

SHORT REVIEW

of the dissertation

LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF THE PREPOSITIONAL AND NON-PREPOSITIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

by **Finka Ivanova Sirakova**,

full-time doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian Language at the The Faculty of
Slavic Studies of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,

for obtaining the educational and scientific degree **Doctor (PhD)** in PhD program *Bulgarian
language – Syntax*, professional field 2.1. *Philology*, field of higher education 2. *Humanities*,
with scientific supervisor: Prof. PhD Yovka Tisheva

Author of the short review (member of the jury): Radoslav Mihaylov Tsonev, PhD, Associate
Professor at the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

I. Summarized data on the scientific production and the activity of the candidate

Finka Ivanova Sirakova graduated with a major in “Hotel and Restaurant
Management” at the Institute of Tourism “Aleko Konstantinov” in 1992 and the master’s
programs “Tourism” at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” in 2011 and “Translator-
Editor” at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2018. From 2021, she is a full-time
doctoral student in the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Slavic Studies of
the Sofia University in the PhD program *Bulgarian Language – Syntax* with scientific
supervisor Prof. PhD Yovka Tisheva.

The doctoral student has additionally qualified in courses and specializations in
German and Modern Greek, in many trainings related to their teaching, and has extensive
experience as a translator, as a teacher in language schools and as a part-time assistant.

Finka Ivanova Sirakova submitted her dissertation work “Linguistic aspects of the
prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in Bulgarian language”, Sofia: “St. Kliment
Ohridski” University Publishing House, 2024, 155 p.” and the author’s abstract to it. She has
published 3 articles on the dissertation in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

The materials, submitted by Finka Ivanova Sirakova, meet the national minimum
requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **Doctor (PhD)** under
Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria

(LASDRB) and they are in accordance with the requirements of Art. 2, para. 1 of the Regulations, governing the application of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (RGALASDRB) and under Art. 63 of the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the submitted dissertation work

The scientific contributions in the dissertation “Linguistic aspects of the prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in Bulgarian language” are directly related to the successfully solved research tasks. Some of the contributions are:

- * The work is an original systematic study of the prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in the Bulgarian language, their structure, the cases and conditions under which it is possible to drop the preposition and replace the prepositional with nominal constructions.

- * The object, the subject, the goals and the tasks are clearly formulated. The theoretical and methodological framework of the study are presented extensively. Various methods were used to analyze the empirical material: deductive, comparative, structural-typological, distributive, identification, transformational, contextual, etc.

- * The doctoral student has an excellent knowledge of the foundational studies on her topic. The dissertation contains a detailed review of theoretical statements, classification and research on prepositions in the Bulgarian language.

- * The scientific terms used by the doctoral student in the dissertation are well-defined and convincingly explained.

- * Successful comparisons have been made with data from typologically different languages (German and Modern Greek), which show analogous tendencies to simplify the syntactic structure through the omission of prepositions introducing temporal or local modifiers.

- * Relevant are the PhD student’s conclusions that:

- there are rules that determine the transformation of the prepositional construction into a non-prepositional one, but the change is realized under certain prerequisites that are specific to each of the groups considered in the work – NP (nominal phrase with the main part of verbal nouns ending with *-ne*, *-nie*), VP (verbal phrase with subordinate part, whose syntactic function in the sentence is an adverbial of place and time) and PP (prepositional phrase with a main part complex preposition);

– the repeated use of the preposition *na* within one sentence in the prepositional constructions based on a verbal noun ending with *-ne*, *-nie* does not presuppose its dropping from the structure of the prepositional constructions;

– the omission of the temporal prepositions *v* (*vav*) and *prez* in the prepositional constructions in the verbal phrase, whose subordinate part has the function of an adverbial, is a characteristic feature of the colloquial speech;

– upon removal of the prepositional component from the composition of prepositional constructions, the word combinations without prepositions retain their semantic integrity and the absence of a preposition does not lead to loss of information and, accordingly, to problems in understanding, etc.

III. Conclusion

The dissertation work “Linguistic aspects of the prepositional and non-prepositional constructions in Bulgarian language” has significant linguistic merits and scientific value. The scientific work examines a contemporary problem, the text is consistently structured and contains interesting summaries and useful conclusions. Due to the aforementioned qualities of the research and its contributive value, I confidently give my positive vote and recommend to the respected members of the scientific jury to support the award of the educational and scientific degree *Doctor (PhD)* to Finka Ivanova Sirakova.

13.09.2024

Blagoevgrad

Member of the jury: 

Assoc. Prof. PhD Radoslav Tsonev