

OPINION

with regard to the dissertation paper of Tsvetelina Petrova Tsvetanova-Tsaneva on the topic:

“Linguistical and culturological markers for national identity in the language of young Bulgarians from Bessarabia” for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree

“Philosophy doctor”

in field 2. Humanitarian sciences, professional field 2.1. Philology (General and comparative linguistics)

from ass. Prof. Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peycheva, PhD

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1. Data about the competition

I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury on the defence of the dissertation paper of Tsvetelina Petrova Tsvetanova-Tsaneva by Order of the Dean of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky”. I do not find any data about discrepancies in the procedure. The PhD candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for scientific field 2. Humanitarian sciences, professional field 2.1. Philology (General and comparative linguistics) and the requirements of LDASRB, the Implementing rules of LDASRB and the Rules on the conditions and order for acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic posts at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky”.

2. Data about the candidate

Tsvetelina Petrova Tsvetanova-Tsaneva is a PhD candidate on General and comparative linguistics at the Faculty on Slavonic philologies, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky”. She is reported with right to defence a dissertation paper and her paper has been successfully discussed in the mentioned initial unit.

3. Features of the dissertation paper and the scientific contributions in it

3.1. Actuality of the developed scientific topic

The topic of the dissertation paper is related to the problems, which in the last decades have been developed in the Bulgarian linguistic community – the language and the national

identity of the Bulgarians, living in other countries. Under the conditions of globalization and world migrant movements, the issue for the existence of a national identity, preserved in the linguistic and linguo-culturological realizations of representatives of the Bulgarian diaspora is becoming extremely actual. The present study applies another type of methodology and statistical analysis, by which enriches the developments, made so far.

3.2. Knowledge on the state of the developed issue in the scientific literature

The dissertation paper shows very good knowledge on the state of the studies on the relation between language and national identity. Step by step were analysed main concepts and scientific terms, connected with the identity and to the relation language – identity. Special attention is drawn to the linguoculturological approach in the study by representing terms as *language picture of the world, language personality etc.* Important place in the chosen topic is for the developments especially on the role of the language for building the identity, which the PhD candidate examines in a separate paragraph.

Tsvetanova-Tsaneva represents also the ethnolinguistic theory about the identity of Jiles, which interprets the issue whether the individual connects more with the people, with whom he speaks a common language or with those, with whom shares common geographical territory. The representatives of the ethnolinguistic theory consider that on one side, a person may individually choose more prestigious group, by which to identify himself. This could happen if the vitality of the ethnic group is low and this depends on external factors. On the other hand they claim that even disappearing hereditary languages may mobilize their members and may restore the feeling for prestigious belonging to the ethnical language and respectively – to the ethnic group. These concepts appear a theoretical basis of the questionnaire, by which are studied the factors on the establishment of the linguistic personality of the young Bulgarians abroad in the dissertation paper.

3.3. Analysis of the methods and material, on which are built the contributions in the dissertation paper

In the introduction have been correctly established the object, the subject, the goals and aims of the study. A good impression makes the selection of a modern methodology, which comprises: 1. Free associative experiment (CAE); 2. Semi-structured interview (Face-to-face); 3. Oral history method (Oral history); 4. Text analysis; 5. Content analysis; 6. Linguo-culturological analysis; 7. Statistical methods for data development and examination of the hypotheses – use of statistical electronic program SPSS 16.0.

The empirical material on which is based the dissertation paper and by which are reached the goals of the study, has been excerpted from RBE, BNC and from questionnaires, interviews and essays of 40 Besarabian Bulgarians from Moldova and Ukraine, aged 15 – 25 years old.

On the grounds of that material is analysed the ethnical and national identity of young Bulgarians, born in Moldova and Ukraine, by seeking the linguistic and culturological markers, which identify it. This means that an interest appears the linguistic personality of respondents between 15 - 25 years old. This linguistic personality, established in a situation of many languages, bears the signs of the identity of the language, which (it) speaks by priority. Therefore the connection between a language and an identity is of significant importance for that study.

