

## **STATEMENT OF OPINION**

**by Associate Professor Nelly Tincheva, Ph.D., member of the scientific jury appointed by Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’'s Rector’s order № ПД 38-408/14.07.2022,**

**regarding the scientific works, professional and teaching activities of Associate Professor Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, Ph.D., sole candidate in the:**

**competition for the academic position of ‘Professor’, professional field of: 2.1. Philology (General linguistics – Cognitive linguistics and word-formation (English)), published in State Gazette, issue 48 of 28.06.2022**

### **1. Information about the procedure**

The competition has been announced by the Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’. I participate as a member of the Scientific Jury for this procedure in accordance with Rector’s order ПД 38-408/14.07.2022.

### **2. Information about the candidates**

The only candidate in the competition is Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, Ph.D., who, at present, occupies the position of Associate Professor at the Department of British and American studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’.

The biographical information included in the candidate’s application documents demonstrates that, in 1995, she received a Higher Education degree (equivalent to a Master’s degree) in English Philology from the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia

University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. From 1997 to 2004 Bagasheva was a doctoral student at the same department, and in 2004 r. defended successfully a doctoral dissertation on ‘The language coding of *event* from the perspective of cognitive semantics’. Until 2007, she held the position of an Assistant at the Department of British and American studies, where, after 2007, she worked as a Senior Assistant. Since 2012, Dr. Bagasheva has been an Associate Professor there.

Other important professional achievements and activities in the candidate’s biographical data include:

- Alexandra Bagasheva is a member of the Editorial Board of the following journals, which represent some of the most significant publications in the competition’s scientific field in Bulgaria:

1) ‘Comparative Linguistics’ (2011 – );

2) ‘SUAP’, FCML (2015 – );

3) ‘Philology’ (2107 – );

- Alexandra Bagasheva is a member of the Scientific Board of the following international scientific journals abstracted and/ or indexed SCOPUS/ WoS:

1) EXELL (Exploration in English Language and Linguistics):

<https://Sciendo.Com/Journal/Exell>

2) Zeitschrift für Wortbildung/ Journal of Word Formation:

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/plg/jwf>

3) Skase Journal Of Theoretical Linguistics:

<http://www.skase.sk/SKASE-JTL.html>

- Alexandra Bagasheva's CV boasts high-profile experience as a member of international conferences' organizing committees such as:

1) President of the organizing committee of FTL 5 (International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language):  
<https://www.cognitivelinguistics.org/en/blog/detail/5th-international-conference-on-figurative-thought-and-language-ftl5-cfp>

2) Member of the organizing committee and reviewer for the following conferences:

- ParadigMo2 (2021) - <http://paradigmo2.eklablog.com/committees-c32380696>

- Word-Formation Theories III & Typology and Universals in Word-Formation IV (2018) - <https://www.upjs.sk/en/faculty-of-arts/konf-kaa-2018/>

- Word-Formation Theories IV & Typology and Universals in Word-Formation V (2022) - <http://kaa.ff.upjs.sk/en/event/43/word-formation-theories-vi-typology-and-universals-in-word-formation-v#toc-home>

- Alexandra Bagasheva is a member of the following professional organizations:

1) International Cognitive Linguistics Association

2) BAAS

- Bagasheva has extensive experience as a translator.

### **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position**

The candidate has presented the following publications for academic evaluation and reviewing:

- 1 monograph entitled ‘**Prototypes, Metonymy and Word Formation**’
- 3 full-length study articles published in scientific journals which are double-blind refereed and indexed in the primary world scientific databases (1 of them is co-authored);
- 2 articles published in scientific journals which are double-blind refereed and indexed in the primary world scientific databases;
- 4 articles published in scientific journals which are not double-blind refereed and indexed in the primary world scientific databases (1 of them is co-authored);
- 3 chapters published in collective monographs (1 of them is co-authored);
- 1 dictionary (co-authored);
- 4 University supplementary textbooks/ workbooks (co-authored);

All publications have been reviewed and/ or approved for publication by the scientific board of each respective forum or edition.

The documents provided for the purposes of the competition, also include data about the participant’s successful management of the *Rila project 2013-2015. A French-Bulgarian contrastive study of the Anglicization of general and specialized communication*, involving the University of Lyon and Sofia University ‘St. Kl. Ohridski’.

The documents provided for the purposes of the competition, also include data about the participant’s successful supervision of 2 doctoral theses:

- Silvia Velikova (2016), 2.1. Philology, scientific field of General and Comparative Linguistics (Psycholinguistics), Veliko Turnovo University. Topic of the Ph.D. thesis: ‘Academic Discourse Comprehension Strategies in Listening to Lectures

Delivered in English as a Foreign Language’.

- Svetlana Taneva (2022), 2.1. Philology, scientific field of General and Comparative Linguistics, Sofia University ‘St. Kl. Ohridski’. Topic of the Ph.D. thesis: „Comparative Analysis of English and Russian medical terminology’.

