

**Opinion on the candidature
of Dr. Bogdana Pascaleva
for the academic position of Associate Professor
in professional field 2.1. Philology
by Assoc.Prof. D.Sc. Moris Fadel, New Bulgarian University**

The monography of Dr. Bogdana Pascaleva "Dressing the Nude: Transformations of the Image in the Story about Narcissus and Echo" analyses the problem of the relationship between speech and image not directly, by constructing theoretical schemes through which this relationship can be understood, but through the interpretation of texts that deal with it. This approach seems to me more justifiable than the direct theorizing. The statements we produce about things do not proceed from contemplation of those things themselves, but are refracted through prior statements. This circumstance inevitably situates our utterances in a particular context and problematizes their claim to universality. It is good to have an awareness of this refraction, as Bogdana Pascaleva's work does.

The text is constructed in an intriguing way. It begins with an interpretation of the episode of Narcissus and Echo in Ovid's "Metamorphoses", then the interpretation begins to enrich and expand, touching on unexpected contexts and different historical epochs, but the motif of Narcissus and Echo does not go to the background. It constantly stands out, its interpretation acquires new meanings. This persistent presence of the story about Narcissus and Echo undermines a linear, teleological reading of the text.

The "journey" that the dissertation undertakes through philosophical, art and literary spaces would be impossible without the erudition of Dr. Bogdana Pascaleva. A thorough knowledge of

contemporary literary and art historical debates is present in the work alongside little-known philosophical and literary theoretical themes.

The point of departure of the work - the story of Narcissus and Echo in “Metamorphoses” - suggests a privileging of the text and the meaning, i.e., the language, over the image. However, the study does otherwise: it turns to the subject of the image and through this subject arrives at the question of language and literature. The part one of the monography deals with the image, while part two discusses the language.

However, this understanding of the work is a superficial one. If one looks at the terms used in the monography defining the image - "edge," "veil," "skin," "garment" - it will become clear that B. Pascaleva is looking for an autonomic notion of the image that conflicts with the idea that it is an event of consciousness. In the second part, the independence of the image turns out to be intertwined with the sonic materiality of language, which we usually ignore, giving importance to meaning. Thus, through the "edge-like" and "voile-like" nature of the image, the monography also speaks to the matter of words.

I confidently recommend the Academic Council of Sofia University to support Dr. Bogdana Paskaleva for the academic position "Associate Professor" in scientific field 2.1. Philology.

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