



Review

for the dissertation work of Monia Camuglia Ribarov, a doctoral student of independent training, deducted with the right of defense at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology, doctoral program Bulgarian Language (Cyrillo-Methodian studies)

on the topic: The Lexis of Manuscript No 3/14 from the Library of the Rila Monastery as a Source for the History of the Text of the *Tale of Barlaam and Joasaphat*

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The dissertation is devoted to a specific and tangible topic that immediately attracts scholarly attention. This is the lexis of the Tale of Barlaam and Joasaphat, studied according to a Bulgarian copy from the 1360s, where the text has been preserved in its entirety (without the beginning) and which is associated with the Tarnovo Literary Centre. The manuscript is part of the collection of the National Museum "Rila Monastery" (RM 3/14), which is of significant scholarly value for the Balkan Orthodox culture.

The chosen topic focuses on the study of patterns of noun word-formation - basic and innovative, in comparison with other manuscript evidence both from the earliest period of the language and from later ones, and examines the changes in the language that occurred in the 14th century. This implies acquiring of new information about the textual tradition of this text which was emblematic for the Middle Ages and about the development of the Bulgarian lexical system from the studied period.

The dissertation consists of an introduction (12 pp.), three chapters (247 pp.), a conclusion (7 pp.), a bibliography, and a list of used dictionaries and indexes (22 pp.), along with 11 appendices (272 pp.).

The **introductory part** (4-16 pp.) presents the content and manuscript history of the *Tale of Barlaam and Joasaphat* in the Eastern and Western traditions, outlining the state of research on the it to date. The style is refined and concise and shows maturity and mastery of the text matter under study. The object of research is explicitly stated - a complete list of over 1,500 nouns found in the Tale of Barlaam and Joasaphat, in view of their word-formation characteristics and their classification by suffixes.

In the analysis of these nouns, a comparison is also made with the word-formation models known from the Old Bulgarian period, extracted from the known lexicographic reference books, the works of Kliment Ohridski, original and translated works related to the Preslav Literary Centre, as well as later monuments from the 14th and 15th centuries, which are attributed to literary men of Tarnovo. Special attention is paid to the hapaxes found in the text, lexemes that are characteristic of this monument, words of proto-Bulgarian origin, words of Greek origin, anthroponyms, ethnonyms, toponyms. For the purposes of the study, the method of synchronic analysis is combined with diachronic comparisons .

The first chapter **"Nouns for persons and other names"** (16-74 pp.) covers masculine nouns formed with the suffixes -ЬНИКЪ, -ЄНИКЪ, -ЬЦЬ, -ТЄАЬ, -ЬЦА/-ИЦА, -АРЬ, -ИНЪ/-АНИНЪ, (-ЃНИНЪ), -ИЦЬ, and feminine nouns formed with the suffixes -ИЦА/-ЬНИЦА, -ЬНИ. The second chapter of the dissertation **"Nouns with abstract and contracted meanings"** (74-255 pp.) is the largest one and discussed neuter nouns formed with suffixes -НИЄ, -ТИЄ, -ИЄ, -ЬСТВО, -ЬСТВИЄ, -ИЩЄ, -ЛО (<*-dlo), feminine nouns formed with suffixes -ОСТЬ, -ОТА/-ЄТА, -ИНА/-ОТИНА, -НЬ, -СНЬ, -ЗНЬ, -ЬБА, -ОБА, -ТВА, and masculine nouns formed with the suffix -ЪКЪ. In this chapter, there are 44 feminine nouns and 37 masculine nouns formed by conversion.

In this traditional and eloquently presented lexical study, the noun system is presented on a word-formative and semantic level, and an attempt was made to trace the meanings of the lexical units found in the monument from the oldest period of the language to their state in the 14th-15th centuries. The motivating lexical basis is searched for the mono-rooted formations, while the lexical basis of the composite ones is also analyzed.

