

REVIEW

by Dr. Gergana Kirilova Dacheva, Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree 'doctor'

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional field 2.1. Philology

doctoral program Bulgarian Language (Sociolinguistics)

Author: Dimitria Angelova Marinkova

Topic: Typological characteristics of the language situation in the city of Plovdiv

Doctoral student: full-time education

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Krasimira Aleksova

1. General description of the submitted materials

By order No. PD-38-174/21.03.2025 of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" I have been appointed as a reviewer and chairman of the scientific jury for ensuring a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic: "Typological characteristics of the linguistic situation in the city of Plovdiv" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree 'doctor' in area 2. Humanities of higher education, professional field 2.1. Philology, doctoral program Bulgarian Language (Sociolinguistics).

The author of the dissertation is Dimitriya Marinkova - a doctoral student in a full-time form of study at the Department of Bulgarian Language with a scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Krasimira Aleksova.

2. Brief biographical data of the doctoral student

Dimitria Marinkova holds a bachelor's degree (2007) in Bulgarian Philology and a master's degree in Contemporary Bulgarian Studies (2015) from the Paisii Hilendarski University. She is a doctoral student in the period 2021-2025 at the Department of Bulgarian Language of Sofia University with the scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Krasimira Aleksova. She works as a teacher of Bulgarian language and literature.

3. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The choice of topic is very productive in view of the unexplored current trends in the development of the language situation in the city of Plovdiv. The topic is relevant and interesting, and the work contributes to the state of the language situation in Plovdiv. The good structuring of the study, the coherent and logical composition of the text and the conclusions that the doctoral

student draws are impressive. The material under consideration is presented in tabular form and contributes to the good perception of the analyses.

4. Knowledge of the problem

The doctoral student has coped excellently with the tasks she has set herself, approaching the chosen issue independently and creatively. Dimitria Marinkova shows skills in analyzing the collected material and the obtained results, comparing the individual elements of the analysis and synthesizing the observations made. The work shows the author's interest in the chosen issue, although it is complex, which is expressed in the seriousness and depth of the research, analysis and conclusions made.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation work

The work is 278 pages long and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The introduction presents the object and subject of the study, as well as the goals, objectives and methods of collecting and processing the empirical material.

The first chapter presents the theoretical foundations of the study of the main object in the dissertation work; concepts and linguistic phenomena related to the language situation (in particular, that in the city of Plovdiv) are analyzed from a sociolinguistic point of view - national and official language, literary language and its differential features, literary norm and codification of the norm, dialect, mesolect, diglossia and bilingualism, etc.; a conceptual review and analysis of existing definitions of the concept of "language situation" is offered, as well as some typological classifications of language situations established in sociolinguistics. Dimitria Marinkova demonstrates an ability to summarize and critically review existing research on the topic, as well as to conceptualize theoretically important concepts in linguistics.

The second chapter examines the typological characteristics of the contemporary language situation in the city of Plovdiv. Here, the emphasis is placed on the analyses of the historical development of linguistic diversity, the ethnic structure of the population and its relationship with the language situation, the demographic power of languages, their distribution and social role, their legal status and prestige according to the attitudes of surveyed Plovdiv residents. The doctoral student has analyzed and summarized the data on various indicators from researchers before her, as well as her own survey studies, in order to outline the tendencies in the development and the current state of the language situation. There are also interesting comparisons of data over ten years, with the analysis of which we can draw conclusions regarding the changes in the language situation in the city of Plovdiv. In my opinion, this chapter is the most useful for research, because the doctoral student's skills in analyzing and synthesizing the observations made and the extracted data are evident.

The third chapter presents the results of the empirical research conducted, including interviews among residents of Plovdiv. This part analyzes the factors that influence the linguistic behavior of Plovdiv residents, as well as their attitudes and social stereotypes related to the use of different

languages. In my opinion, this chapter is also a contribution, because here the trends in the contemporary state of the linguistic situation in Plovdiv are visible.

The final part of the dissertation systematizes the main conclusions of the study and outlines the trends in the development of the language situation in Plovdiv. The analysis provides empirical evidence for the social dynamics of languages in the city, revealing the role of different languages in urban communication. The study contributes not only to the expansion of sociolinguistic research in Bulgaria, but also to a better understanding of language processes in multicultural urban environments. I fully agree with Dimitria Marinkova's conclusion that "the present work offers a comprehensive view of the linguistic diversity of Plovdiv, integrating theoretical analysis and empirical data. This allows for a more in-depth study of the language situation in the city in its historical development and contemporary state according to the selected typological features."

The bibliographical units that are indicated are 53, and the work shows that they were used, cited and analyzed for the purposes of the study.

The contributions that Dimitria Marinkova has indicated are 7. I believe that there is no overestimation or underestimation of the study – they are correctly derived by the author.

The publications are three and correspond in points to the national minimum requirements for the ONS "doctor". There is also one publication in print.

I believe that the doctoral student has done a lot of work, especially in collecting and processing the empirical material, as well as in the analyses and generalizations made.

In conclusion, I believe that the doctoral student Dimitria Marinkova has excellently fulfilled the research tasks she set for herself. She approached the chosen topical topic with independence and thoroughness, carefully presented her observations and analyses on the voluminous excerpted material, and made serious and purposeful conclusions. The author writes with understanding and seriousness, knows how to structure the text excellently and convincingly defends her theses. The work is a contribution and enriches sociolinguistic research in our country, complementing the general picture of the language situation with that of the city of Plovdiv.

6. Abstract

The abstract presents the work in a more abbreviated form, but is completely comprehensive and presents the work without gaps in content. It fully complies with the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

The documents prepared after the plagiarism check through the plagiarism system show that the work is independent and there is no evidence of plagiarism.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, applied and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the Regulations of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dimitria Marinkova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills, demonstrating the qualities for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by a dissertation, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree of 'doctor' to Dimitria Marinkova in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, doctoral program Bulgarian Language (Sociolinguistics).

Reviewer:

(Prof. Dr. Gergana Dacheva)