PEER REVIEW

on the doctoral thesis of Radoslava Nikolaeva Koleva entitled "The Linguistic Image of Crime in the Bulgarian and Polish Languages" for the degree of Doctor in field 2. *Humanities*,
professional field 2.1. *Philology (Bulgarian Language - Lexicology)*
by Prof. Dr. Petya Nacheva Osenova,
Department of Bulgarian Language, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

1. Details of the competition

I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the defence of the doctoral thesis of Radoslava Nikolaeva Koleva by means of Order No. РД-38-658 of 15.12.2022 of the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. In my opinion the procedure is free of irregularities. The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for scientific field 2. *Humanities*, professional field 2.1. *Philology (Bulgarian language – lexicology)* and the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the rules on the application of DASRBA and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

2. Details of the candidate

Radoslava Koleva holds a Master's degree in Slavonic (Polish Language and Literature) and Bulgarian Philology from St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia having graduated in 2014. She was a PhD student at the Department of Bulgarian Language of the Faculty of Slavonic Philology, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. She graduated with the right to defend and her thesis was successfully discussed in the abovementioned primary unit. She has worked as an English lecturer, office manager and is currently a civil servant.

3. Characteristics of the doctoral thesis and its scientific contributions

3.1. Relevance of the examined scientific problem

The problem of crime is of extreme social importance and is approached from different points of view - legal, moral, social, etc. Therefore, the study of the image of crime from a linguistic point of view is of great importance. Moreover, this social problem is constantly reflected in language as text and as speech. As the topic is very vast and has numerous dimensions, the thesis has correctly chosen to focus on

particular one type of crime - the crime of human trafficking, and more precisely - human trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation - in a comparative perspective - Bulgarian and Polish. Although the work is linguistic, it applies an interdisciplinary approach and examines its object of study from the perspective of the linguistic image of the world and the linguistic metaphor as well as relations to legislation in Poland and Bulgaria.

3.2. Knowledge and awareness of the issue on the basis of scientific literature

Radoslava Koleva demonstrates an excellent knowledge of literature on the topic of her thesis. She has used more than 300 sources and bibliographic units in Bulgarian, Polish, English, Russian. It should be noted that the interdisciplinary approach requires a precise selection of works. The candidate has done an excellent job with this difficult task.

3.3. Analysis of the material on which the contributions of the thesis are built

For the purpose of the research the thesis has used several methods - corpus, survey and comparative. The comparative method is the fundamental one as the work is comparative. The corpus method comprises the extraction of information from media websites and from personal stories of victims of this type of crime in various media. The survey method provides feedback for the research from victims of human trafficking.

3.4. Significance of the scientific contributions in the thesis

The thesis is 231 pages in length. It consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and two appendices.

The main contributions of the thesis, in my opinion, are the following: the interdisciplinary nature of the examination of a topic of high social relevance; the comparison of metaphorical patterns in two languages (Bulgarian and Polish) and in two contexts (media and colloquial); the application of corpus and survey methods in the collection of data, as well as a comparative method in the analysis of the said data.

The **introduction** presents the candidate's motivation for the study, its tasks, the methods employed, and the material excerpted. It discusses the parameters of the study, which boils down to two types of human trafficking: for sexual and for labour exploitation. The languages studied - Bulgarian and Polish – are specified. Six tasks are outlined, which show that the phenomenon has been studied through the

linguistic image of the world in the two languages, as a comparison, but also separately through the specifics in each.

Chapter One presents the theoretical propositions of the thesis related to the linguistic image of the world. The two main directions arising from German philosophy and American anthropology are outlined (p. 15). At the same time, ample attention is paid to the contributions of Polish researchers, including Anna Wierzbicka, Janusz Anuszkiewicz, Wojciech Burszta, Jerzy Bartminski, etc., and partially to Bulgarian ones, including P. Legurska and G. Dimitrova. The approaches of Anna Vezhbitskaya and Yuri Apresyan are highlighted in more detail. The variability in understanding the linguistic image is discussed - especially in the interaction between language, psyche, objective world. In my opinion, this wonderful presentation lacks a brief summary of the candidate's views on the matter. Such a summary would be welcome before the thesis is published.

