

PEER REVIEW

of a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of ‘Doctor’

Author of the dissertation: **Finka Ivanova Sirakova**, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Dissertation topic: LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF PREPOSITIONAL AND NONPREPOSITIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

Field: **2.1 Philology**

Peer Reviewer: **Bilyana Bozhinova Todorova**, Department of Bulgarian language, Faculty of Philology, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

I am a member of the scientific jury for the defence of the dissertation thesis for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Finka Ivanova Sirakova, full-time PhD student in the scientific specialty "Bulgarian Language" - Syntax, professional field 2.1 Philology, field of higher education 2. Humanities at the Department of Bulgarian Language of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", according to Order No. RD38-459/19.07.2024 of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

1. General description of the submitted materials

The set of materials submitted by Finka Ivanova Sirakova includes a PhD thesis, a CV, an abstract of the dissertation, a list of printed scientific articles, a protocol for checking the originality of the dissertation, an opinion from the supervisor to the procedure for preventing plagiarism in dissertations.

The PhD candidate has declared a total of 3 articles related to the topic of the PhD thesis, published in Bulgaria and abroad. Thus she fulfils the requirements of LSDT (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University and has the necessary points to be admitted to public defence.

2. Short biodata

According to the provided materials, Finka Sirakova first graduated from the Institute of Tourism "Aleko Konstantinov", Burgas and completed the degree of "Specialist", then graduated as a *Master* at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, and in 2018 she received the degree of *Master of Bulgarian Philology - translator - editor* from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She is fluent in Greek and German and has participated in several *Erasmus+* mobility programmes. F. Sirakova has extensive experience as a translator, including works of fiction; she is experienced in the fields of tourism and education.

3. Actuality of the PhD thesis

The topic of the dissertation "LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF PREPOSITIONAL AND NONPREPOSITIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE" is related to an important problem, which, however, has been only partially investigated in depth. The structure of competing equivalent in meaning prepositional and nonprepositional constructions is studied in the case of the noun group with the main part of verbs with the suffix -ne and -nie; in the case of the verbal group with the subordinate part, whose syntactic service in the sentence is to present the circumstances such as place and time; in the case of the prepositional group with the main part of a complex preposition, as well as the structure of prepositional and nonprepositional constructions in the adjectival group and the adverbial group. The systematic study of the competition between prepositional and nonprepositional phrases within different syntactic constructions makes it possible to search for the reasons of the occurrence of competition in speech practice, as well as what is the scope of the phenomenon.

4. Description of the thesis

The submitted dissertation consists of 155 pages, and its structure is classical: introduction with abbreviations, three chapters, conclusion, contributions, bibliography and appendices.

In the introduction, some important clarifications are presented: the object of the study (respectively, the prepositional and nonprepositional constructions in the Bulgarian language and the structure of the competing equivalent in meaning prepositional and nonprepositional constructions from the different groups - nominal, verbal, etc.); the aim of the study - to present the constructions under consideration in different linguistic aspects, which are connected to the functions of the studied word combinations and the relations between their constituents; the research tasks, including illustrating the structure of: the NP with a noun with suffix -ne and suffix -nie, the VP with a subordinate circumstantial part for place and tense, the AP, the AdvP and the PP with a focus on a prepositional group containing the complex preposition; presentation and comparison of equivalent prepositional and nonprepositional constructions with a missing final component, etc.

The hypothesis that the Ph.D. student tests is the presence/absence of rules connected to the transformation of the prepositional construction into a nonprepositional one, as well as the verification of the assumption that the transformation of the prepositional pattern into a nonprepositional one requires certain preconditions for the omission of the prepositional component of the prepositional phrase. Due to the complexity of the task, multiple methods have been applied, including deductive, comparative, transformational, quantitative,

qualitative, etc. The extracted sources are from different functional styles in order to be able to obtain representative results. However, in the presentation of the data, especially in Chapter III, the examples from the administrative style predominate, which is not without reason, since many of the studied constructions occur very actively in administrative texts.

The first chapter is theoretical and presents an overview of the discussed terms and their definitions.

The second chapter introduces prepositional and nonprepositional constructions, specifying that in this work some terms like phrase, combination, group, and construction are used synonymously in order to avoid repetition. A classification of prepositions is presented, as well as the various definitions and theories popular in Bulgarian linguistics concerning the place of the preposition in the verbal phrase, the case realization of the nominal group introduced by a preposition, etc. The author assumes that the case relations in the Bulgarian language are expressed with the help of prepositions and they attribute an accusative case to the nominal group controlled by them, the lexical expression of which is a pronoun with a preserved case form.

In the third chapter, the prepositional and nonprepositional constructions with a verb nouns head are presented, and it is found that the prepositional constructions have a higher frequency of use in the case of the -ne verb nouns. Furthermore, the text reveals a curious fact: that the transformation of a prepositional construction into a nonprepositional one does not depend on the number of prepositions used in the sentence. Subordination relations in complex word combinations are also presented. The analysis is precise and presents the internal hierarchy between the elements of the phrase. In this part, some examples with the verb nouns of -nie and some deverbal nouns are also considered.

The investigated verbal constructions show the following regularity: that the omission of the prepositional component retains its meaning integrity and the absence of the preposition does not lead to information loss and therefore to comprehension problems.

It is important to mention some constructions where the temporal prepositions are omitted in Bulgarian and the popularity of nonprepositional constructions denoting year, season, month and day of the week. It is a very good idea to compare this phenomenon with the linguistic situation in Greek and German, languages which PhD student knows well. The comparison shows that the processes in German, unlike these in Greek, are different from those in Bulgarian.

Finka Sirakova also draws attention to the omission of a preposition from the composition of a compound preposition, concluding that the final component is not

obligatory, but to be omitted, it is necessary to follow a noun and to preserve the phrase meaning. The following parts of this chapter present the adjective and adverb as main and subordinate parts in prepositional and nonprepositional constructions.

In the conclusion, the observations of the previous chapters are summarized, and then the contributions are described accurately and clearly. This is followed by the bibliography, which contains 80 titles of articles and monographs in Bulgarian and foreign languages, as well as 5 online resources.

The abstract correctly and accurately presents the content of the work.

5. Notes and recommendations

I have no major recommendations for the work. I would suggest including more examples of the media and informal texts in the research. There are few technical mistakes. However, the overall impression of the thesis is positive.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the presented text offers to our attention a comprehensive and contributory study that possesses all the qualities of a valuable scientific work. Therefore, I give my positive assessment of the presented dissertation and I will vote for the award of the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" to FINKA IVANOVA SIRAKOVA in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty "Bulgarian Language" - Syntax.

7.10.2024

Reviewer: