

Review by prof. dr. Naser Pajaziti  
for the doctoral thesis of Yllka Imeri

## **THE VOCAL SYSTEM OF THE ALBANIAN SUBDIALECT IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY**

The candidate Yllka Imeri is a full-time teaching assistant at the University “Fehmi Agani” in Gjakova, and a part-time teaching assistant at the University “Isa Boletini” in Mitrovica, and the University “Ukshin Hoti” in Prizren where she teaches the Albanian language courses. She has submitted her doctoral work titled “THE VOCAL SYSTEM OF THE ALBANIAN SUBDIALECT IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY”, and, as a committee member, I have had the pleasure to read it, therefore, I present this

### **REVIEW**

This doctoral thesis, researched by the candidate Yllka Imeri, is the result of a zealous scrutiny carried out with all the professional and scientific care required for this level of researching a problem, viewed from the perspective of doctoral studies. However, due to the nature of this review, we shall not focus so much on certain details of the candidate’s work, but we cannot avoid mentioning, in general lines of course, the impression we have been left with by the candidate’s work in regard to her approach, research as well as the explication of the topic of this doctoral thesis in order to achieve concrete results.

The candidate has divided the work into four parts. In the first part, the candidate has included the introduction and the methodological aspect of her study; in the second part, she has dealt with the subdialect of Bujanovc and its surroundings, acoustic and experimental phonetics and the results of the Praat program, calculated via the SPSS program, as well as the graffiti derived from the Excel program, whereas in the third part, she has dealt with the subdialect of the Presevo Valley and its surroundings, acoustic and experimental phonetics and the results of the Praat program, calculated via the SPSS program, as well as the graffiti derived from the Excel program. The fourth part is dedicated to the lexical aspect, namely the foreign borrowed words that have found their use in the Presevo Valley subdialect, comparing them and their use in the Gheg dialect with Standard Albanian.

In this study, the candidate has focused more on the experimental aspect since this is an aspect that has not been dealt with so far, therefore, such an approach is an object of study for the first time.

In this study, the candidate has drawn the conclusions that the subdialect of the Presevo Valley has the following linguistic characteristics:

- replacement of the vowel /y/ with the vowel /i/;
- pronunciation of vowel and consonant phonemes according to the spoken norm of Standard Albanian in several settlements of the Presevo Valley and the use of long vowels in several settlements of the Presevo Valley;
- there is a number of borrowed words from Serbian, Turkish, and lately from English in the subdialect of the Presevo Valley;
- concerning the adstratum as a linguistic feature developed in a language under the influence of a neighbouring language, there is a reflection of adstratum on the phoneme /y/ which due to the contact with speakers of Serbian sustains an occasional alteration and is changed to /i/;
- according to the achieved results that Imeri has observed after every finished part concerning the subdialects, we can draw the conclusion that an amplitude of a certain frequency at a certain moment is represented by the intensity of the colour light (the shades);
- regarding the borrowings, in the Presevo Valley and its surroundings the number of words borrowed from the Turkish language is dominant, whereas in Bujanovc and its surroundings, Imeri has presented more words borrowed from the Serbian language;
- the research corpus indicates the inclusion of phonetic - dialectical units within the scientific work realised with different linguistic tools. This study conducted by Imeri is entirely supported by the respondents' interviews from an Albanian-speaking territory which has been disregarded in all respects, starting with the economic as well as the political ones;
- the subdialect of the Presevo Valley belongs to the Northeastern Gheg subdialect, consequently, it coincides with other subdialects of this group. Nevertheless, even though the subdialect that is the object of this study coincides with other subdialects of the group, as a distant subdialect and quite isolated from other Albanian-speaking territories, it has managed to preserve a range of linguistic features whose study is of tremendous interest for the dialectology of Albanian in general and the subdialects of Northeastern Gheg in particular.

In view of all that we have said above, we can conclude that the doctoral thesis of the candidate Yllka Imeri, titled "THE VOCAL SYSTEM OF THE ALBANIAN SUBDIALECT IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY", has been thoroughly researched with the necessary methodological apparatus and literature, and it testifies the said candidate's professional preparation and maturity especially in the field of experimental phonetics. Therefore, it is my pleasure to affirm that the doctoral thesis "THE VOCAL SYSTEM OF THE ALBANIAN SUBDIALECT IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY" of the candidate Yllka Imeri for the title "Doctor in Philology".