**EVALUATIVE OUTLOOK**

Concerning the competition for the academic position of “professor” in professional field 2.1 Philology (Cognitive Linguistics - Text and Discourse Analysis (in English))

Candidate: Assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Languages, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury: Assoc. prof. Rositsa Filipova Ishpekova, PhD, Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Languages, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

**1. General notes**

This evaluative outlook was assigned to me at a meeting of the Scientific Jury on 30 May 2023,

appointed by order No. RD 38-172 of 20.04.2023. of the Rector of the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia prof. Dr. habil. Anastas Gerdzhikov. It was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Implementation, as well as the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia and decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Languages, protocol No. 8 of 11.04.2023.

The competition for professor in professional field 2.1 Philology (Cognitive Linguistics – analysis of text and discourse (in English)) was announced in the State Gazette, No. 24 of 17.03.2023. In the relevant period, a single candidate, assoc. prof. Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, submitted an application for participation in the competition. She has submitted 1 monograph, 22 publications, 3 textbooks and teaching aids for her participation. All of them had not previously been included in her competition for associate professor or PhD. The candidate has also provided the other required materials and documents that meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Implementation, as well as the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva became a student in the English philology major in 1990, successfully graduating in 1995 with an interpreter’s specialization and a defended MA thesis on the topic *Gender, speech and cultural myths*. While studying at the university, she worked as an interpreter (in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and in written translation) at the Tinform firm (1992-1994). In the period July 1994 – March 1995 she was assistant-director at Sneak Preview Entertainment.

Assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva, is a well-established specialist and respected colleague at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Languages, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. She became a full-time lecturer at the department in 1995, and was assistant professor until 1999, after that she was promoted as a senior assistant professor, a position she held until 2005. In the period 2005 – 2015 she was senior lecturer and since 2015 she has been associate professor in text linguistics and discourse analysis. In March 2006 she became a PhD after successfully defending a PhD thesis on the topic *The SOURCE-PATH-GOAL image schema in political speeches*. Scientific specialty Germanic languages, code 05.04.20. In June 2023 she successfully defended a Dr. habil. dissertation on the topic *A multi-process cognitive model for investigating text and discourse*.

**2. Teaching activity of the candidate**

Assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Nelly Tincheva-Georgieva delivers lectures in the Bachelor’s degree of the Department of English and American Studies in: Text Linguistics, Analytical grammar, Practical grammar, Analytical approaches to the text and Research methods; in the Master’s degree: AE for Academic Purposes and Discourse Analysis. She is the scientific supervisor of a full-time PhD student. This is a significant amount of teaching activity, which undoubtedly involves a large part of the candidate’s time. The reviewer has personal impressions of her teaching skills and reputation. Given her dialogic nature, her rich linguistic and general knowledge, she manages to engage the students’ interest and motivate them in the learning process.

**3. Publication activity of the candidate**

The candidate has a total of 71 publications, and for the current competition she has submitted 1 monograph, 22 publications, 3 textbooks and study aids. There are 6 publications in scientific editions indexed in reference index research journals. The candidate has developed a greater part of her work in English, but in parallel she has published a number of articles in Bulgarian with a view to popularizing among the linguistic community and students the modern research methods and current problems of text linguistics and discourse analysis, as it is the mission of a university professor.

The monograph Language Gaffes (Linguistic, Discursive and Cognitive Aspects of 'Language Bloopers') reveals how understanding language gaffes from a cognitive standpoint can help explain their existence, nature and contextually-dependent emergence. It supports the thesis that language gaffes emerge from previously existing conventionalized cognitive structures, which can be either: (a) non-language-related cognitive constructs, and (b) cognitive resources available through the particular language code used. The monograph proves that the largest number of language gaffes occur due to text producers’ problems in constructing cognitive structures and proposes three typologies of language gaffes. The monograph provides sociolinguistic data on language gaffes obtained from actual language users. Language gaffes are shown in the monograph to appear in social-status oriented types of discourse (e.g. public or mediated discourse). Overall, the investigation demonstrates that although language gaffes are typically defined as ‘language mistakes’, neither of the two aspects (i.e. ‘language’ and ‘mistakes’) can be validated as a crucial factor in what ‘language gaffes’ actually represent.

