

SHORT REVIEW

- By: Assoc. Prof. Donka Mangacheva, PhD, Department of Hispanic Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- For: Dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the professional field 2.1. Philology, PhD program: General and Comparative Linguistics (Indo-European Linguistics)
- Topic: “Origin and development of the words expressing the emotion anger in the Ibero-Romance languages”
- Author: Demina Ivancheva, Department of General, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Procedure data

By virtue of order No. 38-38/19.01.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the defense of the above-mentioned dissertation, and by Meeting Minutes No. 1/06.03.2024 of the scientific jury – to present a short review.

The materials submitted by the candidate meet the regulatory requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the respective Regulations for Implementation of the said Act and the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. The abstract reflects accurately and comprehensively the content of the dissertation. The presented publications meet the minimum national requirements for scientific activity: two of them were published in a Bulgarian periodical, and the third was included in an anniversary collection (under print at the time of depositing the text, currently published).

Dissertation assessment

The dissertation is focused on the formation and dynamics of the linguistic repertoire for designating the emotion anger in Spanish and Portuguese. The general idea of the work is to describe with maximum precision the origin and the relationships of the relevant lexical units and to outline in counterpoint the step-by-step development of their semantic load on the basis of documentary sources pertinent to specific eras.

The exposition has a neat structure and is developed in: introduction, three parts, conclusion, references and informative appendix (total 204 p.).

In the introduction, the author's aspirations are clearly articulated, the purpose and tasks are formulated, the methods for developing the topic are indicated, as well as the wide range of excerpted sources, outlining the internal organization of the text.

The second and third sections are in a way a theoretical foundation and are dedicated to the laid disciplinary and substantive frameworks, particularly an essence of the intended diachronic cut of the linguistic phenomena and a conceptualization of emotion. This overview has been prepared objectively, systematically and earnestly. In principle, such a part serves to situate the research in the scientific space, to derive appropriate criteria and procedures for subsequent analysis and helps to evaluate the specific positions and assets of the author. Meant in like manner, when fundamental or key to the analysis points are presented, it is more reliable to step on the supporting works in their original rather than on the interpretation of other scholars, even if they are serious and reputable specialists such as e.g. Jan Plumper, Kenneth Strongman, etc. When multidirectional projections of the object accumulate, the reader invariably looks for the author's "voice" – the personal opinion, or at least an explicit display of a shared point of view. A similar occasion is the essential for the analysis distinction between emotion and feeling, tied also to the terminological purity of the descriptive part. Undoubtedly, the so created basis contains many valuable grains, which await continuity in the further characterization and in the conclusions. Such an example might be the initial classification of retrospectively productive mechanisms of metaphorization and metonymization (pp. 10-14), which implies "detection" of the results of their action and a

summary in the same perspective of the registered semantic variations. Indeed, many of the consistent with this last line points are dissolved to some extent in the flow of reasoning and the illustrative material annotations, yet deserve, in my opinion, an emphasis at a higher level of abstraction.

The fourth section is indicative of the laudable diligence and responsibility on the part of the PhD candidate in proving the a priori clear thesis. It presents the observations on the markers themselves related to the expression of anger in Portuguese and Spanish, and concerns in detail their emergence, scope, formal modifications, and use in various contexts and over a vast period of time. There are comprehensive records about the tracked works and their writers, grounded by appropriate examples from diverse areas, and the fragments are accompanied by a steady, committed and inspired translation.

The conclusion portrays the data obtained from the conducted research in a smooth and accessible way and complements them with an outward systematization of the constituents of the modeled continuum field and control grading by intensity of the collective emotion – from annoyance, irritation and bile, through anger and rage to madness and fury, with comments on their manifestation and driving impulse. The functional stylistic aspects of individual words are tagged, which is a promising starting point for delineating some eventually noticed genre-related shades – certainly, in accordance with the author's future decisions. Here she considers the distribution of the lexical units in question in the literary production of the Middle Ages and attributes their appearance, frequency and meaning progression to the influence of crucial historical events and powerful cultural waves in the mentioned period (pp. 155-161). The underlying notion in this case – that both the socially useful and everyday activities of the human being remain woven into his worldview and are imprinted in the linguistic constructs – is, in my estimation, a strong argument in support of the selection of the corpus.

The monograph has many positive sides and holds the attention both with the specific questions about an intriguing in itself object, and with the discoveries in the rich factology and their diligent description, with its lively style, artistic colouring and the natural charm of the wandering through the centuries. As in any research, especially when it is the first big step in

the scientific domain, there are some “blind spots” and imperfections. However, I am aware that Demina Ivancheva treated respectfully the feedback from the preliminary discussion and took into account all suggestions that fit into her vision and approach to the researched object. My notes are advisory in nature and do not detract from what has been achieved so far – I share them in the belief that the bystander deep reading and the benevolent exchange of ideas foster the growth of any academic.

Conclusion

Considering the above-mentioned qualities of the dissertation work, I give a positive assessment and propose the scientific jury to award Demina Ivancheva the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the professional field 2.1. Philology, PhD program: General and Comparative Linguistics (Indo-European Linguistics).

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