

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dafina Yanorova Kostadinova, PhD,
South-West University “Neofit Rilski”,

Professional field

2.1 Philology, General and Comparative Linguistics (English Language),
for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor of Philosophy” in professional
field 2.1 Philology, scientific field of General and Comparative Linguistics to PhD student
Lina Miloshevska for her PhD Thesis
„A Study of Anglicisms in Journalistic Corpora in North Macedonia through Corpus Analysis
Tools“

Academic Advisor: Prof Boris Naimushin, PhD

The opinion was compiled pursuant to Ordinance No. 3-PK-200/22.05.2026 of
the Rector of the New Bulgarian University Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Plamen Doinov and on a
decision of the academic committee.

Lina Miloshevska has submitted a PhD Thesis, two publications related to the
dissertation topic, four presentations delivered at national and international scientific
conferences, all connected with the dissertation research, as well as a Curriculum Vitae
outlining her educational background, academic career, publications prior to her doctoral
studies, and participation in various research projects. Based on the submitted documentation,
it is evident that Ms. Miloshevska fulfills all the minimal national requirements for the award
of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) in the Republic of Bulgaria.

1. Significance of the Research Problem

The dissertation addresses a highly relevant topic within the fields of contact
linguistics, sociolinguistics, and corpus linguistics: a diachronic investigation of Anglicisms
in contemporary Macedonian media language based on corpora compiled from the newspaper
Kapital for the years 2000 and 2020. The investigated problem is particularly timely and
significant given the ever-growing influence of English being the lingua franca of science,
technology, economics, and digital communication, which has a substantial impact on the
lexical development of many languages, including Macedonian.

It should be emphasized that the author does not limit herself to a traditional
description of lexical borrowings. Instead, she examines Anglicisms as a dynamic process of
linguistic integration through a corpus-based diachronic approach. The findings provide a
valuable foundation for future studies involving larger corpora and additional media sources,
thereby contributing to further applied linguistic research in this field.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the dissertation is clearly formulated and logically derives from the current state of research on the subject. It is specific, scientifically well-founded, and fully consistent with the object and scope of the study. The conclusion explicitly acknowledges the limitations of the research.

Nevertheless, it may well be due to my oversight while reading the dissertation, but I could not identify a clearly stated subject of the research in the dissertation itself. However, on page 3 of the abstract, the author explicitly states: "The subject of the dissertation is to measure the quantitative impact of anglicisms in the studied corpora and to determine their frequency, distribution, semantic development, contextual usage, and degree of social integration in the selected Macedonian media corpora."

This raises the question of whether the omission in the dissertation is merely a technical or editorial oversight in the final version. Can measuring the quantitative impact be the subject of investigation?

Apart from this minor observation, the research objectives are logically structured and successfully support the achievement of the overall aim. They encompass all major stages of the research process, including a critical review of the existing literature, corpus compilation, extraction and classification of Anglicisms, quantitative and qualitative analyses, investigation of semantic change, and assessment of their degree of social integration

3. Correspondence Between Methodology and Research Objectives

The methodological framework is undoubtedly one of the major strengths of the dissertation.

Ms. Miloshevska skillfully applies contemporary methods of corpus linguistics, including quantitative analysis, concordance analysis, frequency analysis, and a comparative diachronic approach. This methodology enables a reliable examination not only of the frequency characteristics of Anglicisms but also of their semantic evolution, morphological adaptation, and degree of integration into the Macedonian language.

The selected methodology fully corresponds to the stated research aims and objectives and allows the author to formulate reliable and statistically substantiated conclusions within the acknowledged limitations of the study.

4. Scientific and Applied Contributions of the PhD Thesis

Despite its acknowledged limitations, the dissertation contains clearly identifiable scientific and applied scientific contributions. These include the compilation of a specialized corpus, the development of a diachronic model for tracing the dynamics of Anglicisms through quantitative indicators, frequency analysis, and assessment of their degree of social integration, as well as the analysis of semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, and semantic shift, which makes it possible to identify patterns in the development of English loanwords in Macedonian.

Particularly noteworthy is the application of the concepts of conventionalization, institutionalization, and lexicalization in the analysis of Anglicisms. This approach goes beyond traditional descriptive models and introduces an interdisciplinary perspective on language contact phenomena.

I agree with the author's formulation of the scientific contributions and highly appreciate the corpus-based diachronic model she has developed for investigating Anglicisms in the Macedonian language.

5. Evaluation of Publications Related to the PhD Thesis

The submitted publications reflect the main directions of the dissertation research and present its principal findings. It is particularly commendable that some of the publications have appeared in international scientific journals and peer-reviewed conference proceedings, while others have been presented at prestigious international conferences devoted to applied linguistics and corpus linguistics.

I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Miloshevska's participation in the Annual Doctoral and Student Scientific Readings organized by the South-West University "Neofit Rilski", being its representative in the present Scientific Jury. The publications are closely related to the dissertation topic, demonstrate consistency in the author's research interests, and confirm that the research results have undergone the necessary scientific validation and dissemination. What is more, Miloshevska has had an impressive academic career and professional achievements proven by a number of published academic materials.

Overall, her publication record fully satisfies the requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD).

6. Opinions, Recommendations, and Critical Remarks

The scope of the study is limited, and Ms. Miloshevska openly acknowledges these limitations. Consequently, I would recommend that future research broaden the comparative perspective by incorporating corpora from additional Macedonian media, as well as corpora representing other Balkan languages. Such an extended investigation would provide a more comprehensive understanding of regional patterns in the adaptation of Anglicisms. The dissertation has been prepared to the required academic standard, and its findings are authentic.

I would also suggest improving the presentation of the tables on pages 36 and 37, which would benefit from greater clarity. In addition, the numbers in the tables on pages 63 and 64 should be standardized.

These recommendations are offered with a constructive and positive intention and do not diminish my high evaluation of the scientific quality of the dissertation.

The submitted summary of the PhD Thesis accurately represent the content of the dissertation.

7. Conclusion

The dissertation constitutes an original, independent, and well-completed piece of scholarly research devoted to a significant issue in contemporary linguistics. Ms. Lina Miloshevska demonstrates profound theoretical knowledge, excellent command of corpus linguistic methodology, and the ability to conduct independent scientific research.

The results presented in the dissertation make valuable scientific and applied contributions to the study of the development of Anglicisms in contemporary Macedonian and have considerable potential for application in future linguistic research, lexicography, and university teaching.

Based on the above considerations, I conclude that the dissertation fully complies with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation. I therefore give my positive evaluation of the dissertation and confidently recommend that the distinguished Scientific Jury award Ms. Lina Miloshevska the educational and scientific degree of **Doctor** (PhD) in Professional Field 2.1. *Philology, Doctoral Programme General and Comparative Linguistics*.

2 July 2026

Signed:

(Assoc. Prof. Dafina Kostadinova, PhD)