The thematically related article titled *Езиковите гафове и езиковите игри като „грешки“ и „смешки“*aims to verify whether the two types – real language blunders and humorous language games resembling real blunders – are distinguishable not only from the point of view of the text producer, but also from the point of view of text receivers.The conclusions drawn show that language errors and language games imitating language errors differ, but not significantly enough to be considered two separate cognitive and discursive phenomena.

The remaining scientific contributions of the candidate are grouped into four thematic groups: *Political discourse*, which includes 8 articles, all of which adopt a cognitive perspective on their object of analysis – they isolate, describe and analyze conceptual structures underlying (a) texts in political discourse, and (b) the cognitive processing of political discourse texts. The second group, *Discourse and Textual Worlds*, includes 5 articles that combine theories of text (de Beaugrande and Dressler,1981) and discourse worlds with Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Conceptual Integration Theory. The argument is presented that it is metaphorical mappings present in both types of World which may enable the overlapping and merging of Worlds. The third group *Text functions and structures*, which includes 5 articles, contributes to the present-day understanding of the notions of 'text type', 'text structure' and 'genre' by combining those understandings with the aims of teaching text types and genres and the fourth group *Figurativity*, which includes 3 articles, demonstrates that on its own, metaphoric conceptualization, which operates powerfully in whole-text production and interpretation, cannot account sufficiently for whole-text organization and structuring. In order to achieve a better explanation of how whole text structuring happens in cognitive terms, we also need to account for the presence or absence of Text World and Discourse World overlap.

**4. Academic coverage of the candidate’s publications**

A total of 27 citations of the candidate's publications are presented, of which 4 are in monographs. The large number of citations in scientific editions indexed in reference index research journals is impressive - 10. Publications were cited in the period from 2007 to 2020.

**5. Project activity of the candidate**

Assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Tincheva has participated in ten national and international scientific projects: 1) BG National QCI Plan Program: DIGITAL-2021-QCI-01-DEPLOY NATIONAL DIGITAL Project No 101091399, BAS, 2022; 2) Project BG05M2OP001-2.016-“Modernization of Southwest University “Neofit Rilski”- city of Blagoevgrad, National Military University “Vasil Levski” - city of Veliko Tarnovo and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2021, 3) Figurative thinking and language 5/ Figurative Language and Thought 5, BG05M2OP001-1.002-0023, 2020; 4) Competence Center “Intelligent mechatronic, eco- and energy-saving systems and technologies”; Institute of Robotics - BAS and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2018; 5) Modernization of National Military University “V. Levski" - Veliko Tarnovo and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - Sofia, Project No. BG05M2OP001-2.016-0003, OP NOIR 2014-2020, 2016; 6) “Construction and development of the Competence Center “Quantum communication, intelligent security systems and risk management” (Quasar)", BAS, BG05M2OP001-1.002-0006, OP NOIR 2014-2020, 2015; 7) “Creation of a unified system of tests in the linguistic disciplines”, Contract number: 8/15.04.2013; 8) “Innovative methods and technologies to improve the quality of teaching in the Department of English and American Studies of the SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”, “America for Bulgaria” Foundation, “University English and American Studies Foundation”, Contract number: grant 0086.20130412, 2013 ; 9) “Creation of a unified system of tests in the linguistic disciplines”, SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Contract number: 194/09.05.2012; 10) Improving the provision of English language, German language and European studies in Bulgaria, Number of the contract: TEMPUS-JEP 7604, 1998.

**6. Conclusion**

Assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva is a distinguished scholar and lecturer, recognized among a wide range of foreign and Bulgarian specialists in the field of text linguistics and discourse analysis. The analysis of the documents and materials submitted by her for participation in the competition shows that they fully meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Implementation, as well as the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Holding Academic Positions in St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. The analysis of the Report on the implementation of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria shows that the candidate not only meets, but even exceeds these requirements. This indisputable fact, the scientific contributions in the field of linguistics, as well as my personal conviction, give me the reason to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury to elect assoc. prof. Dr. habil. Nelly Todorova Tincheva-Georgieva to the academic position of “professor” in professional field 2.1 Philology (Cognitive Linguistics – Text and Discourse Analysis (in English)).

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Ishpekova, PhD