

OPINION

concerning a competition for the academic tenure “Associate Professor” in the scientific field 2.1. Philology (Romance languages – Lexicology and Phraseology in Spanish), announced at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and published in Official Gazette, issue 21 of 15th March, 2022, with an only candidate chief assistant Boriana Zhecheva Kyuchukova-Petrinska

Chief assistant PhD Boriana Kyuchukova-Petrinska has been a lecturer at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Philology (Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology) since 1993 (chief assistant since 2006). She teaches Spanish lexicology and phraseology, as well as a practical course in Spanish in the Bachelor program. Her teaching activities are supplemented by two theoretical courses in the Master program “Applied Linguistics”. For the purpose of her teaching she has published (in co-authorship) extremely useful tools – grammar, dictionaries.

The candidate PhD was in 2006, topic “The Grammatical Category Voice in Modern Spanish”. Her scientific interests today, indicated by herself and by her publications, enter different fields of knowledge: ethnolinguistics, linguoculturology, cognitive linguistics, phraseology, lexicology, translation, grammar, foreign language teaching.

At the competition for Associate Professor, Boriana Kyuchukova-Petrinska presented a variety of scientific work – one monograph, one dictionary, 19 articles (5 of them published abroad). Her publications are cited in different scientific studies (16 stated by her). She is a compiler and editor of several collection works. She takes part with scientific reports in national and international conferences, as well as in different scientific projects. We can say that she has a worthy place among Spanish and Romance language specialists in the country.

Her habilitation work “Conceptualization of Fear in Spanish and Bulgarian Idiomatics)” is not only very interesting as a topic but is competently written with scientific style and convincing conclusions, and is contributing to the studies in the field of cognitive linguistics in the country.

The candidate has realized an interesting contrastive research with the help of cognitive methods. It enters a comparatively new direction when analyzing phraseology, a

direction which leads to more profound understanding of the picture of the world reflected in the studied languages. The specific conceptual scientific field, chosen for analysis, gives opportunity for interesting conclusions regarding the expression of human emotions in Bulgarian and Spanish. In this sense, the study contributes to the Bulgarian phraseology as well.

The monograph owns a number of merits. I will note some of them in short. In the first part the author exposes informatively theoretical bases related to the determination of metaphor, metonymy and comparison in the contemporary cognitive linguistics. Here she shows her excellent knowledge concerning the issue, competently synthesizes different opinions, correctly notes the cited authors. This extensive part explains the choice of the theoretical basis from which the study proceeds. The excerpted material is rich and representative enough for the purpose of the analysis (651 language units in total). Not only true phraseology is included, but also paremia which the author correctly defines as needed for delineation of cultural specifics, and in her work perceives the common term ideomatics. The analysis of the linguistic material is conducted on the basis of relevant terminology. The author defines three thematic parts, searching answers to several specific questions. Structured in this way, the scientific work allows clear understanding of the given material. The presented conceptual metaphors, metonymy and comparatives, gradually reveal how fear is conceptualized in the two languages, what is common and what is different in them. The results of the analysis are competently and convincingly formulated. It is a very good decision to present the conclusions synthesized, in tablets. In the whole study, a number of publications – Bulgarian, Spanish and from other foreign authors are used, which shows wide knowledge of the author. I approve the use of the two indices in the supplement of the Spanish and Bulgarian idiomatics, from the conceptual field fear. They could be useful as well, on a higher level, for other comparative and contrastive studies.

The published articles, written by Boriana Petrinska in the last years, are due to her interest in cognitive linguistics. They are included in the list of publications, presented for the competition. I would highlight her study on Spanish paremia, reflecting the notion of “lie” in Spanish, as well as the analysis of the concept “jealousy”. It is realized on the basis of 482 Spanish word combinations with metaphorical meaning. A careful review of rich lexical and phraseological material allows the author to bring out the metaphors, standing at the basis of conceptualization of jealousy and lie.

Phraseology is a field to which Boriانا Petrinska dedicates other studies. Two articles concern theoretical problems, related to the status of stable comparisons. In them, the author makes a critical review of the stated opinions of Bulgarian and Spanish scientists, and convincingly offers her opinion concerning the question.

Boriانا Petrinska participates in an interesting international project with culturological and linguistic character, tracing the way of penetration of South American food in Europe, and their names in different European languages. In the published collection of works, her article focuses on cocoa, tomato and potato, presenting many language and historical data.

The attention of the candidate is directed not only to lexicology and phraseology. In her publications she examines in depth grammar problems in Spanish, as she focuses on several grammar categories – voice, tense, aspect.

Boriانا Petrinska has a certain contribution in lexicography. The Spanish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Spanish dictionary (2001), compiled by her and A. Mitkova, including totally 24000 dictionary articles, is exceptionally useful for the learners of Spanish.

Conclusion:

The serious scientific production of chief assistant PhD Boriانا Zhecheva Kyuchukova-Petrinska, as well as her successful teaching activities, give me the reason to convincingly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to support her candidacy for taking the academic position “Associate Professor” in the announce direction.

8th June, 2022, Sofia

Prof. PhD Vasilka Alexova

