

## STATEMENT

by Prof. Svetla Peneva Koeva, PhD,

Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. L. Andreychin” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
of the dissertation for the awarding of *Doctor habilitatus* in the field of higher education: 2. The  
humanities, professional area: 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian)

**Author of the dissertation: professor Krasimira Slavcheva Aleksova, PhD**

**Topic of the dissertation: *The dubitative in the modern Bulgarian language***

### 1. General overview of the procedure and all the materials submitted for reviewing

With Rector’s Order No ПД38-425 of 15.07.2022, issued by the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, I have been appointed a member of the scientific committee in relation to the procedure for the defence of the dissertation *The dubitative in the modern Bulgarian language*, written by professor **Krasimira Slavcheva Aleksova, PhD** at the Department of Bulgarian at the Faculty of Slavic studies of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for the awarding of the scientific degree *Doctor habilitatus* in the field of higher education: 2. The humanities, professional area: 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian).

The pack of materials prof. Krasimira Aleksova, PhD has presented for assessment is in full compliance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant regulation and comprises the following documents: curriculum vitae; copy of a certificate for holding the educational and scientific degree “doctor”; the text of the dissertation; an abstract (summary) of the dissertation; a list of the applicant’s publications relating to the topic of the dissertation; declaration certifying the originality and authenticity of the submitted documents. Prof. Krasimira Aleksova, PhD has presented 18 publications relating to the topic of the dissertation.

### 2. Short biodata

Prof. Krasimira Alexova has been delivering bachelor’s degree lecture courses in contemporary Bulgarian, she has taught master’s degree courses, and also Bulgarian language and culture at University of Provence “Aix-Marseille 1”, Aix-en-Provence, France. She is an active contributor to scientific projects and the coordinator of several scientific forums, which helps the field's scientific community grow.

### 3. Relevance and significance of the topic and adequacy of the aims and objectives

The dissertation “The dubitative in the modern Bulgarian” provides a comprehensive analysis of the meaning and forms of the dubitative as they relate to various typological, pragmatic, and syntagmatic designs. The author explicitly looks at the forms of the dubitative for various temporal and voice categories as well as the invariant meaning of the dubitative as part of the four-member category of evidentiality. The author examines typological indices for composition, syntheticity, analyticity, and semantic markedness of the components of the evidential microparadigms and situates the dubitative forms in relation to the other verb forms. The analysis also looks at how frequently the dubitative forms are used in various contexts, and the data provides evidence for a number of conclusions about the uncertainty or the propensity to converge with other forms.

It is significant to note that the relationship between the dubitative and the other verb categories is taken into account, providing a thorough classification of the verb categories in the Bulgarian language. All of this demonstrates that the study's goal: “to explore the dubitative in the modern Bulgarian language from a grammatical, typological, and pragmatic point of view” has been credi-

bly met. The dissertation can be described as a serious scientific study with analytically and skilfully presented analyses, comparisons, and summaries. The study's relevance is shown not only by the dearth of comprehensive research on the dubitative in Bulgarian, but also by the problem's complex presentation, which looks at both the semantics and the use of dubitative forms in various contexts.

#### **4. Knowledge of the problem**

Prof. Krasimira Alexova is one of the best specialists in the field of the contemporary Bulgarian language. The author has extensive knowledge of the subject, and her publications attest to a vested and enduring interest in the field. The bibliography section of the dissertation (235 references) is substantial and competently selected.

#### **5. Methodology of the research**

The work under consideration combines contemporary methods for theoretical description, such as comparative and semantic analysis, with empirical research techniques such as observation, comparison, and description, as well as an experiment, statistical methods for the calculation of typological indices of dubitative forms in the Bulgarian language.

#### **6. Description and evaluation of the dissertation**

The concepts of evidentiality and epistemic modality, as well as the position of the dubitative within these categories, are examined in the first chapter. There are four different types of opinions: those that support the independence of evidentiality and epistemic modality, those that support the joining of evidentiality to epistemic modality or the opposite, those that support partial overlap, and those that support the inclusion of evidentiality and epistemic modality in a superordinate category. In this way, a general framework for the study is established.

The semantics of the dubitative to indicate skepticism and uncertainty, as well as in relation to evaluativeness and emotionality, are covered in the second chapter. Based on a semantic analysis, it is concluded that the dubitative, which together with the indicative, conclusive, and renarrative constitutes the four-member verb category evidentiality, indicates hesitation, uncertainty, mistrust of the information in someone else's assertion, and not any kind of doubt. There is also an experiment that could be expanded in the future that looked at the hierarchical relationships between the four members of the evidentiality. A deliberate experiment with native speakers is an appropriate research method because some of the forms are relatively uncommon and rare.

The third chapter explores how the dubitative forms in contemporary Bulgarian are formed and what are the variations in their use. The rationale for the omission of certain forms out of the paradigm is examined along with some form-exact matches. It can be assumed that there will not be any instances of the dubitative forms in corpora with political or legislative speech. It is intriguing that some forms are not at all found on the Internet, though, and it would be helpful to know if these forms are regarded as merely hypothetical possibilities or actual members of the paradigm.

The fourth chapter investigates some pragmatic aspects of dubitative's use in Bulgarian. This demonstrates the author's effort to describe the topic at hand from every possible angle.

#### **7. Contributions of the dissertation to science**

The dissertation under assessment provides a thorough analysis of the dubitative in Bulgarian, setting the subject category in the context of other verb categories and looking at its usage in light of semantics. In general, the work is distinguished by thoroughness, clarity, comprehensiveness and has a contributing character. We believe that the entire study will have a big influence on how theoretical descriptions of Bulgarian grammar develop.

### **8. Assessment of the publications related to the topic of the dissertation**

There are 18 publications by Prof. K. Aleksova that are related to the dissertation and show the author's research on the subject from various angles and phases.

### **9. Personal participation of the applicant in the reviewed scientific works**

The dissertation under review is a result of an individual work and authorship.

### **10. Abstract of the dissertation**

The submitted abstract fairly and adequately presents a summary of the contents of the dissertation, the achieved results and the contributions made by the author. The abstract is 79 pages long and contains a summary of the dissertation and a list of the author's publications relating to the topic of the dissertation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation of professor Krasimira Aleksova, PhD contains essential observations, comparisons, analyses, conclusions and summaries, which are properly viewed as genuine contributions to science and fully meet the requirements stipulated by the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the relevant regulation.

In conclusion, with deep conviction I vouch my positive assessment for the research presented in the dissertation *The dubitative in the modern Bulgarian language* and the abstract accompanying it, as well as for the achieved results and contributions and propose to the respected members of the scientific committee to award professor Krasimira Slavcheva Aleksova, PhD the scientific degree *Doctor habilitatus* in the field of higher education: 2. The humanities, professional area: 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian).

15 September 2022

Reviewer: Prof. Svetla Koeva, PhD