

## PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dimitar Vesselinov Dimitrov, PhD,  
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of

the research works submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position “Professor” for the needs of the Department of Language Teaching (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) in professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics), as announced in the State Gazette No. 56 of 16.08.2019, with single candidate Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, ScD

This peer review has been drawn up in conformity with the procedure for holding a competition for the academic position “Professor” for the needs of the Department of Language Teaching at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics), on the basis of Order No. ПД 38-624 of 21.10.2019 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Slavic Studies (Minutes No. 9 of 15.10.2019).

Documents for participation in the competition have been submitted by the only candidate, Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, ScD, from the Department of Language Teaching at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. No violations of the selection procedure have been found.

Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov, ScD, was born on 30 October 1955 in the town of Smolyan. In 1979, he graduated Sofia University majoring in Bulgarian Philology and then in French as a second specialty. He started working at the 46<sup>th</sup>

Secondary School “Konstantin Fotinov” in Sofia. In 1982, he won the competition for assistant at the Institute for Foreign Students (now the Department of Language Teaching) at Sofia University. In 1997, he defended his doctoral thesis entitled “Public Changes (1989-1996) and the Newspaper Language” („Обществените промени (1989–1996) и вестникарският език“). Since 2003, he has been an Assistant Professor of Modern Bulgarian at the Department of Language Teaching.

In 2018, he successfully defended another doctoral thesis entitled “Language Policy in Bulgarian Newspapers after the End of World War II (1944-1956)” („Езиковата политика в българските вестници след края на Втората световна война (1944–1956)“) and was awarded the scientific title “Doctor of Science” in the higher education field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics). His thesis contained scientific and applied scientific findings which represented an original sociolinguistic contribution to the science of modern philology and met the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the respective Internal Regulations of Sofia University.

Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov, ScD, has written more than 110 scientific publications, reviews and teaching guides. His scientific interests lie in the field of sociolinguistics, the language of the mass media and teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language. His research works have been published in the UK, Italy, France and Russia.

He has participated in scientific projects, he has managed the Laboratory of Applied Linguistics for two mandates (2005–2009, 2016–), he has also been the scientific supervisor of doctoral candidates who have successfully defended their theses. He has been a member of the International Sociolinguistic Society since its founding in 1992 and a member of the Society’s management board since 1996. Between 2008 and 2010, he was a member of the Expert Board of the Council for

Electronic Media in the field of Linguistics. He is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Journalists, as well as of the International Federation of Journalists. He speaks French, Russian and English. Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov, ScD, is the Chairman of the General Meeting of the Department of Language Teaching.

He has been the scientific supervisor of two doctoral candidates who have successfully defended their theses, namely: Rumen Dimitrov Mitov with thesis work entitled "The Vulgarisation of Language" („Вулгаризация на езика“) (1997) and Radka Ivanova Dimova with thesis work entitled "Typical Difficulties and Mistakes in Learning Bulgarian in a Dutch Linguistic Context" („Типични трудности и грешки при усвояването на българския език в холандска езикова среда“) (2008). He teaches courses in modern Bulgarian at the Department of Language Teaching at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov, ScD, participates in the announced competition for a professorship in professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics) with one monograph, four treatises and 20 articles.

His monograph, entitled "Bulgarian-Language Linguists During the First Decade of Socialism (1944-1954) (Contribution to the History of Bulgarian Linguistics)" („Езикovedите-българисти през първото десетилетие на социализма (1944–1954) (Принос към историята на българското езикознание)“) is a study which is historiographic in nature and covers 244 pages. In terms of structure, the work consists of an introduction, nine chapters, conclusions, a bibliography, a summary in English and appendices.

An important assessment of the value of the monograph is provided in a special preface to the edition, written by the founder of the Bulgarian school of sociolinguistics – Acad. Mihail Videnov. The renowned Bulgarian linguist has very accurately emphasised the contributing moments in this serious study, with which I fully agree and unreservedly accept as relevant.

