

REVIEW

of the dissertation of Elena Zheltova on the topic: “Latin Morphosyntax in a Typological Perspective: Interaction of Language Dimensions and Dynamics of Surface Structures”,
submitted for the degree of doctor of sciences in a scientific speciality 5.9.7.
Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Philology

The dissertation by Elena Zheltova should be perceived as an important event in the history of classical philology. It is a deep and innovative study that fully complies with the high requirements for doctoral dissertations. The genre of the dissertation review requires the justification of the novelty of the research, but in the case of classical philology the criterion of novelty seems almost unattainable – we are dealing with an elite science based on a limited number of texts, repeatedly analyzed by truly outstanding researchers.

Nevertheless, in the case of Elena Zheltova's study, we actually have the right to speak of true innovation, due to the originality of the initial idea of the author: Latin morphosyntax which, in its traditional coverage with established terminology, became the basis and model of traditional grammars of various languages, turns into an object of scientific analysis, while the author consciously removes the sacred status of the subject of her study, considering the Latin language material from the position of the modern typology.

Thus, in her dissertation the author actually neutralizes the eternal conflict between classical philology and Indo-European Studies, classical philology and theoretical linguistics, i. e. philology and linguistics itself. That became possible due the remarkable combination of her various competences and the breadth of her scientific horizons - as a researcher she was trained in the tradition of classical philology, has an excellent sense and knowledge of the texts and linguistic material, on the other hand, she has been focused on theoretical problems of linguistics and linguistic typological achievements for a number of years.

E.V. Zheltova's dissertation is concerned with the problematic aspects of Latin morphosyntax and their analysis by means of modern theories and methods of linguistic typology, semantics and pragmatics. The thesis consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The introduction gives a general description of the thesis, formulates the goals, tasks and methods of research, describes the degree of development of the problems discussed in the work, its scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, evaluates the reliability of the obtained results. Chapter 1 proposes a new approach to the description of Latin cases and suggests a new paradigmatic structure of nominal and pronominal cases. Chapter 2 attempts to present the semantics of personality as fully as possible and offers an explanation of "non-canonical" uses of reflexive pronouns. Chapter 3 is dealing with the interaction of the categories of gender and person and their interaction with the type of declension and the morphological structure of the noun, proposing a way of diagnosing nouns for animacy/inanimacy and examining in detail the peripheral zone of this category in Latin. Chapter 4 examines Latin in the context of the typology of role marking. Chapter 5 deals with the analysis of ditransitive constructions in Latin in the context of the three linguistic dimensions - semantic-role, deictic-denotative and pragmatic - and their influence on the order of the arguments in ditransitive constructions and in SVC. Chapter 6 examines the various manifestations of subjectivity and intersubjectivity in Latin, using a number

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prof. Diana Šliuokaitė Kalinauskaitė

of problematic syntactic constructions as examples. The Conclusion summarizes the results and outlines further ways of researching the topics touched upon in the thesis.

It is important to note two main innovative methodological achievements of the author: the use of a set of different linguistic parameters for the analysis and the inclusion of the personal-subjective pragmatic factor in the analysis. These methods made it possible to see in a completely new way a number of important aspects of the Latin language, in which, despite the centuries-old tradition of its description, some phenomena were not explained, but only postulated. E.V. Zheltova's dissertation made it possible to explain the hidden mechanisms and dynamics of phenomena which are well known, but have not been explained so far: the syncretism of cases, the specific structure of pronominal paradigms (taking into account the phenomenon of submorphemic neutralization), the interaction of the categories of gender and animacy, the specific nature of some syntactic structures (nominal predication, irrealis). The thesis also reveals the mechanism of functioning in Latin of categories not previously used to describe this language (evidentiality, mirativity), which manifest themselves as "covert categories".

An important feature of the thesis is the multifaceted scientific background of the author. On the one hand, E. Zheltova is well acquainted with the tradition of classical philology (in its traditional sense) and has a fine sense of Latin proper linguistic material of different authors, and on the other hand, she shows a deep familiarity with linguistic theories and methods (including those not related to the linguistic mainstream) and has a very wide typological outlook - often it is comparison with other languages that allows a deeper understanding and explanation of phenomena even in a seemingly well studied language, like Latin.

We can conclude that E.V. Zheltova's dissertation is a fundamental and innovative study, making a serious contribution both to traditional classical philology and grammar of Latin and to general linguistic theory and typology

Dissertation of Elena Zheltova on the topic: "Latin Morphosyntax in a Typological Perspective: Interaction of Language Dimensions and Dynamics of Surface Structures" meets the basic requirements established by Order No.11181/1 dd. 19.11.2021 "On the procedure for awarding academic degrees at St. Petersburg State University". The applicant Elena Zheltova deserves to be awarded the academic degree of doctor of sciences in a scientific speciality 5.9.7. Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Philology. No violations of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the specified Order have been detected.

Fatima Eloeva



Doctor of Philology,

Professor of Department of Classical Studies of Vilnius University

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TIKRA
VU Filologijos fakulteto
prodekanė
doc. Diana Šteikaitė Kaishauri