Chapter Two is also theoretical in nature. It is devoted to linguistic metaphor. The thesis rightly restricts its survey of metaphor to the framework of the tasks set in the thesis. However, despite the discussion at the beginning of this section, the candidate examines the concepts of metaphor from different perspectives - from the perspective of linguistic and conceptual modelling, of cognitive science, of mechanisms of action, of interpretation - in a fairly detailed and lucid manner. Attention is paid to the theory of J. Leikoff and M. Johnson on metaphors, originally presented in their classic book of the 1980s, *Metaphors We Live By*. I have the impression that this theory is also the basis of the work presented here. Despite the frequent criticisms in linguistics of the understanding of metaphor as a continuously generated means of communication in our everyday lives, I accept this theory and support it.

The **third chapter** changes linguistically the theoretical perspective on the representation of the crime of human trafficking in the legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Poland. For me, a very valuable point in this section of the work is the comparison between these two legislations described in the conclusion. Although seemingly aside from the topic, chapter three is a necessary addition in terms of state policies towards this type of crime. Thus, the comparison between media coverage of the issue, the opinions of respondents, and legal frameworks becomes complete.

Chapter four brings us back to the linguistic strategies in Bulgarian and Polish of the metaphorical models of human trafficking used in the media. Excerpted sources are noted and individual metaphorical patterns are presented. The roles of the participants in the metaphorical patterns are described exhaustively. A table summarizing the candidate's analyses is also presented. Three main patterns are outlined: human trafficking is a trade, human trafficking is slavery, human trafficking is a form of hunting/fishing. Since the candidate's conclusions are mostly

in the direction of commonalities in Bulgarian and Polish, I would encourage her to also add some analysis of the differences.

Chapter five discusses the linguistic image of the crime of human trafficking. This section employs the inquiry principle. It is noteworthy that the number of Bulgarians surveyed is five times higher than the number of Poles. This, however, is understandable, as the candidate has works exclusively in a Bulgarian environment. Information on the age and gender of the respondents is provided. The results are extremely interesting because they directly reflect the views of ordinary citizens. Thus, a comparison is made with the observations in media speech presented in the previous chapter. As a grammarian, it was also interesting for me to observe the variation in the names of female or male persons forcibly taken outside the country for labour or sexual exploitation. These names are not only nouns (*victim, slave*) but also participles (*kidnapped, abducted, trafficked*). In addition, syntactic word combinations (*trafficked person, abducted woman*) are also observed. Regarding the person involved in human trafficking, the ontological hierarchy of the proposals seems interesting, from the very concrete notion of trafficker to more general ones such as criminal, exploiter, etc. This may provide material for a future study by the candidate.

Chapter six focuses on the linguistic analysis of narratives of victims of human trafficking not only with regard to the metaphors used but also with regard to the lexical devices chosen. This is a very sensitive study and I therefore congratulate Radoslava Koleva for her professionalism in carrying out the task. A total of 28 personal narratives of the two languages were studied. The new metaphorical patterns found here stand out as a contribution, such as *Human trafficking is a prison, hell, a dream*. The lexical-semantic fields of *Lie, Cruelty, Threat*, etc. are also very well described. It is interesting to note that the speech of victims of trafficking is not as metaphorized as it is in media speech, but when it is present, it is always multi-layered.

The conclusion is not framed as a separate chapter and is, in my opinion, too short. I hope that the book based on the thesis will pay more attention to the concluding part.

3.5. Publications on the thesis

There are 4 scientific articles published on the topic of the thesis. One article has been submitted to the competition documents and is pending publication. The published papers are included in proceedings or journals. All are related to the thesis topic.

3.6. Thesis abstract

The abstract follows the structure of the thesis and faithfully reflects its achievements. The scientific contributions adequately present the positive results of the research.

4. Conclusion

As a result of the analysis of the scientific contributions of the thesis and their significance for the science of linguistics, and also for other branches of science, I confidently propose that Radoslava Nikolaeva Koleva be awarded a Doctoral degree for her thesis "The linguistic image of crime in the Bulgarian and Polish languages" and I vote positively for this decision.

19.02.2023   Peer review prepared by:
Sofia   (Prof. Dr. Petya Osenova)