

## STATEMENT

for the dissertation of Finka Ivanova Sirakova

Linguistic aspects of prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in Bulgarian

For obtaining the educational and academic degree “Doctor”

professional field 2. 1. Philology

Specialty Bulgarian Language. Modern Bulgarian Language

by Assoc. Prof. Marina Georgieva Dzhonova, PhD, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

By order No ПД-38-459/19.07.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

I was appointed as a Member of the Scientific Jury for the defence of the dissertation work of Finka Sirakova. I have reviewed the materials submitted under the procedure and can confirm that they meet the minimum national requirements for the degree of Doctor. No plagiarism has been detected in the dissertation, abstract and scientific papers submitted to the procedure.

Finka Sirakova's dissertation on "Linguistic Aspects of Prepositional and Non-Prepositional Constructions in Bulgarian" has a total length of 134 pages and includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of contributions and a bibliography. Two appendices with the empirical data of the dissertation are also included. Prepositional and non-prepositional constructions are investigated from the point of view of the structure of constructions with equivalent meaning. The thesis is topical and presents prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in the context of modern linguistic theories, offering a comprehensive model of equivalent constructions and of the possibilities of omitting the preposition in Bulgarian.

The First chapter represents a critical review of the scientific literature, including both fundamental works in the field of grammar as well as new research on phrases, focusing on the types of subordination in Bulgarian and the different theoretical approaches to the description of phrase structure and the type of subordination in it.

Chapter Two focuses on clarifying the theoretical approach adopted in the analysis of the examples in this thesis. Based on the existing approaches in linguistics, the features of prepositional and non-prepositional constructions are presented. Tracing the conceptions in Bulgarian linguistics regarding the types of prepositions and especially complex prepositions and

so-called prepositional phrases is contributory. The PhD student makes a clear model of the possible lexical environment of the preposition - what kind of head the prepositional phrase can modify, as well as what subordinate parts the preposition itself can have. The presented models are commented upon in turn in the analysis of the empirical material in Chapter Three.

Chapter Three of the dissertation investigates the possibilities to transform prepositional phrases into non-prepositional ones, as well as equivalent constructions with and without preposition. The presentation of all aspects of the equivalent prepositional and non-prepositional phrases to deverbal noun head is contributory. Observations concerning the determination of the head deverbal noun are valuable, as is the relationship to the argument structure of the source verb. It is concluded that there is a difference between constructions with deverbal noun depending on the presence of the definite article. It can support both types of constructions (prepositional and infinitive) only without a definite article.

The empirical data is representative of the current trends in modern Bulgarian and illustrates the dynamics in the use of both types of constructions. An important advantage of the work is the selection of a model and its consistent application in the analysis of the examples. The conclusions drawn about the frequency of the prepositional and non-prepositional constructions with a deverbal noun; about the possibility of transformation of a prepositional construction into a non-prepositional one; about the types of extensions to a deverbal noun are contributive. I appreciate the systematization of the examples in tables, as well as the generalizations made about the frequency of the deverbal nouns in the data.

Observations on the degree of connectivity to the head when multiple PPs modify a single head are undoubtedly interesting, as are observations on the degree of PP connectivity when there are two conjunctively connected heads. Observations about the conditions under which equivalent constructions with and without the preposition *na* occur are also useful. Observations on the use and meaning of *okolo* are also interesting. Here I would like to ask you whether there are similar uses of the preposition *kam* or of the adverb *priblizitelno* in the data studied.

Observations on the omission of the prepositions *v* and *prez* in expressions of time such as on Monday, in summer are valuable. Do you think there is an analogy with expressions such as *morning, all week*.

The comparison with German and Greek and the theoretical statements regarding prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in both languages is positive. The comparative

view places the phenomenon in Bulgarian in a broader context. Observations for German show similarities with Bulgarian expressions of tense in which temporal prepositions with lexical meaning are omitted. The dominance of non-prepositional constructions in Greek with respect to tense expressions provides a valuable comparative insight into the construction in Bulgarian.

The dissertation also contributes observations on the omission of prepositions in compound prepositions such as *blagodarenie na, saobrazno s*. These two structural models are presented in turn, and a conclusion is drawn about the possibilities of final preposition dropping. I positively appreciate the distinction of participles as supports within AR from adjectives such as *gotov* and *alchen*. In this respect, it would be interesting in future research to compare phrases with a deverbal noun head and phrases with a participle head.

In conclusion, I can confirm that the summary follows the structure of the thesis and faithfully reflects the advances made in the thesis. The scientific contributions adequately represent the positive results of the research.

I confidently recommend the Honourable Jury to award the scientific and educational degree of Doctor to Finka Sirakova in the field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Linguistic Aspects of Prepositional and Non-Prepositional Constructions in the Bulgarian Language".

Sofia,

11.10.2024 г.

Assoc prof. Marina Dzhonova