

Opinion by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maurice Fadel,

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regarding the candidacy of Dr. Nadezhda Tsocheva

for the academic position of "Associate Professor"

in the scientific field 2.1. Philology

Melancholy is one of the most frequently discussed topics in modern humanities. The reason for this is the fact that many scholars recognize in the features that characterize the state of the melancholy a diagnosis of modern man. Nadezhda Tsocheva's book "Poetics of Melancholy in the Context of Bulgarian Modernism and Postmodernism" has a clear awareness of the role of melancholy in today's humanitarian debate.

The first part of the book presents the story of the concept of "melancholy" and its uses in theory. In it is carefully distinguished how the different periods from Antiquity to the present day discuss this concept. However, the book is not about melancholy at all, but about melancholy in Bulgarian literature. There is an interesting intuition in it: that the "Bulgarian mentality" is rather melancholic. It is associated with sadness, unfulfilled dreams, suffering, seeking support, swinging in opposite directions. The second part of the book - "Melancholy and Decorativeness in Bulgarian Symbolism" - is very provocative. Here, the idea expressed in the introduction that research will seek the interaction between fine arts and literature is fully realized. The third and fourth parts - "The Language of Melancholy and the Bulgarian Avant-Garde" and "The Transformation of the

Aesthete in Dimitar Dimov's Novels - Melancholy and Passions" - contain several valuable moments regarding the understanding of melancholy in Bulgarian literature. The attitude of Konstantin Galabov towards Chavdar Mutafov, oscillating between the interest in the unexpected literary situations in which Mutafov puts us, and the distance from the "extremes" of his experiments are carefully considered. The analysis of the calendar in the context of symbolism and the avant-garde also seems to me to be a contribution. The reading of Dimitar Dimov's novels from the perspective of melancholy also deserves attention. The last part of the book - "Melancholy in the context of postmodernism" - is rich in observations. It allows us to look at both sides of melancholy - as a sensual experience and as a mood of thought.

I appeal to the scientific jury to award Dr. Nadezhda Tsocheva the academic position of "Associate Professor".

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