

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Habil. Baian Rayhanova, Department of Arabic and Semitic Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski, a member of the Scientific Committee, appointed by the Rector's decree № RD 38 – 540/18.11.2020.

Regarding the research and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova, a participant in the competition for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics), published in the State Gazette, issue 88/13.10.2020.

I. COMPETITION DATA

The current competition for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics) complies with the requirements of the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the relevant Rules of Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski. The only candidate in this competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petrova Yordanova from the Department of Turkic and Altaic Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski. The applicant's documents, submitted electronically, comply with the regulations including the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of Professor.

II. CANDIDATE DATA

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova is a graduate of Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski, where she received a bachelor's degree in Turkology in 2005 and a master's degree in the same field in 2007. She successfully defended her

PhD thesis on “Linguodidactic Modeling of the Turkish Case System through the Prism of Locative and Ablative Cases” in 2013 and was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Modern Turkish Language (Morphology and Syntax) in 2016.

During her studies and after graduation Dr. Yordanova attended the specialized courses of Turkish, organized by Dilmer Language Center in Istanbul in 2013 and by Onsekiz Mart University in Çanakkale in 2004. Besides, she was actively involved in several research projects and workshops, and participated in 13 international conferences held in Bulgaria (2009-2019) and in 2 scholarly forums organized in Turkey (2019, 2017). Currently, Dr. Yordanova is the head of the Department of Foreign Language Teaching Methodology and member of the editorial board of the University periodicals: *Philology and Annual of Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski* (Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology).

III. SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A complete list of Dr. Yordanova’s academic works contains a sufficient number of publications in Bulgarian (37), Russian (1), English (1), German (1) and Polish (1). They are mainly linguistic studies dealing with the case system in Modern Standard Turkish, Turkish phraseology and others. For the purposes of the current competition, the applicant has submitted 15 scholarly works, published in the period 2009-2000 and represented by a habilitation work, two monographs, a textbook, ten articles and a collective work containing vocabulary units in Turkish and Bulgarian.

Dr. Yordanova’s main work submitted to the competition is “Morphosyntax of the Adjective in Turkish Language” published by Sofia University Press in 2020. The book has 272 pages and includes an introduction (p. 9-13), five chapters (p. 14-202), a conclusion (p. 203-204), a bibliography (p. 205-210) and

an appendix (p. 211-269) containing two alphabetical indexes and two frequency lists. In my opinion, this habilitation work is a comprehensive and topical study of Turkish adjectives that is based on the adequate functional-semantic approach. According to the author, the adjective as a lexical-grammatical class occupies one of the central positions in the system of Modern Standard Turkish and has its own specificity. In the monograph this specificity is revealed at different levels based on a thorough and detailed analysis of the formal, syntactic and semantic aspects of the adjective. It is important that the theoretical statements and conclusions are reasoned and precise and are supported by a variety of illustrative material, characterized by a scientific and applied nature. They contribute significantly to the development of the Bulgarian Turkology.

It should be noted that all publications by the applicant fully correspond to the scientific specialty in which the competition was announced. However, the list of publications for participation in this competition includes two monographs “Linguodidactic Modelling of the Turkish Case System for Bulgarian Learners” (Sofia, 2014) and “The Turkish Case. Analytical Review” (Sofia, 2015) and the textbook “Turkish Language. Grammar Minimum” (Warsaw, 2018). These works have a high scholarly value and practical application, but are not very relevant for the current aims. This is because Dr. Yordanova herself points out in her summary that the first two books were published on the basis of her PhD dissertation (p. 6), and the academic textbook was designed on the basis of the studies “Theoretical Foundations of Grammatical Minimum of Turkish Language” and “Grammatical Minimum of Turkish Language”, published in 2015 (p. 20) and submitted to a procedure for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Among the applicant’s publications, three articles “Terminological opposition *Turkish – Turkic* in Bulgarian and French” (Sofia, 2016), “Phonetic-

Morphological and Semantic Adaptation of Common Lexical Elements of the Turkic Origin in Bulgarian and French” (Sofia, 2019) and “Semantic Adaptation of Frenchisms in the Field of Fashion in Turkish and Bulgarian” (Sofia, 2017), published in co-authorship with Prof. Dimitar Vesselinov in Russian, Bulgarian and English respectively, are of particular interest because of their interdisciplinary character, innovative concepts and excerpted language material, analyzed consistently and thoroughly.

The same research approach is disclosed in the paper “Turks and Turkic Languages in China at the Beginning of the 21st Century” (Sofia, 2018). Its subject is interesting and informative, but some adjectives need to be spelled more accurately (for example, *kipchashka* and *karlushka*). These adjectives are formed from the nouns *kipchak* and *karluk* ending in **k**, but not from the nouns ending in **kh** (for example, *monakh* → *monasheski*). Although the consonant **k** changes to **ch** in the adjectives formed from the nouns, ending in **k** (for example, *uchenik* → *uchenicheski*), I would recommend the spelling *kipchakski* and *karlukski* by analogy, for example, with the Bulgarian spelling of the adjective *tyurkski* (Turkic).

IV. TEACHING ACTIVITY

Dr. Yordanova’s professional career is entirely related to Sofia University where she is engaged in lectures and practical classes in fundamental academic disciplines: Comparative Grammar of Turkic Languages, Modern Turkish, Turkish Dialectology, Introduction to Altaic and Turkic Linguistics and others. These disciplines cover various scholarly fields and are proof of her vast erudition and professionalism. In addition, Dr. Yordanova is a supervisor of four PhD students, two of whom have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations.

V. CONCLUSION

Dr. Yordanova is an established scholar with high authority among the academic community in Bulgaria. Her scholarly and teaching achievements are significant and original. They open up new perspectives for research and practical applications not only in the field of Turkish linguistics, but also in the area of Turkic studies in general.

On the basis of the above-mentioned considerations, I strongly recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Committee to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petrova Yordanova to the academic position of Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics).

Prof. Baian Rayhanova, Dr. Habil.



Sofia, January 27, 2021