

Review

of the Doctoral Dissertation entitled

“Conceptual space of media discourse in the USA and in Kazakhstan: lingua-cognitive aspect” submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty “6D021000 – Foreign Philology”

by Sopiyeva Bayan Abduzhaparovna (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

. The thesis sets out to explore the structuring of key concepts in the current media discourse of the USA and Kazakhstan in the light of the lingua-cognitive approach and to conduct their comparative analysis from the viewpoint of their lingua-cognitive specificity including an associative-verbal perspective. The interdisciplinary PhD paper researches media discourse as social practice with regard to a comparative representation of the lingua-cognitive frames in three correlated leading newspapers in two countries – the USA and Kazakhstan (Russian and Kazakh languages publications) The examination of conceptual spaces also focuses on the use of language as power and a weapon and presents a detailed methodology for a description of the media discourse.

The study of medial space cuts across different areas of science, such as anthropology of culture, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, rhetoric, theory of communication and intercultural communication. Undeniably, the thesis breaks new ground as it investigates certain common and different cultural and conceptual codes in the cognitive models and patterns with their underlying basis of cultural memory and identity.

The subject of the analysis is, without doubt, highly topical since it refers to a reflection of the cognitive concepts and their underlying ideological systems as they are expressed in the lingual networks of journalistic texts. The doctoral candidate shows a profound knowledge of the academic theories dedicated to the subject in different relevant areas, both well-established such as works by N.Fairclough, T.Van Dyke, R.Wodak, amongst others, and the newest theories of cognitive linguistics and media-logical analysis, above all, publications by S.A.Zhabotinska on the semantics of lingual networks. An in-depth analysis of the contextual manifestation of the cognitive concepts coded as information in media texts written in different languages accounts for an undoubted theoretical importance of the work because it reveals the matrices of the different world views and perspectives, as well as the niches likely to be taken up by any emerging meanings in different cultures in any set periods of time, i.e. it predicts the probability of the adoption of a new ideological concept or of its rejection.

Among the strengths of the research, I would also like to point out the emphasized dynamics of the changing responses to word associations depending on the chronology of the questionnaires taken and the make-up of the sample groups, as

well as an overview of the different reactions to trigger words on the part of Russian speakers in Russia and in Kazakhstan.

The weaknesses of the thesis are mostly technical and have to do with a number of repetitions, more specifically, numerous definitions of some terms, such as CDA as well as a number of typos, incomplete sentences and incorrect turns of phrases.

Based on the above I have no doubt that **Sopiyeva Bayan Abduzhaparovna (Almaty, Kazakhstan)** deserves to be awarded the doctoral degree (PhD) in the specialty “6D021000 – Foreign Philology”

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