

OPINION

of

the dissertation work of Prof. PhD Amelia Licheva
on the topic "Is the Nobel Prize an Award for World Literature?",
for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Science",
professional field 2.1 "Philology" ("Theory of Literature")

The dissertation of Prof. Licheva is the culmination of her academic-analytical work. In it she sets the purpose to rationalize her long-time activities in the field of contemporary literature (Bulgarian and foreign), exposing them against the background of the classical literary heritage and trying namely through the "classical" prism to see the future of literature. The result is fruitful in many aspects.

I would like to emphasize here one more thing. Nowadays, when we speak about world literature, automatically (almost certainly) we mention the Nobel Prize. At first sight, this is natural, given that in today's artistic diversity this concept is one of the few that knit together the global field of literature. That is why, probably, the literary field nowadays stubbornly refuses to divide itself from its old nominative institutions. Of course, in her analytical comment Professor Amelia Licheva puts parametric limiters, but they emerge gradually and somehow imperceptibly, along with the natural development of the thesis. That is why I could say that in the present work the topic leads the thesis and the composition, not the opposite. The work is solid and totally adequate to the goal that it pursues. Of course, I did not expect anything less. It is worth mentioning, however, a few words about the selection of titles that are in the focus of the comment. It combines two criteria that do not always coexist comfortably: aesthetic (high artistic, the titles are translated around the world because they are good) and by representation (the mentioned titles are good because they are translated around the world). The first criterion evolves from tradition, the second one becomes more and more necessary nowadays. In her ability to balance between these two criteria and her concrete comment, Amelia Licheva demonstrates professional maturity, erudite accumulation

and, last but not least, an elegance of the exposition and her work undeniably contributes to literary studies in Bulgaria.

The first part of the work is entitled "The World Literature at the Beginning of the 21st Century". It gives to the composition a certain baroque aspect, since this part offers a brief history of the concept "world literature". Here we have to highlight the good balance, the ability to introduce a personal standpoint, and the Bulgarian point of view. Last but not least, this part is the first serious step for introducing the topic of world literature in our native context and presenting the ideas of authors such as David Damrosch, Franco Moretti, Pascal Casanova.

The second part, dedicated to the Nobel Prizes, skillfully breaks down many clichés, and through some non-traditional corners, such as the Nobel Prize laureates' speeches, or the Nobel Prize-winning women's points of view, demonstrates why this prize has institutionalizing status. Through discussed in detail criteria we could see some future tendencies relating both to the status of prizes in general and to the development of literature.

The appendix, as I have already mentioned, includes important tendencies in the development of contemporary literature, seen through the idea of trauma in all its branches - trauma from the past, from the present, from the future, from life with the other, from life without the other, etc. I highly appreciate the fact that the author uses this key in review of specifics of contemporary Bulgarian literature and highlights names and texts that constitute and will build up its characteristic of world literature.

Considering the excellent work done by Amelia Licheva, the innovative research topic for literary studies in Bulgaria, the insightful readings of many literary texts, I can convincingly state that Prof. PhD. Amelia Licheva should be awarded with a degree „Doctor of Science”.

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