

REVIEW

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for the acquirement of the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in professional field 2.1. Philology, candidate Dessislava Angelova Davidova

Topic of the thesis: **ITALIAN EXPLICIT CONCESSIVE SENTENCE AND THEIR BULGARIAN EQUIVALENTS - A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

1. Scientific and applied significance of the research problem.

The research problem is significant in the sense that the investigated grammatical category is considered for the first time from a comparative aspect and in view of the translation of the Italian explicit concessive sentences into Bulgarian. The very fact that it is based on a translation corpus makes the results of the study applicable to the theory and practice of translation, as well as in the teaching of these grammatical units.

2. Accurately formulated aims and objectives of the dissertation.

The aims and objectives are clearly and precisely formulated, as well as the limitations in the scope of the corpora and the analysis, which helps the orientation and expectations of the reader.

3. Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and relevance of the used literature.

The candidate is obviously very well acquainted with the scientific literature on the problem, relying both in the process of analysis, as well as in the theoretical review on a number of authors, mostly Italian and Bulgarian. At the same time, the approach to working with sources is critical and demonstrates the author's ability to extract the essential information from the available publications in accordance with the specific needs of the study.

4. Correctness in referring to a representative number of authors.

The citations in the text are correct. The number of sources according to the Bibliography is not large, but as it is clear from the theoretical review, the topic - the object of study - is quite narrow and underdeveloped.

5. Presence of a substantiated and developed theoretical model of the research.

The research is based theoretically on the functional-semantic analysis, combined with the syntactic approach. The choice of this model is convincingly justified and supported by a detailed analysis of appropriately selected publications.

6. Correspondence of the chosen methodology and research methods to the set aims and objectives of the dissertation.

The dissertation does not include a chapter devoted to the research methodology, but rather derives from the theoretical overview and the part entitled "Types of analysis applied in the present work". This results in mixing of the individual parts and lack of clarity, which is not commendable.

7. Presence of author's contribution to the collection and analysis of empirical data.

As the author writes, "The study is carried out on the basis of a corpus which could be divided conditionally into texts from Italian and Bulgarian fiction and published translations from Italian into Bulgarian and from Bulgarian into Italian" (p. 9). This corpus has been excerpted by the author herself. In addition, a survey was conducted with informants related to the translation of the Italian explicit concessive sentences into Bulgarian, as well as the translation of Bulgarian sentences into Italian. All data were processed and analysed by the candidate.

Description of the contributions:

1. Brief description of the nature and assessment of the reliability of the material on which the contributions of the dissertation are based.

The corpora on which the analysis is based are excerpted from a sufficient number of sources, especially considering the fact that their extraction was manual and not from existing digital databases. Authors who have written in the same periods in both languages have been selected, which makes them comparable.

2. Description of the applicant's contributions and their classification.

The dissertation definitely demonstrates that the candidate has in-depth theoretical knowledge in the field of linguistics with a focus on the Bulgarian and Italian languages, as well as in the field of theory and practice of translation and respectively - abilities for independent research.

The main contributing points in the dissertation are the use of a combined, functional-semantic approach to the analysis, the detailed description of the specific semantics of the concessive sentences and the predominant verbs, the description of the essential differences between Italian and Bulgarian in terms of the expression of a broken logical causal relationship from the viewpoint of the structure of tenses, syntax and semantics of the used concessive conjunctions.

In addition, the analysis of translation errors contributes to the practice of translation, as well as to the problems of mastering these grammatical structures by learners of Italian.

3. Assessment of the degree of personal participation of the author in the contributions.

Although the author relies on previous research on the problem, she uses it skillfully and critically to support her own analyses and conclusions. Going into even the smallest details of the semantic and syntactic characteristics of the studied linguistic elements shows that the author has worked hard and independently.

4. Assessment of the correspondence between the extended abstract and the main points and contributions of the dissertation.

The abstract clearly and precisely presents the content of the dissertation and its contributions.

Impacts of the dissertation on the external environment.

1. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation: number, nature of the journals in which they are published.

Seven publications are presented, that are concerned with individual aspects of the dissertation. Almost all of them are in publications of the NBU. It is not clear from the presented list what the volume of the publications is (the pages are not indicated). Nevertheless, I believe that at the time of completion of the dissertation the publications on it are sufficient as a proof of interest in the topic.

2. Citations by other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.
Not presented.

Personal qualities of the author (if the reviewer knows them).

I have no personal impressions.

Opinions, recommendations and notes.

All my recommendations and remarks at the internal defense have been taken into account.

Conclusion with a clearly formulated positive or negative assessment of the dissertation.

My overall assessment of Desislava Davidova's dissertation, extended abstract and scientific publications is positive. The doctoral student has the necessary theoretical knowledge and applied skills for independent research in the field of comparative research. The dissertation contains both theoretical and applied contributions in the practice of translation and in the teaching of students of Italian. The structure and content of the presented dissertation and extended abstract fully meet the requirements of the LDASRB and the regulations for its application at NBU. This gives me reason to propose to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Desislava Davidova in professional field 2.1. "Philology, Scientific specialty: *Theory and practice of translation*".

Дата 21.09.2021

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