.3.4. Importance of the scientific contributions in the dissertation paper

The dissertation paper comprises 249 pages and consists of an introduction, four main chapters, conclusion, quoted literature and attachments. The individual parts are very well structured, there exist thematic and logical connections between them.

After first chapter, which is devoted to a review of the scientific literature and clarification of the scientific terminology, in second chapter “Model for study of the linguoculturological markers of the national identity of young Bulgarians, born abroad” , the study concentrates on:

- The nomination ways – by which means the young person names himself/herself (I am X), the nomination of the other person (I am X, he/she is Y), as well as the nomination of the idea for a relative.
- Interpretation and awareness of concepts with specificity.
- Place of the fatherland as a value in the consciousness of young people, born abroad.
- Importance of the national identity in the system of values of the young person.

All these aspects are examined in and through the language, which speak the young Bulgarians from the diaspora in Moldova and Ukraine.

The authors presents the main method on collecting the data in the survey – the free associative experiment as well as the methods in the data processing – content analysis, conceptual analysis and statistical analyses. The linguistic analysis shows clearly to what extent the Bulgarian language appears main language in establishing Bulgarian national identity abroad and the content analysis and conceptual analysis show to what extent all the other factors

like traditions, family background, education, religious community etc., matter for the established identity of the youngsters.

In chapter third „Research methods and tools“ Tsvetanova-Tsaneva describes in details the methods of the free associative experiment, the semi-structured interview, the content and text analysis as well as the statistical methods of processing the results.

Chapter forth „Analysis of the results of the study, held with young Bulgarians from Moldova“ has the greatest extent of contribution in the dissertation paper. The examined 18 words and their associative reactions show definitely that the young Bulgarians in Moldova have a conception of the world and mentality the same as these are for all bearers of the Bulgarian language within Bulgaria. The terms are grouped in several main bodies and appear archetypes of the Bulgarian sphere of concepts. One of the groups unites division of the space – these are the concepts *home, mountain, river, border and fatherland*. Another group are concepts, related to time – *evening, morning, winter*. Third group appears the relations between the people – *mom, man, father, family, friend, head*. Forth group comprises the colours as symbolic for the Bulgarian concept about the world – *white, red*. Within the last group may fall also terms, related to the wordly philosophy – *good and fate*.

The associations by pictures and symbols add new data and summaries to the analysis. When combined with the interpretation of the essays of the respondents, they provide grounds for the important conclusions in the dissertation paper.

Very typical for the Bulgarian diaspora in Moldova and Ukraine is the Bulgarian ethnic self-consciousness at clearly stated fatherland, different from Bulgaria. The data from the study do not show that this fact shakes the Bulgarian ethnic belonging, particularly clearly stated also in the texts of the essays, which are created as a third module in the study.

The nominations, classified in individual lexical-semantic lines result in claiming that the concept *fatherland* in the consciousness of the young Bulgarians in Moldova and Ukraine is of great importance. The Bulgarian national identity not only corresponds to the idea for a fatherland, different from Bulgaria, but it also brings an archaic relation to the fatherland as to a sacred essence, which appears a product of the upbringing in the community.

The dissertation paper has contributions and develops important and actual issues by using an cross-disciplinary approach. It would be good in case of a future publication to be taken into consideration my remarks in the report for the preliminary discussion of the paper

(quotation by original source, not by any other author; mentioning of already existing linguoculturological studies of *home, fate* etc. upon the content analysis of the results).

3.5. Publications under the dissertation paper

Five scientific articles were published under the topic of the dissertation paper. These publications have given a chance of the scientific community to get familiar with major aspects of the study.

3.6. Abstract of the dissertation paper

The abstract meets the structure of the dissertation paper and reflects correctly its achievements. The scientific contributions present adequately the positive results from the study.

4. Conclusion

Following the analysis of the scientific contributions of the dissertation paper and their importance for the linguistic science, I definitely propose Tsvetelina Tsvetanova-Tsaneva to be awarded with the scientific and educational degree „Philosophy doctor“ with regard to the dissertation paper, „Linguistic and culturological markers for national identity in the language of the young Bulgarians from Besarabia“ .

Opinion made by: ass. Prof. Kalina Micheva- Peicheva, PhD

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