

OPINION

on the PhD Thesis of **Svetlana Yordanova Taneva**, PhD student at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classic and Modern Philologies, Sofia University “St.Kliment Ohridski”, on the topic “**Main tendencies in the terminological systems of dental medicine and cranio-maxillofacial surgery (on English and Russian materials)**” for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in professional field 2.1. *Philology, General and Comparative Linguistics (Comparative Analysis of English and Russian Medical Terminology)*.

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Krassimira Alexandrova Petrova**, Department of Slavic Studies, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (Order ПД-38-465 / 27.9.2021)

1. Notes on the defense procedure

The whole scientific jury got acquainted with the PhD student’s report for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 1a, par.1 of the (ЗПАСБ) Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Education of Scientific and Scientific Degrees “Doctor”, and found that Svetlana Taneva exceeds the requirements of at least 30 points. She reported 50 points, but presented only 5 publications out of 13 in the same subject area , i.e. it exceeds the required limit. The report declares also absence of plagiarism in the dissertation. All necessary documents and texts were provided to us in time, all defense procedures were followed, and the abstract accurately, fully and adequately reflects the text of the dissertation.

2. Teaching and research experience of the PhD student

Svetlana Taneva is a senior lecturer in English and Russian at the Department of Language Training, Medical Pedagogy and Sports, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Sofia, teaching specialized English and Russian to students from the Faculty of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy, as well as to other teachers and staff. She regularly participates in conducting foreign language exams for doctoral students, assistants, foreign students, as well as in the organization and holding of annual language Universiades, in the development and updating of curricula at Medical University - Sofia. Her entire professional activity so far is related to the teaching of English, Russian and Bulgarian for special purposes to Bulgarians as well as to foreign students and specialists. The education she has received so far as a Master in Russian Philology, Journalism and English Philology, as well as additional specializations, successfully passed doctoral exams, all subsequent professional experience and excellent language competencies are a good theoretical and practical basis for writing and defending this dissertation. She participated in 9 specialized international scientific forums where some parts and aspects of the PhD thesis were presented. She has experience in translating medical texts as well.

3. Description of the scientific contributions in the PhD thesis and articles

The PhD thesis presented for defense “Main tendencies in the terminological systems of dentistry and cranio-maxillofacial surgery (on English and Russian materials)” fully meets the high academic standards for relevance of the topic, volume, structure, content, modern

theoretical and methodological framework and implementation of the research, as well as due to its theoretical and applied aspects in teaching L2 for special purposes.

In addition to the dissertation, 5 publications in English were presented in specialized peer-reviewed journals, which prove the lasting interest and in-depth development of this topic.

It is important that the subject of research on the role of metaphorization, structural-semantic and etymological modeling of terminology in two selected medical fields are directly related to the practical teaching of English and Russian for special purposes to future dentists or physicians.

The numerous prominent English, Russian, Bulgarian and other authors in the field of terminology, cognitive linguistics, metaphor analysis, foreign language teaching for special purposes are selected reasonably to determine an adequate theoretical framework and show the in-depth theoretical training of the PhD student. As a merit of her work I would point out the good knowledge and in-depth comparison of the most outstanding “classical” and modern authors in the field of cognitive linguistics, which makes the theoretical basis more well-grounded and multifaceted. I would like to note the very good author’s motivation for choosing English and Russian for analysis of the enrichment of metaphorical terminology, flexible word formation systems in both languages, widespread for international professional communication (pp.103-110 of the dissertation), as well as comparisons with Bulgarian language.

The use of an extensive corpus of over 1000 metaphorical terms is an advantage for the analysis, as well as the conducted experiment on 30 Bulgarian terms with 52 participants. The material is thoroughly analyzed, interpreted correctly, statistically processed, presented visually, interpreted according to the leading contemporary ideas in the field of terminology and cognitive science, which leads to reasonable and reliable conclusions. The anthropocentrism traditionally declared in cognitive linguistics, confirmed in the field of medical terminology in both thematic areas, is convincingly illustrated by the detailed structural, semantic, etymological analysis of the corpus of examples and statistics - by the predominance of anthropogenic metaphors (56% vs. 44%). A detailed description of different groups of metaphorical models in English is made. The comparisons with Russian and Bulgarian equivalent terminology are also extremely interesting, and the whole collected and described corpus has additional research potential for future comparative analyses. The terminology in Russian is translated correctly. As a methodological note I would point out the inappropriate use of the Russian dictionary to define a term in the Bulgarian language (p. 140 - Bulg.*захапка* - Rus. *прикус*).

The practical benefit, apart from the theoretical one, from the experimental research of the conceptual blending of selected metaphorical terms, taking into account the professional and linguistic-cultural preparation of the respondents, is the basis for updating the curricula and compiling textbooks in foreign language teaching for special purposes. The analysis is related both to the use of terms in specialized discourse and communication with patients as well.

Another contribution to the development of terminology is section III.4.3, devoted to linguistic means for constructing substantive and adjective structural-semantic models of metaphorical terminology in English, again clearly illustrated by diagrams, examples and statistics. Here I would suggest replacing Russism “регулярни” (regular) structural-semantic models with productive, repetitive, frequent ones.

The etymological picture of the considered terminological system III.4.4., again richly illustrated and statistically based on PhD student’s corpus of examples, outlines important sociolinguistic tendencies for the stable Greco-Latin derivation basis, but also the strengthening of the English metaphorical basis and the reduction of foreign elements in term formation.

Statistical analysis of different semantic and structural types of English metaphorical terminology in the two medical fields in III.4.5, as well as summaries of unambiguity, synonyms, functioning of terms are of practical use for lexicographic completion of reference books and textbooks.

In the conclusion of the thesis the contributions and the prospects for work are well presented. A corpus of examples of metaphorical enrichment of English medical terminology is well illustrated and statistically presented. Cognitive mechanisms for combining specialized and non-specialized elements in the development of new terminology and synonyms are described based on a lot of examples. The comparison of the verbalization of the universal cognitive mechanism of conceptual blending in the three described languages has a theoretical and practical contributions to the language training of future physicians in the field of dental medicine and cranio-maxillofacial surgery, as well as for lexicography and the preparation of textbooks and exercises. The described tendencies in the metaphorical term formation are also useful for the language training of the specialists working in new rapidly developing fields of medicine, for participation in medical conferences, for translations in the field of medicine. Publishing the PhD thesis in a book, and a specialized trilingual dictionary will be very useful.

4. Conclusion

Based on the scientific contributions in the PhD thesis and in the articles, highlighted in this opinion, I am fully convinced that the scientific jury can award **Svetlana Yordanova Taneva** the educational and scientific degree PhD, or “Doctor” in the professional field *2.1.Philology, General and Comparative Linguistics (Comparative Analysis of English and Russian Medical Terminology)*.

Dec, 06, 2021
Sofia

Signed:
(Assoc. Prof. PhD. Krassimira Petrova)