

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Boyka Elit Tsigova

regarding the procedure for acquiring the educational and scientific degree

"Doctor,"

professional field: 2.1. Philology, Doctoral Program "Literature of the Peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Australia – Japanese Literature and Culture"

Maria Georgieva Simeonova was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" on February 1, 2020, with a dissertation titled "The Visual Revival of Japanese Literature in 21st Century Cinema."

Her scientific advisor is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vera Nikolova.

The documentation provided for the public defense procedure complies with the requirements of the law, its implementing regulations, as well as the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski."

From a substantive point of view, the dissertation is interdisciplinary, with a focus on cinema. The aim, object, subject, and methods of the research are clearly formulated.

The main goal set by the author of the dissertation is to conclude that film adaptations of Japanese literary works contribute to ensuring that future generations preserve their spiritual culture from the past. Any japanologist familiar with Japanese cultural traditions would likely not perceive this contribution as an exception, but rather as one aspect of the broader paradigm of contemporary Japanese culture. Nevertheless, the dissertation is valuable to Bulgarian Japanology because it is linked to current trends and future prospects.

The work aims to present a perspective on an innovative idea. One of the conclusions drawn by the author is that "the foundation of the success of contemporary Japanese cinema lies in the preservation of ancient Japanese codes,"

which "are transmitted in a new form." In other words, based on a vast array of examples from films and adaptations of Japanese literary works, the thesis argues for the transfer of messages from literature to cinema.

The doctoral dissertation presented for defense provides an opportunity for further in-depth theoretical analysis and future scientific research, with well-established scientific theses.

The abstract of the dissertation is structured and aligned with the main points and contributions, presenting all thematic aspects of the dissertation.

The author of the dissertation has published 4 works on the topic of her dissertation. Three are in Bulgarian, and one is in English.

The doctoral student Maria Simeonova undoubtedly possesses extensive knowledge in the field of cinema. This is evidenced by the vast amount of information in the dissertation text.

I recommend expanding the scope of more in-depth independent theoretical analyses related to Japanese literature and culture.

In light of my overall assessment of the presented work for defense, the abstract, and the doctoral student's publications, I express my agreement for the scientific jury to propose to the esteemed members of the Faculty (Scientific) Council of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology that Maria Georgieva Simeonova be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Japanese Literature and Culture).

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Boyka Elit Tsigova