

OPINION

by

Prof. Dr. Petya Nacheva Osenova, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", 2.1 Philology
on the dissertation "Trends and Personalities in Diplomatic Translation in Bulgaria in the Period
1944 - 1974 and Some Comparisons with the USSR, the USA, Romania, Hungary and Cuba"
for the degree of "Doctor of Science"
in the professional field 2.1 Philology (Theory and Practice of Translation)
with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boris Anatolievich Naimushin

By order No. Z-RK-239/15.07.2026 of Prof. Plamen Doinov, D.Sc., Rector of the New Bulgarian University (NBU), I am appointed as a member of the jury for the defense of a dissertation for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

The submitted set of materials by the candidate includes all necessary documents for the procedure. Boris Naimushin has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Protection of Scientific and Technical Research of the Republic of Bulgaria. The work is author's and original. I have not found any elements of plagiarism.

Boris Naimushin has been a full-time lecturer at NBU since 1995. In 1989, he graduated from Bulgarian Philology with a second degree in English Philology at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". In 1997, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at the same University. Since 2009, he has been an associate professor in theory and practice of translation at NBU. The dissertation candidate is a member of the Union of Translators in Bulgaria and the European Society for Translation Studies. He is also the editor-in-chief of the journal English Studies at NBU, which is indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection.

The presented dissertation work contains 315 pages and 71 figures. The literature used contains over 300 citations of publications in Bulgarian, Russian, English, French, Spanish, Romanian and Hungarian. The sources are scientific, media and memoir, as well as archival. These facts show the rich bibliographical awareness of Assoc. Prof. Naimushin, as well as his ability to work with different types of sources of information. The abstract is 38 pages long and correctly reflects the ideas and results in the work.

The work contains a general description, five chapters, conclusions, a list of contributions, used literature and a list of used archival materials.

The dissertation has presented 5 publications in indexed editions, 7 publications in non-refereed editions and 5 publications in co-authorship. The topics of the articles are in the following directions: linguistic problems in translation, with a special emphasis on passive constructions; but also with a view to phraseology and foreign language learning; Bible translations from different perspectives; written and oral translation; approaches to interpretation in translation; specific translation situations in different historical time periods and/or specific translators. In the reference for the minimum requirements for NACID, the publications related to the topic are filled in correctly.

There are 4 citations in indexed publications and 14 citations in other publications. It is noteworthy that the citations are exclusively in foreign publications, which shows the influence of Assoc. Prof. Naimushin's work in the field of translation and, in particular, diplomatic translation.

The dissertation has the following bibliographic data: Naimushin, B. (2026). "Trends and Personalities in Diplomatic Translation in Bulgaria in the Period 1944-1974 and Some Comparisons with the USSR, the USA, Romania, Hungary and Cuba" (manuscript). NBU, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures.

The topic of the monograph is extremely important. It presents the result of a huge research work on the parameters of the development of diplomatic translation in Bulgaria during the Cold War period. Diplomatic translation itself is an insufficiently researched area for various reasons, such as difficult-to-access data, handling of sources of different modalities, the role of extralinguistic factors, etc.

The goals and objectives are convincingly justified. The aim is to reconstruct and analyze diplomatic translation in Bulgaria in the period 1944–1974, taking into account political and social factors, and emphasizing the role of the translator himself in the process. 6 research questions have been formulated, to which 6 tasks correspond. Thus, the author explores the relationship between the political situation after 1944, the professionalization of translators, the models of translation activity, the reconstructions of a number of professional biographies of translators in the period under consideration.

The goals and objectives set definitely require a complex, interdisciplinary approach and knowledge in various fields - linguistics, translation, history, archival studies, etc. Therefore, I believe that the dissertation candidate has successfully combined various methods, including prosopographic-microhistorical, historical-descriptive and comparative historical analysis.

The presented work consists of an introduction, a preface, acknowledgements, five chapters, a conclusion, scientific contributions and used literature. A very good impression is made by the fact that each chapter begins with a short introduction and ends with conclusions. The author's text is well structured and extremely readable.

