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## SHORT REVIEW

**from** Professor Slavka Georgieva Keremidchieva, PhD from the Section for Bulgarian Dialectology and Linguistic Geography at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**regarding** dissertation thesis for the award of scientific degree *Doctor of Historical Sciences*

**Author** of the dissertation thesis: Teodorichka Ilieva Gotovska-Henze, Associate Professor, PhD at the Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**Topic** of dissertation: *Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian literary exchange (1830s – 1860s)*

The dissertation presented for defense is in scientific field 2. Humanities; professional field 2.2. History and archeology; scientific specialty "New and recent general history"; code 05. 03. 04.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze has presented all the necessary documents on the procedure in perfect form, which facilitates the review. The same finding applies to the reference attached by her to cover the minimum national requirements for publications and their quantitative dimension in points, from which it is clear that the legal and scientometric requirements for admission to the defense of her dissertation for the degree *Doctor of Historical Sciences* are met.

The topicality of the problem developed in the dissertation in scientific terms is determined by its wide scope because situating the object of her research in the specific historical epoch (1830s–1860s), Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska–Henze for the first time outlined the historical role and social function of Slavic Science, which have not been comprehensively studied so far. Applying the interdisciplinary approach, as a historian, the author traces in detail the fate of the first generation of Slavists and the main stages in the formation of the international Slavic community, following another important goal - to indicate the time and ways of rediscovering Bulgarians and their integration in this community. In parallel, Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze reveals the origin and development of the idea of Slavic reciprocity and its political projection in Russia and Bohemia before and after the revolution of 1848, as well as the consequences of this revolution for the Czech-Russian, Russian-Bulgarian and Czech-Bulgarian contacts and relations.

A very important point in the dissertation is the specification of "terminology and the problems related to it", because even in those first years of the nascent Slavic Science, when the Pannonian theory prevailed, and today, when neo-Pannonianism "comes into fashion", scholars put different content in the main terms such as *Old Slavonic*, *Ancient Slavonic*, *Old Bulgarian*, *Old Church Slavonic*, *Church Slavonic*. Throughout the dissertation, T. Gotovska-Henze argues for the scientific truth about the ethnicity of the language in which the two brothers from Thessalonica created the first books about the Slavs - Old Bulgarian.

The research is based on solid scientific literature and the doctoral candidate takes credit as for the first time she puts into scientific circulation hitherto unknown archival materials from the personal collection of the patriarch of Czech Bulgarian studies - Pavel Shafarik. It is impressive to see the list of old printed and archival sources, as well as published monographs, books, articles, studies, etc., which the author cites in the footnotes and applies at the end of her work. It is on the basis of their multifaceted analysis that T. Gotovska-Henze managed to make a credible personal and scientific description of P. Shafarik, to point out his huge contribution to the Slavic Science, to Bulgarian studies, without concealing his inevitable mistakes and delusions. She emphasizes his most important views and contributions, which make him the founder of Slavic Science and its formation as an international discipline, his conviction that the Slavs have the same rights as other European nations being a large community with their own rich history, culture and unique writing and literature, in short - his idea of Slavic reciprocity. The author's leading conceptual idea is to trace the development of this idea as a political ideology and its fate in the various Slavic countries.

After a brief introduction to the historiography of the issue - the emergence of interest in the study of the Slavs and its expansion towards its transformation into a separate human science, T. Gotovska-Henze focused on the issue of ethnicity of the Bulgarians. At the beginning of the 19th century, the world still knew almost nothing about us, and was not particularly diligent in seeking an answer to this question. But when the debate on the homeland of the first Slavic literary language began, which was in fact the "first folk literary language in medieval Europe to break the dogma of trilingualism", when the fledgling Slavic Science had only Vuk-Karadzovich 27 folk songs in an almost unknown language, P. Shafarik was the first to brilliantly guess that this language would probably be the oldest Slavic language. This is the beginning of the conscious interest in Bulgarians, in their language, literature and culture, as the author correctly summarizes. Here, I would like to recommend that she include in her research the view of L. Ilieva, who

