

# **STATEMENT OF OPINION**

**on the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 2.1 Philology (Slavic Languages – Czech Language), announced in State Gazette, issue 93, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019, with a single candidate Chief Assistant Professor Stiliyan Ivanov Stoychev, PhD**

Stiliyan Stoychev is a long-standing teacher of Practical Czech Language in the degree programme of Slavic Philology, Bohemian Studies Major, of the Faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Since May 1985 to the present time, he has consecutively occupied the positions of Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor, and Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Slavic Linguistics of the Faculty of Slavic Studies, leading lectures on Contemporary Czech Language – Phonetics and Phonology, Contemporary Czech Language – Morphology, seminars on Morphology, Orthoepy and Orthography, Vocabulary and Phraseology of the Czech Language, and Comparative Grammar of the Slavic Languages; he participates in the development of syllabuses of compulsory and facultative subjects. The candidate has administrative experience as the Head of the Bohemian Studies Major. During various years, he has led courses in Practical Czech Language and other Bohemian subjects at 142<sup>nd</sup> Secondary Comprehensive School “V. Hanchev” in Sofia, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, New Bulgarian University, the Department of Language Training of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, and the Czech Center in Sofia; he used to be a lecturer of Bulgarian Language at the Belarusian State University in Minsk.

Stiliyan Stoychev is an alumnus of the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University in Prague, where he earned a degree in Czech Philology and General Linguistics. He has had a PhDr. degree from Charles University since 1985 and he earned a PhD degree from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2014. He speaks Czech, Slovak, Russian, and English, and has experience in the field of translation from and into Czech, as well as in the field of tourism. He has participated in one scientific project (Language in Tourism) of the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development” (2006 – 2008).

The candidate is the author of a total of 34 autonomous scientific publications, 2 of which are monographs, 29 – articles, 1 – a study, and 2 – textbooks, and he has co-authored 26 scientific

publications (3 dictionaries, 4 textbooks, 18 study handbooks, and 1 article); he has participated in 14 scientific conferences, 1 of which is national and 13 – international.

16 scientific publications have been submitted for participation in the competition: 2 monographs (№ 1 and 2 regarding item 13 of the Application form for participation in the competition), 1 article published in a scientific issue referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (№ 3), 12 articles (№ 4 – 15) and 1 study (№ 16) published in non-referenced scientific journals or in reviewed collective papers. The total number of the cited and indexed publications in world-renowned databases is 15 and the number of the citations ascertained by the author is 32 (see Certificate, 10.1.). The reference (item 9) shows that the candidate has fulfilled the national minimum requirements under Article 2b of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for scientific field 2. Human Sciences, professional field 2.1 Philology.

The scientific contributions of Stiliyan Stoychev in the field of comparative grammar of the Bulgarian and Czech languages, theoretical morphology of the Bulgarian language, practice of translation and foreign language teaching, as well as of comparative phraseology, can be summarised in the following important points:

1. A first-of-its-kind synchronous study of the morphological relativity in the Bulgarian and Czech languages, including a complete description of the marked relative grammeme (dependent taxis) of the morphological category of taxis; the first attempt in Slavistics to consistently distinguish relativity and temporality in the verb paradigm, i.e. of the verb morphological categories of taxis and tense; consideration of the morphological relative in the context of all other marked meanings of the Bulgarian verb (Publ. № 1, 3, 5, 7, 12, etc.).
2. Development of the first, not only for Bulgarian and Bohemian Studies, but also for comparative Slavic Studies in general systematic synchronous comparative study of the functional-semantic microfields of the resultativeness in the Bulgarian and Czech languages (Publ. № 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, etc.) through a complete description of the functional-semantic field of the resultativeness with the category of the aspect of the action in the Bulgarian language as a morphological core, as well as considering the morphological resultative in the context of the other marked meanings of the Bulgarian verb (except the inferential mood and marked moods).
3. The first successful application in Slavistics of the method for establishing foreign language functional equivalence in studying the relativity and resultativeness in the Bulgarian and Czech languages; of the method for establishing interlingual functional equivalence in studying relativity and resultativeness and for modelling the functional-semantic microfield of

resultativeness in the contemporary Bulgarian language; of the method for establishing interlingual functional equivalence in studying relativity and resultativeness in the contemporary Czech language (Publ. № 1, 2).

4. Further development and popularisation of the theory of morphological categories, the theory of morphological oppositions, the theory of functional-semantic fields as a basis for comparative studies, etc. (Publ. № 1, 2).

5. Contribution to the history of Prague Functional Structuralism (Publ. № 1, 3), to the history of Functional Grammar and the morphological concept in the works of A. V. Bondarko and I. Kutsarov (Publ. № 1, 2, 3).

6. Presentation for the first time in the Bulgarian phraseology of the thesis of the significantly wider scope of idiomaticity in natural languages (not only at the level of a phrase collocation, possibly at the level of a sentence, but also at the level of the individual lexeme), i.e. of the thesis of also the existence of lexical idioms, on material from Bulgarian, Czech, Russian, and Belorussian (Publ. № 14).

7. The first study of the monocollocability of language units and the first attempt for synchronous and diachronic linguistic analysis of monocollocable words as components of phraseological units in the Bulgarian language (Publ. № 15, 16).

8. The first comparative study of monocollocability and monocollocable words as components of phraseological units in the Bulgarian and Czech languages (Publ. № 15, 16) and others.

The briefly delineated contributions testify to Stiliyan Stoychev's broad linguistic competence and high erudition, show his innovative approach and search for non-traditional solutions to complex linguistic problems. These qualities are the reason for the candidate to be among the authoritative specialists in the field of the comparative study of the grammatical systems of the Bulgarian and Czech languages. I reckon that he could provide a lot more to the comparative Bulgarian-Czech phraseology, too.

The high scientific value of Stiliyan Ivanov Stoychev's works, as well as his abilities to present the complex matter in an accessible and understandable way for students, his rich teaching experience, and last but not least – his industriousness and collegiality, *provide me with a reason to certainly recommend to the scientific jury to select him as an Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic Linguistics of the Faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*.