Chapter One presents a critical review of the literature on the topic. The emphasis on diplomatic interpreting is particularly valuable, as there is no in-depth research in this direction. The difference with conference interpreting is already shown here, emphasizing that the diplomatic interpreter is more than a language interpreter - he is a trusted person who should know well the protocol, the political situation and the specifics of the society.

Chapter Two introduces the specialized terminology and methodology of diplomatic translation in Bulgaria. Special attention is paid to the combination of approaches used - descriptive, comparative, prosopographic, oral testimonies, etc. The dissertation uses different types of modalities in collecting information for the reconstruction of the history of diplomatic translation and the professional biographies of the translators themselves - memoirs, photographs, archives, interviews, etc. The difficulties in recreating a reliable picture of diplomatic translation are described - existing inaccuracies, divergent versions, poor documentation, etc.

The third chapter is particularly interesting and helpful, as it analyzes the unexplored role of foreign and Bulgarian foremen-translators in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the period 1946–1949 in the formation of a socialist type of diplomatic translation activity. The author makes successful comparisons of the situation in Bulgaria with the situation in Yugoslavia and the USSR. The activity of specific translators is examined.

The fourth chapter is devoted to the creation and development of diplomatic translation in Bulgaria and the USSR during the Cold War. The biographies of translators in the process of their professional development in "big" politics are commented on. It was interesting to find a conclusion that in Bulgaria, compared to the USSR, a more flexible and freer environment for diplomatic translators has been formed, in which not only full-time employees, but also teachers, journalists, editors are allowed.

The fifth chapter, from my point of view, is the testing chapter. It applies the approaches described above. The role of translators is examined during the XV session of the UN General Assembly in 1960. The translators of the delegations of Bulgaria, the USSR, Romania, Hungary and Cuba are identified. Again, a number of specific translators and language intermediaries are

discussed. In my opinion, another very valuable conclusion is that translators are not passive participants in international diplomacy, but proactive subjects with significant influence in politics.

The dissertation has correctly made 16 scientific contributions - 4 of a methodological nature, 7 in the history of diplomatic translation and 5 of an applied nature. From a scientific perspective, the dissertation is the first comprehensive study of the history of diplomatic translation in Bulgaria during the Cold War; the prosopographic, microhistorical and comparative historical approaches to reconstructing historical facts have been used in an innovative way - these approaches are linked in a model for identifying different translators; the concept of "mass subjective perspective" has been introduced, in which a dominant point of view is outlined, which is subjected to critical analysis and verification in different types of sources. In the field of translation history, the contributions include the constructed biographies of a number of translators, the role of the various professional groups of translators, the formation of the new type of translator in the socialist state, the comparison with the translation community before 1944 and with other countries of the socialist camp, the hypothesis of the equal importance not only of linguistic competence, but also of the political commitment of the translator. The applied results concern the expansion of sources for the history of diplomatic translation, the description of the professional training of translators and the brigade movement as a stimulus for the creation of socialist-oriented diplomatic translation. The laid foundation for the study of diplomatic translation in its socio-political context and with its participant translators opens up opportunities for further research within a similar interdisciplinary scope.

I welcome the fact that the author has indicated for what activities in the dissertation he used artificial intelligence - language editing, structuring and what I do not quite understand "discussion of possible interpretive approaches" (p. 8). I would recommend that in future publications, the types of artificial intelligence and the prompts to be mentioned. I think that from a structural point of view, it is more appropriate for the author's preface and acknowledgements to precede the introduction.

The minor remarks I made above in no way diminish the value of the presented work. From my point of view, this is a fundamental work that has high scientific and applied value in several fields - linguistics, translation, diplomacy, politics, history, archival studies, etc.

Therefore, based on everything I have discussed above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the presented dissertation and recommend to the Honorable Jury to award the

scientific degree "Doctor of Science" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boris Naimushin in the field 2.1 Philology, for his dissertation "Trends and Personalities in Diplomatic Translation in Bulgaria in the Period 1944 - 1974 and Some Comparisons with the USSR, the USA, Romania, Hungary and Cuba".

25.09.2026

Opinion writer:

**Petya Nacheva
Osenova**

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