

## REVIEW

of Radoslava Koleva's dissertation

on the topic: **THE LANGUAGE IMAGE OF CRIME IN THE BULGARIAN AND  
POLISH LANGUAGES**

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional field: 2.1 Philology (Bulgarian language – lexicology)

Research supervisor: Assoc. Dr. Nadezhda Stalyanova

By Order No. RD – 38 – 658 of 15.12. 2023, by the rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for awarding the scientific and educational degree "doctor" to Radoslava Koleva. I am familiar with all the documentation regarding the procedure, including the results of the anti-plagiarism program, and I can categorically summarize that all the requirements of the Law on Academic Development, as well as the Rules of SU for its implementation, have been complied with.

I'll start my review with two must-have props for this scientific genre. The first element is related to a brief biographical presentation of the doctoral student. Radoslava Koleva was born in Sofia in 1990. She completed her secondary education at the Second English Language High School "Thomas Jefferson". In 2009, she was admitted to the University of Saint Kliment Ohridski, profile "Polish Philology", and in 2014 she graduated with honours in the specialty. He also acquired a pedagogical profile within her master's studies. In 2019, she participated in a competition for enrollment in a free-form doctoral program and after an excellent performance, she was enrolled in the scientific-educational degree. She attended the courses of the Doctoral School at the Faculty of Slavic Philology. Her report "Metaphorization of the Object and the Subject in the Crime of Human Trafficking in the Polish and Bulgarian Languages" was awarded second place during a scientific conference for students and doctoral students at the "Neofit Rilski" South-Western University. The breadth of her scientific interests also led her to publications in the Literary Journal, where her texts were very well received by readers<sup>1</sup>. Fluent in Polish, English and basic German.

The second element is related to the structure of the dissertation, which consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices. Its total volume amounts to 231 pages, of which 25 pages are a bibliography and 2 appendices. The

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<sup>1</sup> Through the twists and turns of the mind in Elena Koleva's debut novel, LV, no. 26, year 30, July 7-13, 2021

bibliography covers 357 bibliographic units and sources in Bulgarian and Polish. The literature used is completely satisfactory, the views of significant figures from the field of cognitive linguistics are not omitted, the presentation of the issues is exhaustive and thorough. A special place, as Assoc. Prof. Dilyana Dencheva emphasizes in her review of the discussion of the dissertation work, is given to the Polish cognitive circle (the so-called Lublin school with representatives J. Bartminski, R. Tokarski, A. Pajjinska, etc.), which is very important in view of the fact that the Polish language is one of the members of the studied comparative pair. 5 publications on the topic of the dissertation were reported, published mostly after presenting the reports at conferences and scientific forums. Radoslava Koleva has presented her scientific contributions at conferences for students and doctoral students at the University of Plovdiv and at the “Neofit Rilski” University, and as a member of the jury at the PU I had the opportunity to listen to Radoslava's presentation and her participation in the discussions after the presentation of the text, in which she decently and convincingly defends her hypotheses with many examples and with theoretical arguments. To all this, I will also add the worthy presentation of the scientific work during the internal discussion in the Department of Bulgarian Language of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” an overview of cognitive linguistics, phraseology and others, the majority of which Koleva took into account in the final version of the text.

I will begin the main part of my review with a sentence that is perhaps better suited to the concluding part, but is by no means out of place in the introduction. The topic is very successful for two reasons: it meets phenomena from the legal world, making sense of them in the field of linguistics and refracting them through current theories that have become popular in our country in recent years. The second reason is, of course, the comparative element. Bulgarian linguistics in its historical growth and in its dynamic development has repeatedly shown how important it is to compare linguistic phenomena in our country with other languages - Slavic and non-Slavic. In this case, the comparison was prompted by similar social motives related to crime in both countries. The phenomenon of *human trafficking*<sup>2</sup>, as

