**PEER REVIEW**

of the Dissertation of Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva on the subject "A multi-process cognitive model for investigating text and discourse"

for the acquisition of the academic degree of ‘Doctor of Philosophy’

in the field of higher education

in the field of higher education *2. Humanities*, professional direction 2.1. *Philology*,

PhD program *Germanic Languages* (*Text Linguistics and Discourse Analysis in English*)

by Prof. Ph.D. Krasimira Slavcheva Aleksova, Department of Bulgarian Language,

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

1. **Particulars of the procedure and candidate**

I was appointed as a Member of the Scientific Jury for the defense of the dissertation work of Neli Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva with by Order No. РД-38-129, dated March 10th, 2023, of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". By Protocol No.1 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury, dated March 17th, 2023, I was appointed to present an Peer’s Review.

The set of materials presented for the procedure make it clear that the candidate has gained 405 points out of the required 350 points to meet the minimum national requirements for obtaining the academic degree of ‘Doctor of Philosophy’. This proves that these minimum national requirements have been met for the purposes of the selection procedure.

1. **Description and contributions of the doctoral work**

The presented dissertation on the topic "A multi-process cognitive model for investigating text and discourse" authored by Neli Tincheva-Georgieva has been checked against plagiarism and no elements of plagiarism have been identified. The work expands on over 446 pages and contains an introduction and three major parts, which are divided into chapters: the first part contains two chapters, the second part also includes two chapters, the third part contains three chapters, including the conclusion. The cited literature is extremely comprehensive, including more than 380 cited sources, which has resulted in a polyphonic text serving as a background for presenting the author's own views.

According to my impressions and analyzes of the dissertation work of Neli Tincheva-Georgieva, the following contributing elements can be identified:

- The dissertation is a contribution to the clarification of the concepts of *text* and *discourse*, fitting into the general linguistic dialogue about the volume and connections between these concepts. Applied have been theoretical statements and principles from the field of cognitive linguistics of the text, the theory of textual worlds, conceptual figurativeness, gestalt psychology. Cognitive, sociolinguistic and statistical tools have been combined in the study of the main objects, as well as approaches typical of prototype studies.

- The dissertation work is a significant supplement to the theoretical research on the construction of text and discourse with an emphasis on the cognitive mechanisms (and the cognitive operations as elements thereof) in the mental processing of the information contained in text and discourse as linguistic units.

- Derived and commented upon have been key cognitive mechanisms such as conceptual metaphor, construction of worlds (textual world, discourse world, real world – supplemented to the existing models by the author – as well as their elements and conceptual-structural overlapping in certain cases), overlapping of worlds, profiling as a cognitive characteristic of gestalt perception, which, according to the author's contribution, can be observed in all three types of worlds delineated in the work. Later, conceptual metonymy was also included in the model as a cognitive mechanism.

- From a theoretical and specifically analytical point of view, it has been proven that, in political speeches, the metaphorical transfer from the *source-path-goal* image scheme is observed in all three types of worlds (textual, discourse, real). The existence of switches in the profiling of the textual and discourse world has been proved by examples, including the presence of a potential ambiguity which world is being profiled in the particular political speech.

- Contributory are also the analyzes and comments on the overall structure of the text (in relation to the terms *text structure, narrative structure, rhetorical structure, overall structure, superstructure, macrostructure*) where applied has been a quantitative analysis based on 317 works published up to October 2021. As a result, the conclusion has been drawn that, when processing a *complete text structure*, it is possible that the cognitive mechanism of conceptual metonymy should function, which was included in the proposed multi-process model in order to outline a conceptual complex of the simultaneous action of a conceptual metaphor and a conceptual metonymy.

- Based on comments and comparisons of existing works, N. Tincheva-Georgieva offers her own idea for the definition and scope of the text linguistics as a research field by applying the multi-process model proposed by her. N. Tincheva adds to the research field of text linguistics also the overlapping and switching of profiling between worlds.

- Well-grounded is the author's view that the multi-process model proposed by her is applicable to discourse analysis. N. Tincheva applies a meta-synthesizing overview on account of its qualitative nature. Contributory is the author's proposed definition of discourse analysis ensuing the analyzes related to it.

- The model proposed in the dissertation makes possible studying a multi-process set of simultaneously functioning and sometimes overlapping cognitive mechanisms that must be jointly analyzed through quantitative and qualitative methods.

- Based on existing concepts and comparisons and analyses thereof, as well as against the background of the multi-process model, N. Tincheva offers her definition of *context* as a mental phenomenon that arises as a result of the need to use the cognitive mechanism of profiling between a figure and a background to optimize of current information processing.

- Contributory are the analyses on Brexit-related metaphorization using three databases. A pluralistic set of Brexit metaphors has been demonstrated, with a total of 14 metaphorical conceptualizations. The data support the conclusion that the metaphors associated with continental Europe have a wider and better structured conceptual periphery, and the UK data present a clearer conceptual center and the periphery is narrower and less frequently used. Figurativeness is minimized and the most basic metaphors are resorted to when people are in a time of uncertainty. Brexit is shown to be an atypical concept in that it does not have the typical direction of transition from the real world to the discourse and text world, but is observed first as a text world and a discourse world, and then becomes part of the real world.

- Three empirical surveys establish the prototypical genres in the political discourse and test two relatively new political genres on the Internet. The results show that, according to the respondents, the most important function is the exchange of *socio-political information*, followed by *motivating others towards socio-political (in)action*. The general conclusion of the researcher is that there are considerable doubts about the use of the Internet for socio-political communication and activity during the pandemic. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first such study in our country.

- The multi-process model proposed in the dissertation has been applied to the survey results to find that the concept of *text type* is established as a prototypically profiling conceptual area of the overlapping between text world and discourse world, while *genre* is a prototypically profiling conceptual area of the overlapping between text world and real world. Furthermore, *text type* profiles the rhetorical functions and communicative intent of the text creator in the discourse world, while *genre* prototypically unites a textual structure from the textual world with real-world actions/functions.

Four publications in English have been made on the dissertation work, all of which are indexed in Scopus.

The abstract reflects the achievements of the dissertation work informatively and accurately enough.

**3. Conclusion**

Based on the distinguished contributions of Neli Tincheva-Georgieva's dissertation work, I firmly believe that she can be awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Philospphy" for the work "A multi-process cognitive model for investigating text and discourse"

April 5th, 2023 Peer Reviewer:

Prof. Ph.D. Krasimira Aleksova