

REVIEW

by Prof. Rosen Kostadinov Stoyanov, Ph.D.

Professional field 3.5. Public communications and information sciences

New Bulgarian University

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On a doctoral dissertation

of Ph.D. student Kristina Nenova Nenova, with the topic of the dissertation „The language of hate speech in politics, reflected in the Bulgarian media“, Department of Media and Communication, New Bulgarian University, professional field 3.5. Public communications and information sciences.

Scientific adviser: Prof. Tolya Stoitsova, D.Sc.

The dissertation is divided into three chapters, accompanied by a bibliography, with a total volume of 202 pages. The text refers to 161 cited sources, 33 of which are in Cyrillic, as well as 24 Internet sources.

I declare that I gladly accept the timeliness of the selection by Ph.D. student Nenova on the topic. I evaluate the analyses, the conclusions from the research and their interpretations as authorial and correctly performed.

Chapter 1 of the text – „Hate speech: causes of the phenomenon“, provides a solid theoretical framework by defining the essence of the concepts. The connection between hate speech and freedom of speech is also touched upon here, as well as its influence and ways of overcoming the impact of this sophisticated modern instrument of influence.

Chapter 2 of the scientific paper is entitled „Applying an interdisciplinary approach to analyse the manifestations of hate speech“ and focuses on the psychological and legal aspects of the topic and its interaction with politics and the media. This chapter also provides additional argumentative evidence to prove the doctoral thesis.

Chapter 3 – „Quantitative research, qualitative research and model of hate speech identification“ presents the essence of the scientific effort of Ph.D. student Nenova – two separate studies of citizens and experts and presentation of a pilot network model for hate speech identification in online media, which I rate as effort essentially successful.

The text the text represents a thorough, scientific and correct study.

Precisely formulated goals and objectives of the dissertation.

The aim of the dissertation is „to study the perception of the language of hatred towards politicians and other groups in the online media“, clearly and precisely defined, presupposed and followed correctly. The methodology is presented correctly. I accept and evaluate the set goals and the thesis as scientifically acceptable.

Correctness in quoting a representative number of authors.

Citing a sufficient number of credible sources gives certainty that the fellow doctoral student Nenova is familiar with the main leading figures and texts – both in Bulgarian and in English, researching the topic, making a pleasant impression and noting the scientific and academic expertise in university’ self-identification.

The proven familiarity with the state of the issues under consideration and its relevance to the sources used, I accept as sufficient grounds for another positive achievement of the colleague.

Existence of a substantiated and developed theoretical model of the research.

Ph.D. student Nenova manages to avoid the manifestation of bias and misleading personal opinion, which is very typical for many texts claiming to be scientific. The author's conclusions have been reached through a scientific method.

I fully accept the theoretical model of the study.

Correspondence of the chosen methodology and research methodology with the set goal and tasks of the dissertation.

I give a positive assessment of the completely accurate overlap of the methodology with the goals, tasks and hypotheses set in advance by Ph.D. student Nenova.

Existence of own contribution to the collection and analysis of empirical data.

Nenova's dissertation is a conscientious, author's research. The conclusions and summaries are acceptable and sufficiently relevant to the level at which the text is presented for defence. I evaluate the doctoral student's own contribution as proven.

The abstract reflects the content of the dissertation, containing the necessary information and highlights of the study.

Description of contributions.

I accept the contributions stated by Ph.D. student Kristina Nenova in their specificity and completeness.

Impacts of the dissertation on the external environment.

The total number of independent publications on the dissertation presented by my colleague Nenova is 7.

Thus, the preliminary approbation of the author's theses is an additional basis for a final positive assessment of all the work done by the doctoral student in the period of her work on the dissertation.


Use and citation by other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.

No data are presented for the presence of citations by other authors of publications of doctoral student Nenova.

Conclusion.

Dear members of the scientific jury, given all that has been described so far, I hereby accept the proposed dissertation of doctoral student Kristina Nenova Nenova, on „Hate speech in politics, reflected in the Bulgarian media“, and I declare that I will vote „YES“ colleague Nenova to obtain the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in a professional field 3.5. Public communications and information sciences.

27.02.2022 г.

With respect, 
Prof. Rosen K. Stoyanov, Ph.D.