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<sup>2</sup> I support the recommendation of Prof. Dilyana Dencheva, that the work would gain even more if a place was allocated to clarify the concept of human trafficking in the Bulgarian and Polish languages, as well as to add the equivalent in English. Technically, this can easily be done using the site [eur-lex.europa.eu](http://eur-lex.europa.eu). The expanded clarification of the concept is necessary due to the known differences in Bulgarian and Polish terminology: in Polish, *przemyt ludzi* i *handel ludzmi* are used, and in Bulgarian, *traffic*, *channeling* and others are distinguished depending on the types of traffic, which the author of the dissertation summarized: human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, trafficking of children for the purpose of begging, pickpocketing and other illegal activities, trafficking of pregnant women for the

emphasized during the internal departmental discussion by associate professor Dilyana Dencheva, and a number of other types of crimes, are a relatively new phenomenon in Bulgarian reality, which implies a short history of research interest in it from a linguistic point of view. We have witnessed the recent increase in the growth of this crime, and that is why it is present almost daily on the news broadcasts on the radio and on the telephone. More and more people fall victim to this "service", and unfortunately, there are not a few who actually lose their lives after painful and inhumane conditions during the "journey". I would define this as trading in human life; as a modern form of buying and selling, applied to people who flee from one cruel reality to face another, perhaps no less cruel, and to pay in not a few cases with their lives for the purely human aspiration for freedom and normal life. The crime is also reflected in the legal basis of the EU member states, as well as in the European legislation itself (Regulation 2011/36/UE). This is a serious proof of the importance of the problem, which in turn is an occasion for research on its linguistic side as well. It is important to emphasize here not only the comparative Bulgarian-Polish linguistic element, but also the rapprochement of linguistic reality with legal matter, which expands both theoretically and practically the territories of language and law, strengthening interdisciplinarity and expanding the field of action of linguistics and of its universal application to/in everything that surrounds man and his world. Some of the findings in the research will be useful for both linguistics and legal science, but can also be used for journalistic needs when covering crime in the national media.

The theory of linguistic picture of the world and the theory of metaphor enter the role of basic theoretical foundation in the first two chapters. **The first chapter** of the dissertation research presents a summary of the theoretical model for the linguistic picture of the world, which is based on very serious and thorough generalizations. Familiarity with the postulates of cognitive linguistics, within which the concept of a linguistic picture of the world is located, makes a particularly good impression. The history of the concept, its development as a scientific object and the schools distinguished in the process of the crystallization of concepts about it are traced. It seems to me that in her quest to present as many concepts for the theory as possible, the PhD student missed the opportunity to present a concept of her own. There remains the feeling of a description of concepts in which dialogue was not sought in the clarification of the basic theoretical model. In recent years, numerous studies have appeared in

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purpose of selling their newborn children, human trafficking for the purpose of selling body organs , tissues and eggs.

Bulgarian linguistics on the topic of the linguistic picture of the world, and some of them, in my opinion, do not show an understanding of its essence, including in it elements that are not a suitable illustration of the theory. In the dissertation, it would be good to devote more space to the reception of this theory in Bulgarian linguistics. On the other hand, the theory is already so widely applied in our country that a mere description would not help to see the contributions of Bulgarian linguists in adapting this theory to the Bulgarian language. Here I will note with regret that perhaps the thought expressed by Prof. V. Popova is still relevant, that there is no Bulgarian scientific doctrine that has established itself in world linguistics. I will add one more important idea expressed during the internal discussion and related to phraseology as an element of conceptualization in the linguistic picture of the world and to its reconstruction with the help of phraseological expressions that preserve old ideas, stereotypes, patterns of behaviour, and. customs. Since the phenomenon described in the dissertation is too young to acquire a phraseological apparatus, such expressions are not described in the dissertation: the only phraseology that fits into the picture of human trafficking *is bet on a card*. The observation of the formation of phraseology, as well as their absence due to the specificity of the analysed phenomenon, should be noted in the study and/or observed as a process: either of forming new expressions, or as the use of already established phraseology with a new function.

