

Review of the dissertation of Monika Galabova

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maurice Fadel,

New Bulgarian University

Monika Galabova's dissertation, entitled "Reading the Periphery: the Space of the Margin in Adam Bodor's Fiction," fulfills the formal requirements for a dissertation: it consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, and a detailed bibliography.

"Periphery" and "boundary" are concepts that often can be found in literary texts. At the same time, however, they do not find their careful clarification. Literary scholars usually use them without problematization. The contribution of Monika Galabova's dissertation lies in the fact that she subjects them to a discussion in the course of which she does not arrive at their hasty clarification, at their fixation, but at the description of their ambiguity and persuasiveness.

The introduction clearly formulates the objectives that the dissertation will pursue and the methods it will use to achieve them.

The important third chapter introduces the theoretical concepts, which will be used. In discussing the theoretical problems, M. Galabova shows her knowledge not only of concepts, but also of their context, of the theoretical network from which they are a part.

The next two chapters of the dissertation are interpretations of Bodor's novels. They highlight the Monika Galabova's ability to read the literary text carefully, to dwell on the particularities of the text itself without rushing to generalizations and conclusions. This does not mean, however, that the analysis of the work doesn't rest on theoretical propositions, that it believes in the innocent

self-forgetful surrender of the written word. Theory does not hinder the reading. On the contrary, it makes it more focused, more sensitive to the oddities and paradoxes of the work.

This is exactly how it is in Monika Galabova's dissertation. The concepts of "chronotope", "heterotopia" and "semiosphere" allow the dissertation to highlight better the relation of Bodor's novels to the experience of the border and the periphery. Very often in literary studies this experience is presented in a positive way. The frontier is seen as an opportunity, as an opening of new perspectives. In Monika Galabova's reading of Bodor's novels, it is rather the opposite. Here the border and the periphery are a source of negativity. They cause identity crisis, value chaos, confusion of ideas.

The dissertation abstract faithfully reflects the contributions and content of the dissertation.

I appeal to the esteemed scientific jury to propose to the Academic Council to award to Monika Galabova the degree of Doctor in the scientific field 2.1. Philology.

22. 06. 2022

.....

(Moris Fadel)