The evaluation of the candidate’s documents demonstrates clearly that Alexandra Bagasheva not only fully answers all formal quantitative requirements for holding the academic position of ‘Professor’ as specified in the LDAS provisions, but also surpasses them considerably. The cumulative sum total of her publications’ points amounts to 375, with a stipulated minimum of 150. The cumulative sum total of her publications’ citations amounts to 130, with a stipulated minimum of 100. The cumulative sum total of the remaining parameters required amounts to 199, with a stipulated minimum of 100.

#### **4. Evaluation of the candidate’s educational and teaching activities**

Regarding the candidate’s fulfillment of the teaching and educational activity requirements, the biographical data provided by Alexandra Bagasheva demonstrate her extensive experience in that respect. Bagasheva has developed and taught Doctoral degree courses in: Linguistic data and argumentation, Language Data and Linguistic Models, Cognitive Approaches to Literature and Culture. She has taught the following Master’s degree classes: Origin and Evolution of Human Language, Cognitive Approaches to Literature and Culture, Linguistic Anthropology, EAP (Academic writing), Applied Linguistics, Linguistic theories and the Trans-Atlantic, Language and Society of the two Americas. Pivotal for the academic and learning activities of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology are the following

Bachelor degree courses by Associate Professor Bagasheva: Semantics, Semantics and Terminology, General Linguistics, Analytical Grammar I, Introduction to English Syntax, Practical Syntax II, Practical Grammar I, Language in action, English as a lingua franca.

Overall, the long and extremely varied educational and teaching experience of the candidate responds fully to the specificity of the present competition and to its scientific field. Dr. Bagasheva's academic and teaching competence undoubtedly answers the requirements of the competition.

## **5. General characteristics of the presented scientific publications**

The scientific production I am to review not only fulfills but exceeds the requirements stipulated in the law in terms of both quantity and its quality.

The main monograph entitled '**Prototypes, Metonymy and Word formation**' approaches its object of investigation, namely compound nouns in Bulgarian, compound words in Bulgarian and English, and compound verbs in English, from the viewpoint of cognitivism and constructivism. More specifically, the object of investigation is seen as fundamentally associated with the cognitive mechanisms of iconicity and prototypicality. The investigation, importantly, successfully bridges the theoretical gap between the academic concepts of 'conceptual metonymy' and 'word formation'. As a result, the combination between choice of investigative object and original theoretical model not only allows the author to employ a fully harmonized analytical apparatus but also represents a significant scientific contribution in itself.

Employing this advanced framework allows Bagasheva to offer us a convincing wide-lensed as well as in-depth analysis of the cognitive-functional complexity of compounds –

those are not studied in isolation. Instead, they are positioned within a fully coherent model, according to which, every cognitive component of the object analyzed exists in well-balanced dynamics with all the rest of the cognitive components, and with the peculiarities of individual cognitive processing. As a result, in my humble opinion, Bagasheva's monograph yields a significant scholarly achievement of not only explanatory value: it represents a solid, world-class analytical and theoretical framework for further research.

The rest of the publications presented for evaluation boast thematical variation gravitating around the general topics of word formation and the nature of compounds in all of their aspects. I need to also emphasize the presence of works contributing impressively to the fuller scholarly understanding of the interconnection and interdependence of their central linguistic and cognitive investigative objects and much broader culture-related issues.

All of the publications included, regardless of their specific topics and objects of investigation are unified by a common interest in issues pertaining to the relationship between language and meaning, which is well synchronized with Bagasheva's long-standing interest in psychocentrically-characterized cognitive linguistics.

On the whole, the body of publications included for the purposes of the present competition answers the requirements stipulated by the law not only quantitatively but also qualitatively. The candidate's theoretical and applied publications are characterized by in-depth and expansive understanding of the objects studied. Both in the habilitation publication and in the accompanying works, the investigative achievements are up to high modern-day standards. Alexandra Bagasheva's body of works undoubtedly contributes substantially to the general scholarly understanding of the said objects of analysis.

In conclusion to both this review section and the previous one, the significance and contributions of the habilitation monograph and of Bagasheva's other publications is beyond doubt.

## **6. Conclusion**

After I acquainted myself with all the materials and publications included in the candidate's application documents for the purposes of the present competition, and after I analyzed their scholarly significance and contributions, I give them a decidedly positive evaluation. Bearing in mind the achievements from the scientific, organizational, expert, and teaching activities of the candidate, and adding my personal impression of her as being an extremely well-respected researcher as well as a highly qualified lecturer in the specialty of the competition, I declare without hesitation that Dr. Bagasheva possesses the necessary qualities stipulated in the LDAS law of the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of 'Professor'.

Therefore, I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury to vote **in favour of the election of Associate Professor Alexandra Bagasheva, Ph.D., to the academic position of 'Professor' in 2.1. Philology, (General linguistics – Cognitive linguistics and word-formation (English)).**

Date 21.09.2022

Signature: .....