The other theoretical problem, to which an entire section is devoted in **chapter two**, is the problem of metaphor. I am deeply convinced that Bulgarian linguistics still owes a comprehensive study dedicated to metaphor. The presentation of the metaphor in Radoslava Koleva's dissertation shows the efforts of the doctoral student to understand the essence of the linguistic phenomenon. A phenomenon that is very complex. A phenomenon that occupies the territory of many other stylistic figures and tropes. A phenomenon that also has its very important functions in rhetoric. The views of metamorphologist researchers (as Dilyana Dencheva used) from around the world, such as Lakoff and Johnson, Osborne, Dobzhinska, Richards, Black, etc., are precisely presented and cited. An essential contribution of the work is that the dialogue is presented in which the postulates of cognitive linguistics correspond with the ideas of conceptual metaphor. It seems to me that here, too, the doctoral student did not have the courage to propose her own concept and attempt a typology of this complex linguistic phenomenon. The examples provide an opportunity to make a broken theoretical framework to collect a tool

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(one abstract concept is represented by the image of another, it is not necessary and mandatory that it has all the structural elements of the source (not all elements from the source sphere are used in the target sphere); Metaphor for Lakoff and Johnson is basic a tool of the human conceptual system, which is based on lived (bodily and cultural) experience - these are spatial orientation, ontological entities and structured (physical) activities in space, the interaction between individuals in the community in the cultural space and the interaction of individual units with the material world ; Metaphor in Lakoff and Johnson's theory is understood as a basic mechanism by which a person perceives abstract concepts and formulates abstract thinking, as a set of stable correspondences between the source sphere and the target sphere; Conceptual metaphor builds human thinking, lies at the basis of building the metaphorical models and vol glorifies the reality in which the individual exists<sup>3</sup>. The conclusions at the end of the two chapters are particularly valuable in the part that deals with the comparison of the linguistic picture of the world in the Polish and Bulgarian languages.

**The third chapter** of the dissertation at first glance seems incomplete and overly descriptive, which, in my opinion, is due to the specifics of the legal matter. However, this part of the dissertation, apart from being a transition to the problem, has the function of creating a context and presenting the legislative framework that governs the nature of the crime, and this is a prerequisite for developing its linguistic manifestations, placing *human trafficking* in a text from an administrative - the business (legal substyle<sup>4</sup>) functional style and giving it a terminological rank. This chapter is dedicated to the legal acts that regulate the crime of human trafficking in the Republic of Bulgaria (Criminal Code of the Republic of Bulgaria (Art. 159 a, b, c, d, Art. 280), Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the European Convention of the Council of Europe on combating human trafficking, etc.) and the legal acts that regulate the crime of human trafficking in the Republic of Poland (Constitution of the Republic of Poland (Art. 31, as well as Art. 65), National Action Program against human trafficking, Criminal Code of the Republic of Poland (Art. 8, Art. 115, Art. 189, Art. 191, Art. 203, Art. 204, Art. 253). As the doctoral student notes, this chapter does not seek legal comprehensiveness, but it is necessary because only things of great importance for human beings are metaphorized, such as the crime of human trafficking, criminalized since 2002-2003.

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<sup>3</sup> Quoted from Dissertation Research pp. 77-78.

<sup>4</sup> Here it is appropriate to note that perhaps it is time in Bulgarian linguistics to rethink the classic typology of functional styles in the language, since the so-called substyles very "aggressively" expand their parameters in written and spoken speech, and this is a prerequisite for the rethinking of the structure and the names of the so-called styles.

All this means that the crime is a relatively new phenomenon and ... understood as a criminal manifestation in the consciousness of society, is metaphorized.

**Chapter four** essentially unfolds the metaphorical models of the crime of *human trafficking* in media language. The observations of Radoslava Koleva, based on the theoretical experience of researches that are key to the metaphorical model, are very true. The term metaphorical pattern, as the doctoral student notes, is observed in the comparative analysis of metaphors from several languages or within one language. Each specific metaphor could be considered as a manifestation of a more general type (with Lakoff and Johnson, as well as with R. Gyps called a *conceptual (or structural) metaphor*, with A. Baranov, Yu. Karaulov, D. Dobrovolsky a *metaphorical model*, with Telia (following the example of A. Zholkovsky) – *developing a metaphor (or strengthening a metaphor)* (Lakoff, Johnson 1980/ 2003; Baranov, Karaulov 1994; Dobrovolskyi 1996:71; Zholkovsky 1962:170; Telia 1988:203) Join completely to one of Dilyana Dencheva's recommendations, that in the section on metaphorical models it would be good to use concepts from cognitive linguistics such as **conceptosphere** - source, sphere of purpose and to unite them by conceptspheres. The dissertation is cognitive in its nature and in its main part can be enriched with more concepts from **conceptual metaphor theory**. Many of these conceptualizations are quite conventional. Human masses, for example, are traditionally conceptualized using concepts from the conceptual sphere of water: *current, river, sea of people, wave and others* (summary and examples are by Dencheva). Presented in this chapter are functional orders and generalized examples of metaphorical types that represent the variety of figurative language models that illustrate the characteristics and essence of the crime in Bulgaria and Poland. This chapter also shows the wealth of examples with which the doctoral student works and which guarantee the objectivity of any linguistic research. The collected empirical material illustrates the depth of the analysis and the credibility of the conclusions. The aspiration to a wide discursive palette of conceptualizations and the identification of a linguistic representation of the concept of *human trafficking* in the media discourse, and in the fifth chapter a cognitive explanation in the form of a survey and first-person narratives of the victims, are praised.

