

## REVIEW

on the academic output for participation in the competition for the academic position Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in professional field 2.1. Philology (Phonetics and Phonology - English), published in the State Gazette, no.30, April 15, 2022  
Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gueorgui Ivanov Jetchev, Department of Romance Studies, Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski"

The only candidate that participates in the competition is Associate Professor Dr. Snezhina Lyubozarova Dimitrova

From the documentation provided to the members of the committee, it is clear that all the necessary documents and materials for participation in the competition have been submitted and the procedural requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ have been respected.

The candidate meets the national minimum requirements according to the Act of development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova holds a Master's degree in English Philology at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski since 1981 and a PhD since 1999 with a dissertation on speech rhythm in Bulgarian in comparison with English. From 1991 to 2007 she was Assistant, Senior Assistant and Chief Assistant and since 2007 she is Associate Professor at the Department of English and American Studies of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova has been several times at different universities abroad for teaching and research: in 1997 working on a project at the University of Reading, UK; in 2005-2006 as research associate on the project "Prosodic structures and processes in speech production" at the Department of linguistics and English language, University of Edinburgh; in 2009 again in Edinburgh, in 2013 as a Fulbright visiting scholar at the Department of Linguistics, University of California Los Angeles, USA.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova has pedagogical experience in a wide range of disciplines. She has lectured on Practical Phonetics, Phonology, Discourse Phonology, English Intonation, Varieties of the spoken English, Languages and cultures of Scotland (for the bachelor's degree); Applied Phonetics and Phonology, Phonetics on the web, Introduction to the English Pronunciation, Varieties of the English Pronunciation (for the master's degree). She has also lectured English Phonetics for the courses of retraining in teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova successfully supervised three doctoral students who defended their dissertations in 2020 and 2021. All three dissertation topics are in the field of prosody and are comparative phonetic-phonological studies between English and Bulgarian.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova participated in 14 scientific projects and was the coordinator of 4 of them. Among them are Prosodic annotation of the informational status of a foreign language, A Longitudinal Study of the Intonation of the Sofia Variety of Contemporary Standard Bulgarian. Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova coordinated at the level of the faculty the conference New trends in synchronic and diachronic phonetics and phonology with the participation of the colleagues in charge of the courses of Phonetics and Phonology of the different languages taught at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology. She was also the editor of the proceedings of the conference.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova is a member of the International Phonetic Association – IPA, of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians – BAAP, of the Bulgarian Society for British Studies. She has been a reviewer for many international conferences: the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) in 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, Speech Prosody (2014-2019), Interspeech (2014-2022), for the scientific review *Phonetica* (2016).

Her research interests are in the field of Prosody (rhythm, stress, intonation), teaching English pronunciation and the interference of L1 on learning the phonetics of a foreign language.

Since the beginning of her scientific career, Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova has produced 52 publications in the field of Phonetics and Phonology, with 15 of which she applied for this competition.

The publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova for participation in the competition can be divided thematically into five groups.

The first group includes the monograph (habilitation thesis) under No.1 in the list and the publications under No.6 and No.10. The object of their research is the English of Bulgarians studying the language as a foreign language. No.6 was published in *Philology* magazine, and No.10 was published in the proceedings of a conference of the Department of English and American Studies.

The monograph is devoted to the place of prosody in theories of second language acquisition. The author skillfully uses Ineke Mennen's theory for learning intonation (presented in chapter 9 of *Prosody and Language in Contact. L2 Acquisition, Attrition and Languages in Multilingual Situations*, Springer, 2015). On the basis of this theory Dimitrova makes comparison of the prosodic characteristics of the English and Bulgarian languages with the means of the autosegmental-metric model of Intonation Phonology. She successfully predicts some of the problems Bulgarians may encounter when learning the prosody of the English language.

In the second group are publications that examine prosodic characteristics of the Bulgarian language: No.2 – No.4 – No.7 – No.12.

No.2 is a book that is based on the results of the doctoral dissertation of Prof. Dimitrova. No.7 is an article published in the journal "Bulgarian Language and Literature" and referenced in Web of Science. No.12 is devoted to sociophonetic characteristics of the suprasegmental level related to the age of the speakers. No.4 is a significant contribution to the application of the ToBI system for intonational annotation in Bulgarian based on corpora of semi-spontaneous and read speech. The analysis shows the various strategies for signaling the information structure of an utterance.

Another two of the publications (No.8 - No.9) refer to German (in comparison with English) of Bulgarians who study it as a foreign language.

The fourth group (publications No.3 – No.11– No.14) presents research results on the Bulgarian variety of Judeo-Spanish.

The third and fourth groups are the result of the long-term collaboration of Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova with Prof. Bistra Andreeva and other researchers from the team of the Institute of Phonetics at the University of Saarland, Germany, and some other German universities.

The last group (publications No.5 - No.13 - No.15) is related to problems of teaching English phonetics and pronunciation. No.13 identifies a serious problem: the consistent adherence to a student's chosen standard English accent, which often proves to be a greater obstacle than the problems associated with mother tongue interference. This issue is particularly relevant in the light of the increasing study of the so-called World Englishes.

In conclusion, I believe that the candidate fully meets the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1 of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the presented publications are indicative of the scholarly level of Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova and in particular of her expert experience in the field of Phonetics and Phonology of the English, the Bulgarian and other languages. The sufficient teaching hours required by Art. 24, par. 3 of the Law are also available.

The contributions, skills and competencies demonstrated by the presented publications, as well as the experience of the candidate in teaching, research projects and supervision of PhD students give me reason to express a strong positive opinion for Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova to take the academic position of „Professor“ in professional field 2.1. Philology (Phonetics and Phonology - English).

Date: August 21, 2022  
Sofia

Reviewer :

Assoc.Prof. Dr Gueorgui Jetchev