**WRITTEN STATEMENT**

FROM PROF. DR. MAGDALENA KOSTOVA-PANAYOTOVA, SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY‘NEOFIT RILSKI’, MEMBER OF SCIENTIFIC JURY FOR ADJUDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECT 2.1 PHILOLOGY. THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION, ANNOUNCED BY NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY

For the dissertation of Daniela Yankova Petrova

Thesis:

**THE LEGAL LANGUAGE BASED ON THE TRANSLATION OF LEGAL TERMINOLOGY IN THE TIER OF GERMAN AND BULGARIAN LANGUAGES**

According to the submitted documents, the procedure complies with the requirements of the legal acts in the respective field.(The Regulation for the conditions and the procedure for adjudication of scientific degrees and employment of academic positions in South-West University‘Neofit Rilski’; The Law for Higher Education; The Law for promotion of the academic staff in The Republic of Bulgaria; The Regulation for the organisation and activity of New Bulgarian University and other related legal acts). The necessary deadlines have been met.

Daniela Petrova graduated from the bachelor program at the New Bulgarian University with first speciality German language translator and interpreter, second speciality *International Politics*. She finished Master program *Theory and Practice of Translation and Interpretation* at the New Bulgarian University and was credited as a doctoral student on independent preparation with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. sc. Maria Grozeva in 2016. She specialized at the international summer school in Maribor. She presented in the competition two publication and three reports from scientific seminars.

The subject of Daniela Petrova’s dissertation is topical and dissertable due to the following reasons. Firstly, parallel research of the terminology of family and inheritance Law in Germany, Austria and Switzerland was never done before in Bulgaria. Secondly, in the light of the contemporary socio-cultural situation and the immigration waves in Europe such problematic is important and significant. Thirdly, the corpus of 500 terminological word combinations, legal terms and definitions might serve in practical situations and for educational purposes in teaching legal translations, especially if later on the dissertation is published.The problematic on which the text is focusing is interdisciplinary which causes several difficulties at the beginning of the work. Starting from the presumption that “the language and the law have been considered for the two main pillarsbearing every human society” (p.7), the PhD candidate makes comparative analysis of a German and a Slavonic language in regard the used legal terminology in three German language-speaking countries and its respective correspondence in the Bulgarian language.

The dissertation has 271 pages, containing introduction, five chapters, conclusion, bibliography and four applications.It makes very good impression the alphabetical index of used abbreviations in the Bulgarian and German legal languages derived at the beginning of the work.

The text follows the classic structure in the introductory part.It has clearly derived subject, purposes, practical contribution, aims and research methods.

**The first chapter** focuses on the problem’s theoretical aspects in regards to language, law and translation, as these aspects are rather outlined. The chapter seeks the correlation between commonly used language and the specialized language, the functioning of the language in the law and the legal terminology/terminologies,the connections between translation and comparative law, it also speaks of the typology of legal texts, etc.

**The second chapter** examines the legal institutions and bodies in the three German language-speaking countries Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Bulgaria outlining the specific problems arising from the comparison between 2 different language systems and four legal systems. The chapter considers the relation terminology-equivalence, the differences between terms and concepts, the appearance of paronyms, synonyms and homonyms. The text sharply outlines the differences between the cultures, the characteristics of the legal language and some important difficulties in the process of translation and interpretation of the legal terminology. The chapter creates some helping tools for the translator as for example the abbreviations in the legal language.

**The third chapter** reveals the specificity of German language in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. It outlines the language variety – the differences in the language practiced in the three German language speaking countries at the level of phonetics and phonology, grammar, pragmatics and terminology. The PhD candidate mainly refers to authors like Muhr, Markhardt and Pöll. From the examples in the chapter, the candidate confirms the opinion of G. Köbler that, nevertheless, “the European Union aims to harmonize the legislation and unification of terminology this might happen in a utopic future because every state brings its historical, cultural, language and legal development imprint defining their own identity”.

**The forth chapter** refers to terminology from family and inheritance law. The practical part examines and analyses Austrian legal terminology in correlation with the respective terminology from the German and Switzerland legal systems and presents the translation of the terminology in Bulgarian. This chapter contains detailed real research and definitely has scientific contribution in the thesis.

The **fifth chapter** examines criminal law terminology in comparison with Bulgarian and German legal systems. It outlines the similarities and differences in both countries due to their historical and political development. The practical part consists of terminology from this law branch in both – Germany and Bulgaria. Having in mind the practical implementation and the in-depth entering in the contextual framework the PhD candidate presents terminology databank.This chapter also contains clearly defined elements of scientific contribution. Each chapter has outlined conclusions, which helps for better delineation of the PhD candidate’s summary and for the clarity of text.

The **conclusion** combines the main implications focusing on the idea that “contrary to the past century when the main problem was the search of equivalence, at present the translation and interpretation are seen and perceived not only like a process and a result, but as a part of the cultural context. The interaction between theory and practice is equally important in the theory of translation and interpretation and the theory of law because the theory studies the practice and the practice uses the theory achievements.”(p. 221) and on the conclusion “the most important requirement for the legal translator: primarily – when translating legal texts and the respective terminology it is necessary to do a transfer between the language and legal systems” (p. 229).

According to my opinion, as a whole the dissertation is a serious and in-depth research concentrating its main scientific benefit in fourth and fifth chapters. These chapters contain the most of the author’s work. The valuable reference instruments and the applications should be noted.

As far as I know the previous version of the dissertation, it is worth mentioning the PhD candidate has put efforts in the text in order to provide a more concise structure and has removed some technical mistakes. Still the bibliography misses titles that should be included in such thesis, titles I have referred to the candidate. For example, it is quoting Al. Lyudskanov with key for the revealed problematic article- „Принципът на функционалните еквиваленти — основа на теорията и практиката на превода”, (*The principle of functional equivalents – basis of the theory and the practice of interpretation and translation*) but it is not inserted in the bibliography or under line. Furthermore, the article is quoted according to L. Ilieva (p.16)./The article: Принципът на функционалните еквиваленти — основана теорията и практиката на превода—В: Изкуството на превода. Народна култура, 1969, 99—116./ Other valuable works not mentioned in the bibliography are the books of Maria Popova “Theory of terminology” (2012) and Andrei Danchev “Comparative linguistics” (C. 2001) important from terminology point of view, from my viewpoint. The bibliography design, although the obvious attempts, needs more efforts especially in regard to the internet sources that are given almost “in bulk“. Despite all of this, I find the work very valuable and deserving to be published in the form of a book.

The dissertation abstract consists of 34 pages reflecting conscientiously the structure and the content of the author’s work. The references correctly formulates the scientific contribution.

In conclusion, I am convinced the dissertation possess all necessary qualities for successfully accreditation and I recommend to the honored scientific jury to adjudicate the educational and scientific degree Doctor of Philosophy to Daniela Petrova.

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