

## OPINION

by Prof Anastasia Nicheva Petrova, PhD

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**Topic:** Origin and development of words expressing the emotion anger in the Ibero-Romance languages

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Demina Ivancheva participates in the competition for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, Higher education area 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Linguistics (General and Comparative Linguistics. Indo-European Linguistics) with a set of materials, which is in full compliance with Art. 67 (2) of the *Regulations on the Conditions and the Order for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions* at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Three articles on the topic of the dissertation are presented. Two of them are published in academic journals, which are indexed in the international database CEEOL. The PhD student meets the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Ivancheva's publishing activity is aimed at developing a problem in the field of the anthropocentric scientific paradigm and is related to the highly connoted field of negative emotions. It reflects the PhD student's interest in the emotional lexicon and phraseology in the Romance languages, understandable against the background of linguistic research in the field of emotions, which in recent decades has significantly expanded the perimeter of the investigated problems. Part of these scientific studies are an attempt to reconstruct the conceptualization of emotions during different periods of the development of a certain ethnoculture, and in them the etymology of the names is presented in a new cultural light. However, it should be noted that interpreting the concepts of emotions in different languages around the world is a complex and still unfinished process. Therefore, the dissertation is

distinguished by the relevance of the subject and opens up an opportunity for its author to make a scientific contribution.

The dissertation is a well-constructed study with a tight and logically created structure. The exposition and the attached bibliography prove the necessary awareness of the results of the research on emotions and current problems in the scientific field. The introduction introduces the purpose of the research by clearly formulating the goals, tasks and the chosen interdisciplinary approach. The object of attention are two closely related languages, examined against the background of other languages of the Ibero-Romance group (Catalan and Galician). The subject of research is a selected set of lexemes with the meaning 'anger' in the Portuguese and Spanish languages. The preliminary analysis of the basic concepts of the essence of emotion allows the PhD student to build her own research prism for interpreting the complex structured field of 'anger'.

In the study, a complex etymological analysis was applied, which combines the methods of phonetic, word-forming and semantic analysis. This research approach has the potential to lead to the earliest (pre-written) stage in the development of anger words. The analysis is placed on a well-considered theoretical foundation, with clearly delineated "access points" to the primary motivation of the lexemes. The heuristic power of the combination of a synchronic (typological) and a diachronic (comparative-historical) approach to linguistic material is realized. An attempt was made to present the set of meanings of each of the words as an organized hierarchical system - to consider each unit in its etymological nest (i.e. in a variety of word-forming relationships) and at the same time - in different paradigmatic (synonymous) relationships with other lexemes. From the diachronic semantic analysis, phonetic and word-forming reconstruction of the process of successive restoration of the previous meaning (meanings) of the word to its primary form is expected. The dynamics of the lexical meaning is highlighted, interpreted against the background of the general idea of language as a living, relatively complete, open and changing system. Applying such an approach allows delineating regular semantic transitions in the set of analyzed linguistic data.

Greater attention to the semantic aspect of the etymological analysis would benefit the quality of the dissertation. Already at the beginning of the presentation, the role of metaphor and metonymy as a main cognitive tool in the process of nomination and semantic development of tokens for anger was noted. This path to the deep structures of language could be used more confidently to reveal the interpretation of the world through the eyes of the speakers of each of the two cultures. It is known that formulating the features of the emotional vocabulary on a

wider background and its consideration as part of the general picture of the world allows drawing typological parallels and a network of associative connections between the field of emotions and intellectual activity, desires, physiological processes, etc. n. This fact opens up new perspectives for the etymologist, with the possibility of highlighting both universal and ethno-specific elements in languages and cultures.

The PhD student has discovered the importance of extralinguistic information related to the ontology of emotion for forming the lexical semantics of units in different discourses. An attempt has been made to use this information in the etymological analysis - cf. e.g. the references in the text to Latin *sanna* 'grimace, gesture' in the etymology of the words *saña* and *sanha* (p. 135) and to the yellow-green liquid in the etymological analysis of *cólera* (p. 41). But in the research methodology, the prototypical scenario of anger in the Spanish and Portuguese linguistic consciousness needs a clearer delineation in order to highlight certain signs in the semantic structure of the lexemes: the presence of a reason for the emergence of the emotion (this reason is not the concrete fact of reality, but the evaluation of this fact by reason); average intensity of emotion; presence / absence of emotion control; presence of the external manifestation of the emotion, etc.

The main "anti-systemic" processes in semantics, such as narrowing and expanding the semantic volume of the word, were already noted at the beginning of the dissertation work. They could receive a more detailed and systematic presentation in the analysis of the specific lexemes, collocations or phraseology. The study of polysemy is rightly defined as an important detail of etymological analysis, therefore, in the description of the semantic development of units, it is important to emphasize the characteristics of the specific processes of semantic changes, the logic of lexical development, the internal hierarchy of meanings in the semantic structure, etc. The dynamics of meaning as a hierarchical system of components has a specific appearance in the development of each linguistic unit. Therefore, the aspiration of the linguistic sign to change and disrupt the balance between signified and signified could be commented on more thoroughly in the text.

The mentioned recommendations do not reduce the value of the research carried out by Demina Ivancheva. The dissertation collected, systematized and analyzed rich linguistic material from several Romance languages. The paper also contributes to attracting scientific attention to the specific semantic field of emotions, still under-researched in all languages of the world. This

significant research work gives me the reason to propose to the Scientific Jury that PhD student Demina Ivancheva be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

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