

REVIEW

of a dissertation for obtaining a PhD degree

Author of the dissertation: Assistant Professor Svetlana Yordanova Taneva, PhD student in the field of Philology, Doctoral program "General and Comparative Linguistics" at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", field 2 Humanities, professional field 2.1 Philology, discipline General and Comparative Linguistics (Term Formation in English and Russian).

Dissertation topic: MAIN TRENDS IN THE TERMINOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OF DENTAL MEDICINE AND CRANIO-MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY (ON MATERIALS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN)

Reviewer: Prof. Diana Yankova, PhD, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, New Bulgarian University, Sofia

Biographical information:

Svetlana Yordanova Taneva received her Master's degree in Russian Philology from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1990 and in "English Philology" in 1997. She began her professional career as a teacher of Russian, and later of English at school and in training centers such as Britannica and Cosmos. She also served as an assistant headteacher. In the period 2003-2011 she was an English lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and part-time lecturer at NBU. Since 2011 she has been a senior lecturer in English and Russian at the Medical University - Sofia, Faculty of Public Health, Department of Language Training, Medical Pedagogy and Sports, where she teaches specialized English and Russian to students at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. She takes part in examining boards for foreign language exams of doctoral students and assistant professors, for entrance exams for foreign students, etc.

Since September 2020 she has been a PhD student at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Publications on the topic:

Svetlana Taneva has submitted 5 articles, 4 published in 2020 and one in 2021. Applying communicative theory, sociocognitive theory, frame theory she explores various aspects of medical terminology: description of models for creating eponymous terms in Bulgarian, Russian and English, classification of mechanisms in the development of medical terminology in English and Bulgarian, study of the metaphorization of terms, construction of metaphorical models in English and Bulgarian - all issues that she discusses in detail in her dissertation.

The author's summary of the dissertation accurately reflects the structure and content of the dissertation and includes a detailed report on the contributions.

Relevance of the dissertation: Svetlana Taneva's dissertation – consisting of 315 pages, three chapters, conclusion, four appendices, and a list of references - is devoted to the study of mechanisms and patterns in the terms formation of two areas of medicine - craniomaxillary surgery and dentistry, which are considered within the framework of cognitive linguistic theory. Trends in term formation are studied from three perspectives: structural-semantic, linguistic and cognitive, and functional, examining the role of metaphorization, structural-syntactic connections, etymology and synonymy.

The hypothesis is that "metaphorization (...) is a verbal representation of pragmatically processed specialized scientific knowledge, reflecting the worldview, the mental activity, the linguistic and cultural competence and professional experience of the subject specialist" (p. 7).

The corpus of the research consists of 1012 randomly selected English metaphorical terms from terminological dictionaries, and from specialized literature - monographs, textbooks, articles, among others. However, there is no clear justification for the choice of corpus: why exactly this corpus was chosen, how the specific phrases were selected, etc. I would recommend that in future research Svetlana pay more attention to the selection of the corpus of analysis - e.g. to choose terms by frequency, difficulty, or any other relevant criteria.

The aim of the research is to present and systematize the ways of expressing specialized terminology in English in the field of dentistry and craniofacial surgery. To achieve this goal, specific tasks have been identified, such as creating a corpus of English metaphorical terms in the areas studied, defining their characteristics, classifying models, as well as highlighting the means of expressing those models.

The results of the study are important for foreign language learning. Therefore, the choice of topic is determined by the relevance of the issues in theoretical and practical terms, as well as the lack of such in-depth research.

Grasp of the analyzed scientific problem and review of the literature. Svetlana Taneva's dissertation is an in-depth study of scientific issues and is written in Bulgarian, which is of benefit to the Bulgarian linguistic community. A sufficient number of sources are included in the bibliography, and the selection also meets qualitative criteria. The literature review shows that the doctoral student is well acquainted with the research topic. The citation of Bulgarian academics working in this field is also impressive.

There are however, technical problems with citations – in-text citation does not always indicate the authors or the year of publication (eg. pp. 15, 17), as well as in the bibliography at the end of the dissertation, which is arranged in a way that makes it difficult to search for sources in different languages. Different publications by the same author are as a rule given chronologically, which is not always observed in the dissertation (eg. Chomsky, p. 299).

Correspondence between goals and objectives and the research methodology applied: The aim of the dissertation is to analyze how the terminological systems in English are expressed and systematized in the above two areas of medicine. To achieve the goals Svetlana Taneva chooses to apply cognitive analysis, considering language as a mental entity and representation of human knowledge. Metaphorization is studied through a nominative-cognitive perspective, the analysis of the structural-semantic aspect applies componential analysis, the similarities and differences in the semantics of metaphorical terms are considered through the study of etymology, through conducting a survey and applying statistical methodology. It can be confidently said that the set goals and objectives are fully achieved and properly justified as a result of the research methodology used.

Theoretical and applied contributions of the dissertation: The dissertation contains theoretical and applied results, which represent an original contribution in the field of teaching and research in specialized medical English. No research has been done to classify and interpret English metaphorical terms in the studied areas and to distinguish their linguistic and non-linguistic features. Contribution can also be said to be the interpretation and translation by

Svetlana Taneva of metaphorical terms that are not yet widely established in specialized medical literature.

Based on the results of the study, a corpus of English terms in both fields of medicine has been systematized and compiled, whose practical significance is in the use of this systematization in teaching English and Russian to students, graduates and also to teachers in Bulgarian to foreign students in the field of craniofacial surgery and dentistry. The results from the research can contribute to the creation of specialized textbooks and teaching aids and in general to the creation of specialized language courses: a very serious and difficult task for teachers of languages, usually non-specialists in the subject.

Recommendations and critical remarks:

In the choice of corpus, there is no clear justification: why precisely this corpus was chosen, how the specific phrases were selected, etc. I would recommend in future research more attention to be paid to the selection of the corpora of the analysis - to choose terms by frequency, difficulty, etc.

Conclusion:

All recommendations and critical comments are intended to contribute to a better analysis and do not detract from the work of the doctoral student in processing the research material and the results achieved. My assessment of the research is high and I believe it is a serious work that has the qualities of a completed dissertation and meets the requirements of Art. 27 of the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. Therefore I accord positive assessment of the dissertation by Svetlana Yordanova Taneva and advise the academic panel to vote for her admission to election by the Academic Council of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for awarding her a PhD degree.

08.12.2021 г.

prof. Diana Yankova, PhD