**The fifth chapter**, as it is clear from the preceding sentences, examines the linguistic worldview of human trafficking in the linguistic consciousness of Bulgarian and Polish speakers and conceptualization of the linguistic worldview in everyday discourse through the study of metaphorization patterns in everyday conversation. The doctoral student approaches this research with the hypothesis that the conclusions made in studies regarding the models of metaphorization of the linguistic picture of the crime of human trafficking in journalistic texts

are limited only in the media environment and do not go beyond it. The survey conducted and its results disprove these assumptions. The survey results confirm the metaphorization schemes described in chapter four. The conclusions of the summaries in the surveys show a harmonization between the directions of making sense of journalistic and conversational discourse. Metaphorization in the same direction is observed between the journalistic discourse and the survey: human trafficking is trade, barter, slavery, exploitation. All this gives reason to formulate the conclusion that this crime was established relatively recently in the legal systems of the two studied languages, but it clearly reflects important processes in public life and is therefore subject to a metaphorical description.

The chapter that unfolds another personal contribution of the PhD student is **chapter six**. It is devoted to the lexical parameters of the victim of human trafficking through first-person narratives. This is extremely important and valuable for the conclusions in the dissertation and for the objectivity of the generalizations made. Metaphorical models are derived based on personal narratives of the victim of the crime of *human trafficking* and take the form of interviews conducted between an interviewer and the person subject to the crime, in front of the lens of a camera, and placed on the pages of media or on social platforms; personal confessions of the victim of the crime of *human trafficking*, in the form of text, placed on the pages of the media; personal stories shared incognito, the face of the victim of the crime is hidden, only her voice is heard. The total number of personal narratives is also sufficient – 28 (15 in Bulgarian and 13 in Polish for the period 2012-2021). The analysed volume of personal stories (narrative interviews) from the first person by people, direct participants and victims of the crime of human trafficking in the Bulgarian and Polish languages, set common and already known from previous studies in the dissertation work trends regarding the linguistic representation of this crime, namely – **human trafficking is trade, human trafficking is slavery, human trafficking is hunting**.

The conclusions that the doctoral student makes in this chapter are particularly important. They show a skill for scientific generalization on observed facts, so I will take the liberty of quoting them in detail:

- in the Bulgarian and Polish languages, the crime of human trafficking is metaphorized as a **profitable trade in goods** (human bodies) between a trader and a trader or between a trader and a buyer (*handlarz rudumi i pimp*). The objects of human trafficking are items of value and value (they are put on display (displayed in shop windows), they are used for exchange, they are a means of buying and selling. The analyzed fragments confirm the metaphorical schemes in the Bulgarian and Polish languages - the traffic of people **is trade**,



**slavery, hunting** - as completely sustainable, because they also appear in already researched discourses - journalistic texts, surveys.

- during the analysis of the examined personal stories in the Bulgarian and Polish languages, lexical-semantic fields stand out for the first time, which are richly illustrated. This is explained by the fact that the main means of coercion into sexual and labor exploitation are violence by the exploiter towards the victim. The lexical examples used by victims of human trafficking are **expressive, emphasizing pain and suffering**. These examples, as the PhD student points out, are not metaphors, but they are valuable for the study because they are part of the narrative of the victims of human trafficking and confirm that metaphorization is only observed in the texts of the media discourse and in the results of the survey on the topic, presented in the last chapters of the dissertation work<sup>5</sup>.