recently, based on newly discovered data, convincingly proved that the author of the Bulgarian prototype of the "Supplement" is the Bulgarian Marko Georgievich from Bansko, who in 1821 had a diplomatic position in Vienna, and therefore his name must be placed before the name of V. Karadzic as the founders of Bulgarian Science (*Ilieva, L. The Bulgarian prototype of "Supplement to the St. Petersburg comparative dictionaries" (Cod. Kop. 31 in the Kopitar Collection at the National and University Library in Ljubljana). – Language and Literature, 2018, books 3–4, pp. 225–234).*

By projecting the language-nationality relationship in the context of the specific historical time, the author consciously avoids the problems of language and dialectology, folklore and the old written tradition, modern Slavic literature, etc., which have been repeatedly developed by other scholars. The original approach of T. Gotovska-Henze presents a new reading of both these works and Shafarik's personal correspondence, which provides new information about the studies at that time of the material and spiritual culture of the individual Slavic peoples. The National Revival processes, which took place in a peculiar way, but invariably in an ascending line, in each Slavic people, gave a strong impetus to the development of Slavic Science, because a number of National Revival leaders and educators, and later others, began collecting folklore, ethnographic and linguistic materials. The logic of the dissertation exposes the important task of revealing "the language-nation interdependence in the context of Slavic reciprocity in the middle of the 19th century, as well as the contribution of academic Slavic Science to the formation of the new elites". In a parallel historical plan - between Bulgarians and Czechs, the origin of the idea of the literary language as a means of unification of the nation is traced. The development of the enlightenment movement was thoroughly followed throughout the Bulgarian language continuum, which included not only leaders but also ordinary people in order to reach its most modern manifestation at that time - the Gabrovo School. T. Gotovska-Henze examines in detail, and not just as an overview, this connection between the Slavic Science and Slavic reciprocity, professionally commenting on its multifaceted nature.

In the short genre of *statement* I could not list all the scientific merits and achievements of the dissertation, but expressing my agreement with the doctoral candidate regarding their definition, I especially want to emphasize her contribution to the interpretation of the topic of the origin of Russian Slavic Science - for the first time in tracing the life and scientific biographies of the first Russian academic Slavists: Izmail Sreznevsky, Viktor Grigorovich, Osip Bodyansky and Peter Preiss,

the so-called "Golden four", the common features in their development are focused and most of all - special emphasis is placed on their attitude to the Bulgarian language problems. These pages are also extremely important for all open-minded scholars working on the problems of the national language policy. They are another irrefutable proof that the first Slavists sought the roots and homeland of the first literary language of the Slavs in the Bulgarian lands and based on the data from the Bulgarian language P. Shafarik with unmistakable foresight stated on the issue of Cyril and Methodius that "*the alphabet and the language are Slavo-Bulgarian*".

T. Gotovska-Henze's dissertation, written by a professional historian with the erudition of a Slavic scholar, is an in-depth reading and analysis of the epoch of the origin and the early years of Slavic Science. The complex and diverse scientific knowledge that the author possesses as a historian and Bohemist, the extremely extensive bibliographic and archival material on which she relies, have given her the opportunity to write with diligence and scientific objectivity a remarkable contribution that provides details and new facts about the history and the language of the Bulgarian people, about the connections and relations between the Slavic peoples from the beginning to the middle of the Revival 19th century.

The dissertation publications meet the requirements for quantity, content and representativeness. The abstract accurately reflects the main points and scientific contributions of the dissertation. I have not noticed any examples of plagiarism. With a view to future publishing, I recommend that some repetitions be avoided.

In conclusion, I believe that the dissertation, performed at a high scientific level, and the overall scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze possess the necessary qualities that give me reason to confidently suggest that the honorable scientific jury and the Scientific Council of the Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences award her with the scientific degree of *Doctor of Historical Sciences*.

17 June 2020

Author of the statement:

(Prof. Dr. Sl. Keremidchieva)