The monograph “Bulgarian-Language Linguists During the First Decade of Socialism (1944-1954) (Contribution to the History of Bulgarian Linguistics)” is a work of current interest and provides a summary of the efforts of a number of prominent Bulgarian linguists who introduced into the academic space of the University of Sofia and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences modern at the time philological theories and heatedly discussed the achievements of the different linguistic schools in post-war Europe. This constellation of Bulgarian scholars, who have left undeniable traces in the philological thought on a national level, aimed to articulate the various linguistic traditions, and at the same time came under the influence of the political transition from monarchy to republic. The discussion concerning the future of the science of philology in Bulgaria incorporated the achievements of the Krakow, Prague, Copenhagen, Geneva schools of linguistics, adding to them the influences of Russian, French, German, Italian and Anglo-Saxon schools of philology.

The period under study is laden with complex and contradictory interpretations. Considering this, the author of the study has set himself the complicated and difficult task of gathering facts and reviewing them with reference to relevant scientific problems, the ideological imperatives of that period and the work of some of the leading Bulgarian linguists in terms of their contributions to the modern development of linguistics.

The patterns of social perception of the literary language “as a super-factor in the socio-political model developed during these years” have been successfully summarised. The analysis in the monograph adequately moves toward and focuses on the systematic study of the mechanics of the introduction of the national language as an instrument of the ideology imposed in the country during the first decade after the end of the war.

In his study, the author successfully outlines the sequence of the introduced speech (language) suggestions in terms of their function of reflecting the organised

political urge to create a new Bulgarian speech standard with a clearly expressed ideological framework.

One scientific contribution is the study of the *awareness of prestige* as a leading factor in language formation during the period of study. A point of particular interest is the examination of the emergence of research fads as part of the efforts of linguists aimed at proving and defending presupposed propositions dictated by the political ambitions of the time.

The factual grounds for presenting the achievements of the Bulgarian language researchers during this unusual historical period have been properly outlined. The analysis of the spelling reform of February 1945 in the book focuses on the efforts and the merits of our linguists' accomplishments. It is necessary to point out that they managed to create and consolidate the broad scientific foundation of Bulgarian linguistics on which an impressive scientific team continued to develop and prove its excellence during the following decades.

The chosen topic is original, and the author has succeeded in presenting the facts exhaustively.

Last but not least, I venture to define as another contribution of the study "Bulgarian-Language Linguists During the First Decade of Socialism (1944-1954)" the author's thesis (proved by him) that "the strategy of following uncritically alien imitation models which have not been rationalised within the national philosophy of societal development" is detrimental to any science because imitation ushers "spirituality and public thought into lasting dead-end and devastating consequences".

The monograph certainly shows that Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, ScD, has deep theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the field of scientific specialty 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics), in which

the current competition for “Professor” has been announced. The candidate demonstrates the qualities and skills for conducting independent scientific research.

The four treatises submitted for the competition by Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, ScD (“Ritualized Slogan Lexis in the Bulgarian Press during the Times of Violent Contradiction in Ideologies (1944–1947)”; “Female and Male Speech in Bulgarian Lifestyle Magazines” („Женска и мъжка реч в българските лайфстайл списания“); “Les défis linguistiques du discours des medias bulgares après les changements de 1989”; “The Hierarchy of Public Space in the Language of Post-totalitarian Press in Bulgaria” („Йерархизация на общественото пространство в езика на посттоталитарния печат в България“), reveal the breadth and diversity of his interests in sociolinguistics.

The articles submitted by Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov, ScD, testify to his interest and involvement in the field of contemporary Bulgarian sociolinguistics and stand out with the clarity of the formulated propositions and the adequately selected evidential material.

On the basis the critical analysis of Assoc. Prof. K. Stoyanov’s research and teaching work presented above, I give my positive assessment of the submitted habilitation thesis, “Bulgarian-Language Linguists During the First Decade of Socialism (1944-1954) (Contribution to the History of Bulgarian Linguistics)”, as well as of the candidate’s treatises, articles and teaching work, and propose to the honourable members of the Scientific Committee to elect Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, ScD, as “Professor” in the higher education field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Sociolinguistics).

29.12.2019

Reviewer:

Prof. Dimitar Vesselinov, PhD