Each lexical unit is accompanied by the respective data from the manuscript - the number of its word uses and textual context are indicated. In this sense, the well organized presentation of the studied language material is impressive, which is not so easy for this type of research in view of the specified time context. The study also takes into account the associations of a suffix with prefix-suffix formations.

Also of interest is the analysis in the first chapter of lexemes formed with unproductive suffixes even for the Old Bulgarian period. It covers 13 unproductive suffixes and 27 derived masculine words, of which 8 are hapax legomena for the studied copy. The efforts of the author to make sense of the material, to present and summarize it in several ways - through a lexical-semantic description and in tabular form - should be welcomed.

During the tracking and description of the individual lexical patterns in the dissertation work, word-formative synonyms formed with different suffixes are also taken into account. They are presented in the third chapter "*Competing suffixes in word-forming synonyms*" (255-263 pp.). Here, 97 synonymous lines are presented in tabular form, of which 87 are double, 9 are triple and one are quadruple synonyms. They illustrate the competition in word-formation models, which in turn are categorized into eight suffix groups (-ѢНИИѢ/-ЮНИИѢ, -АНИИѢ/-ВНИИѢ, -ВСТВО, -ОСТЬ/-ЕСТЬ, -ТѢЛЬ, -ЦЬ, -ИИѢ, -ЛО И -ИНЪ). They allow, for example, for an observation that the Middle Bulgarian copy of the tale is a translated text in which the Cyrillic-Methodian tradition and the tolerance towards Preslav word-formation peculiarities can be tracked down.

The **Conclusion** (263-270 p.) summarizes the observations made on the lexicon and the word-formation apparatus of the monument, while their importance for the establishment of the existing lexical variants in the Bulgarian literary language in the 14th century is brought to the fore. It is also argued that the lexical characteristics of this copy testify to the Old Bulgarian origin of the original Slavic translation of the Tale of Barlaam and Joasaphat and to the existence of a main redaction or a new Bulgarian translation from the 14th century.

The bibliography for the dissertation work is comprehensive enough to suggest that this interesting and useful scientific work is introduced not only into the Bulgarian literary studies.

Appendices (272 pp.): The dissertation is accompanied by 11 appendices, which contain data on the graphic characteristics of the monument, its typed text, a glossary of the studied nouns

and their reverse dictionary, also a list of word-formative synonyms, with the word-formative units presented and by suffixes. The appendices also show the probable hapex legomena, the lexemes that are not found in the Old Bulgarian monuments, as well as a list of words of Proto-Bulgarian origin, untranslated Greek words and nouns that are anthroponyms, ethnonyms and toponyms.

The work material thus presented deserves respect. It clearly and graphically presents the overall methodology of working process and in many ways complements the analysis presented in the main text of the study. This material constitutes a valuable reference apparatus for a number of future studies.

Abstract: The abstract meets the requirements, consistently and accurately conveys the content of the dissertation work. The listed seven contributions of the work are well grounded. The list of publications of the doctoral student contains 6 research works, 4 of which are co-authored. They are published in prestigious journals and volumes and show long-term and systematic work on the topic.

Conclusion: The proposed dissertation thesis is a classic lexicographic work that deserves scientific attention and meets all formal requirements. It presents the lexical characteristics of a Bulgarian handwritten monument from the 1360s in synchronic and diachronic terms. Such scientific work takes time. The doctoral student, who is not an unknown name to the Bulgarian scholarly community, has shown the necessary preparation for such a complex achievement, valuable for the creation of a complete picture of language processes in the 14th century.

In the proposed dissertation, the author's professional training is achieved with the help of Prof. Svetlina Nikolova, Prof. Ekaterina Dogramadzheva and her most recent scientific consultant Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Mostrova. Based on the innovative and contributing nature of the work, I propose to award Monia Kamuglia Ribarov the scientific, educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional direction, 2.1. Philology, doctoral program in the Bulgarian language (Cyrillo-Methodian studies).