At the end of the review, I would like to summarize some of the **recommendations** that were made at the discussion in the Department of Bulgarian Language and which I think can be further developed in a future study dedicated to the metaphor. The most important recommendation is to clarify terminological uses. As Dilyana Dencheva correctly noted during the discussion, it is important to clarify the concept of *linguistic* metaphor. In the Polish language, she notes, *metaphora językowa, pojęciowa, potoczna* are roughly the same and are opposed to artistic metaphor in the degree of conventionalization, and this calls for clarification regarding the expression linguistic metaphor. It is also necessary to clarify the concepts of *theme* and *metaphorical carrier*, because in fact they enter the Bulgarian language as copies of the Polish *temat* and *wydrón metaforyczny*, which are used for translation equivalents of *tenor* and *vehicle*; And another very important recommendation, again made by Dilyana Dencheva. It is necessary to reconsider item 1.1. from the second chapter. What is described as profiling the metaphor are actually concepts about profiling **in general**. The connection made between profiling in Bartmiski and Nebrzegowska's understanding and metaphor in Dencheva's thesis is that profiling can be seen as a mechanism for the emergence of metaphor. In view of this, this point should either be dismissed as irrelevant to the theory of metaphor, or corrected after a more detailed study of this thesis.

The text of the dissertation fully meets the requirements of the scientific functional style. As I noted at the beginning of the review, it is well structured, with very well thought out separate sections and subsections and a clear (in some places even hyper-fragmented) internal segmentation of the text. Citations, footnotes and bibliography meet modern requirements and

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<sup>5</sup> Dissertation, pp. \$\$\$

the text's need to objectify scientific conclusions, while tables and appendices illustrate the material, making it easier to understand. The language possesses all the characteristics of scientific discourse such as **terminology, precision, objectivity**, etc. Some spelling and punctuation errors have not been corrected, and this should not be allowed for a linguistic dissertation research.

And at the very end of the review, I would allow myself some personal impressions related to my work with the doctoral student in the Department of Bulgarian Language. She very conscientiously supports activities related to the editing, prepress and printing of the journals "Bulgarian Speech" and "Contemporary Linguistics"; participates in projects developed under the scientific supervision of Prof. Stalyanova; participates in conducting exams and assists in various scientific and teaching events in our department. This has nothing to do with the high scientific qualities of the dissertation work, but it is an important feature of the profile of a young researcher who has directed her interests to the field of linguistics. To a young scientist who comparatively further develops an actual problem and takes on the difficult task of theoretically and practically presenting it to the scientific community.

I am deeply convinced that Radoslava Koleva's research is serious scientific study, behind which are many collected examples, thousands of pages of scientific literature read and, above all, a strong interest in the development of the topic. In places it seems to me that the observations are not equally distributed towards the two languages, but this is actually determined by the number of rhymers that the PhD student analysed. Recommendations do not reduce the value and quality of the scientific work.

The abstract faithfully presents the content of the text, although it seems to me that in some places it "copies" it too fragmentarily at the expense of the analytical presentation, consistent with the characteristics of this genre.

The contributions are convincingly arranged and really reflect the innovations that the doctoral student has developed on the topic. In them, you can see the modesty typical of doctoral students in such cases, not to exceed the scientific dimensions of what they have achieved, and in this sense, it seems to me that Radoslava Koleva can more boldly make her generalizations about what has been achieved.

The publications on the subject of the dissertation have been presented, as I have already noted, at scientific forums for students and doctoral students at PU and at SWU, and some of them have been published in FSIF magazines such as "Bulgarian Speech".

The recommendations given do not generally reduce the value of the work and are, in any case, ideas for its improvement if the doctoral student decides to continue her research or to publish the dissertation as an independent monograph.

Based on the presented observations of the text, I believe that it adequately represents the doctoral student and her scientific supervisor - Assoc. Dr. Nadezhda Stalyanova; also represents the Department of Bulgarian Language at SU "Sveti Kliment Ohridski" with dignity. That is why I strongly recommend to the other members of the scientific jury to support the awarding of the scientific and educational degree "doctor" to Radoslava Koleva. I strongly vote FOR awarding the degree and wish the PhD student to continue with her studies in the field of comparative linguistics.

15/03/2023

Sofia

Reviewer:.....

Prof. Dr. Vladislav Milanov