EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Stoyanova Cheshmedzhieva-Stoycheva, PhD,
lecturer in English at the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, *Konstantin*
***Preslavsky* University of Shumen,**

on the dissertation *A Multi-Process Cognitive Model for Investigating Text and Discourse* by Assoc.
Prof. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia,
presented as part of the requirements for awarding the academic research degree "Doctor of
Science"
in the area of 2. Humanities; professional field 2.1. Philology, Doctoral Program Germanic
Languages (Text Linguistics and Discourse Analysis – English)

1.   General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order of the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia No. RD 38-120 of 10 March 2023,
the members of the Academic Selection Committee were appointed in connection with the defense
of Assoc. Prof. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, in field of higher education 2.1. Philology,
doctoral program German languages (Text Linguistics and Discourse Analysis - English), for the
assignment of the academic research degree Doctor of Science.

Assoc. Prof. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, presented a total of 5 research papers as part
of the procedure for the academic degree Doctor of Sciences, including the monograph *A Multi-
Process Cognitive Model for Investigating Text and Discourse*.

Subject:

By order No. RD 38-120 of 10 March 2023 of the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia
I have been appointed as a member of the Academic Selection Committee assigned to the procedure
for assigning the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences in Sofia University in the field of higher
education 2.1. Philology, doctoral program German languages (Textlinguistics and discourse analysis
- English language)

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, is in
accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Sofia University, as
well as with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and the Rules of the Application of
the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and includes the following documents: an author's
summary; a copy of a diploma for the educational and scientific degree of doctor of philosophy; a
dissertation; reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, a list of scientific
publications on the topic of the dissertation; report on the originality of the proposed monograph
checked with the program StrikePlagiarism.

The candidate Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, has submitted a total of
5 research works: 3 articles, 1 study, 1 monograph and a list of 14 citations of 4 research works. The
four scientific works that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review and are taken into
account in the final evaluation. All research pieces are written in English, and the articles and studies
are published in journals with an impact factor indexed in SCOPUS.

In 1995, Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva graduated with a degree in English Philology,
specializing in translation and the topic of her thesis was *Gender, speech and cultural myths* and she
also had a second major in Journalism. In March 2006, she was awarded the educational and scientific
degree of doctor of philosophy with the topic of the thesis *The SOURCE-PATH-GOAL image schema
in political speeches*. Since 1995 Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva has been a member of the
Department of English and American Studies at the Faculty of Classical and New Philologies at St.
Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia first as an assistant, and then through all other steps in the career
development until 2015 when she received the title of an associate professor.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva has participated in a number of international conferences, schools and seminars. She is the head of the Linguistics section at the Department of English and American Studies, a member of the BSSE board, a member of ICLA, the Bulgarian Sociolinguistic Society, the University English and American Studies Foundation and is the organizer of a number of conferences and seminars. Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva is also the editor of various journals and series indexed in SCOPUS and WoS.

The candidate's teaching activity is related to leading a number of lectures in compulsory and elective bachelor's and master's courses at the Department of English and American Studies, some of which are Text Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Practical Grammar, or a total of 11 courses (compulsory and electives) for bachelors and 2 for masters, with 8 of the courses developed independently by Associate Professor Dr. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, and the rest in a team with some of her colleagues.

The aforementioned leads to the conclusion that Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, has the necessary experience and knowledge to carry out research and teaching activities at a high level. In addition, the presented research and courses show the candidate's dedication and strong focus on the topic of research.

2.   Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the set of goals and tasks

The presented monograph, *A Multi-Process Cognitive Model for Investigating Text and Discourse*, is a continuation to the research conducted by the author on text and discourse analysis and presents an innovative view in the form of a method to the analysis of both phenomena. As such I deem that the goals and tasks set within the monograph are highly appropriate and relevant.

