality" in which it operates (p. 201).

The bibliography includes a total of 22 sources of scientific research by

Bulgarian authors, 15 of which are linguistically oriented, and 7 are connected with issues of Bulgarian history and law.

All the texts (legal and by-laws and other administrative documents) that are analyzed in the dissertation are attached to the procedural documents. They are related to the history of the formal business style in Bulgaria from 1878 to 1940.

The general impression of Zornitsa Ivanova's dissertation is very good. The topic of the development of the administrative vocabulary and terminology in the Bulgarian literary language from the Liberation to the Second World War has not been developed so far, and this is precisely the most significant contribution of the work to the Bulgarian linguistic science. The set aims and tasks have been fulfilled to the end, the analyzes and conclusions are scientifically supported. The text reads well and is structured according to generally accepted requirements. The linguistic terminology is mastered, and the language follows the features of the scientific style. No traces of plagiarism were found in the content of the dissertation. The sources used in the study are cited correctly.

3. Critical remarks

Some inaccuracies and inconsistencies were noticed in the paper, which will be pointed out below:

- *The conclusion* of the dissertation offers more information about what the PhD student did than presenting any specifics regarding the results of the analysis.

- In some places in the text there is a *tautology* (e.g. „по отношение на отношението“, p. 8); *repeated information* (e.g. on the difference between loan words and foreign words, p. 15 and p. 52; on the emergence of the administrative-business style, p. 13 and p.155); *inappropriate expressions* (e.g. „диалектни термини“, p. 15; it would be better to use „термини, основани на народния език“ or something similar); *technical inaccuracies* (e.g. a hyphen instead of a dash, e.g. "the person-institution relationship" instead "the person - institution relationship", p. 160); *grammatical* („като Турско-българският протокол“, p. 55; „Дисертационния труд извършва детайлен анализ...“, p. 200) and *punctuation errors* („В периода след държавния преврат на 19 май 1934 г., България преживява...“, p.192).

The mentioned inaccuracies are minor and can easily be corrected and do not

diminish the scientific value of the dissertation thesis. In the future publication of the thesis, however, it is good for the author to comply with the mentioned notes.

4. Abstract of the dissertation

The abstract (37 pages in total) reflects the main points of the structure and content of the dissertation thesis. The contributions presented in the appendix (p. 34) are real.

5. Papers related to the dissertation topic

Zornitsa Ivanova has written a total of 5 papers related to the topic of her dissertation. Three of them have been published in Bulgarian linguistic journals (their texts are available on the Internet), and the remaining two have been accepted for publication (in a Bulgarian and a Czech journal, respectively).

In the papers, the author has examined 1) the sociolinguistic and 2) the socio-economic prerequisites for the development of the administrative style and the administrative vocabulary in the Bulgarian language in the first few decades after the Liberation; 3) the diplomatic vocabulary, which is a subsystem of the administrative style; 4) the typology of the administrative vocabulary and lexico-semantic groups in the 1899 Court Structure Act and 5) the legal vocabulary and terminology in the Bulgarian language in the 1930s.

6. General conclusion

In the dissertation "Development of the administrative vocabulary and terminology in the New Bulgarian literary language (from the Liberation to the Second World War)" and the accompanying publications, the doctoral student has carried out a large volume of research work, which is a contribution to the history of the New Bulgarian literary language (in particular, to the stylistics and lexicology). Therefore, I will vote **affirmatively** for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Zornitsa Lyubenova Ivanova** in the professional field 2.1. *Philology*, scientific specialty *Bulgarian language - History of the Bulgarian literary language*.

25th May, 2024

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lachezar Perchekliyski