3.   Research methodology

The methods applied in the dissertation are both quantitative and qualitative, depending on the nature of the issues analysed. The methodology of collecting the corpora used is also different, ranging from a broad overview to a specific dataset, again depending on the problem under investigation in each part of the monograph.

4.   Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The presented dissertation includes nine chapters divided into three main parts.

The first chapter focuses on the object of research, the approach and the questions to be answered, as well as the overall organization of the dissertation. In the first part, which consists of two chapters, the cognitive mechanisms that are considered as potential candidates for inclusion in the multi-process model are isolated.

The second part, which again comprises two chapters, situates the model in relation to the existing research on text linguistics and discourse analysis, together with other related disciplines, and shows how the proposed multi-process model can be applied to both.

The third part clarifies the multi-process cognitive model by tracing its applicability in different domains. Chapter VI returns to and revisits the overlap between the textual, discursive, and real worlds and applies the multiprocess model to two separate cases. Chapter VII re-applies the proposed model to the phenomenon of Brexit and its media coverage, and Chapter VIII focuses on the Facebook post genre, seen as the transition from the discursive to the real world. The final chapter IX is a conclusion summarizing the main contributions of the entire work as well as each of the eight previous chapters separately and can be viewed as establishing the frame of the entire work by making references to the research questions and objectives of the dissertation formulated in the introductory chapter I.

The author's decision to complete her research with a bibliography, and not only with a list of the literature cited directly in the research, is valuable to me, because in this way the reader is exposed to

the larger context of the problem at hand. This also shows the extensive knowledge of the author on the topic.

I can state with confidence that the research presented by Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, fully meets the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff for the academic research degree of Doctor of Science.

5.   Contributions and significance of the research

The contributions and significance of the research are quite correctly and fully reported by the author. To them I can only add the significance presented by the fact that there are also multiple citations of the studies of Assoc. Dr. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, and state my conviction that the research presented in this way represents a full and complete study, following both established and newest findings on the issues related to text linguistics and discourse analysis and the development and application of the proposed multi-process cognitive model for the study of their two objects. I believe that, if this has not already been done, the work should be published in order to make it available to a wider audience. In this regard, I would suggest to the author to carefully review the text once more, in order to clear any typographic errors made in it.

I am extremely impressed by the research carried out in the individual parts, which is also diachronic. This shows both the persistence of the author in her investigations on the subject, as well as the conscientious analysis and reporting of the obtained results. I have no objections to the theoretical and evidential part.

I personally found the first chapter a bit confusing with the references to later chapters, but I realize that the scope of the topic does not really allow for any other sort of arrangement.

I would like to make one more recommendation that I think would help improve the readability of the work. I think that Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, can convey in a synthesized form the content of the films she analyzed, so that it would be easier for the readers to follow their analysis. As the author herself states, viewers' preferences are different and the mentioned titles may not be familiar to some of them, which would make it difficult for this part of her readers to understand the analysis.

The two recommendations made in no way diminish the value of the work, but rather are aimed at its better perception by its future readers.

6.   Personal participation of the author in the evaluated scientific works

The dissertation presented for review is the result of the author's own endeavours, evidenced through specialized software.

7.   Author's summary of the dissertation

The author's summary of the dissertation fully reflects the content of the full text, the results achieved and the contributions of the author. It consists of 102 pages and includes, in addition to a summary of the dissertation work, and a list of publications on the topic.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Associate Professor Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, PhD, meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Rules of the University for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and the relevant Regulations of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of research published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree of doctor of philosophy. The candidate's works have original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in international journals. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to her academic work.

After getting acquainted with the materials and research presented and having analysed their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and propose to the respected Academic Selection Committee to award Assoc. Dr. Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva the academic research degree of Doctor of Sciences in 2.1. Philology, doctoral program German languages (Text Linguistics and Discourse Analysis – English).

19 April 2023   **Prepared by**: ....
                                                         Assoc. Prof. Desislava Cheshmedzhieva-Stoycheva, PhD