

REVIEW

By prof. DSc Dimitar Veselinov Dimitrov

For a Competition for the Academic Position of "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching... (Methodology of Teaching English Language)

1. Competition data

In the competition for associate professor in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching... (Methodology of Teaching English Language), announced in SG. 96 from 17.11.2023 for the needs of the Faculty of Classical and New Philology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" the only candidate is Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanka Tsoleva Dilkova, PhD, from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", a full-time lecturer at the Department of Methodology of Foreign Language Teaching. The review of the documentation submitted to the Scientific Jury shows that she meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

2. Candidate data

Dr. Tsvetanka Dilkova graduated in English Philology with a master's degree at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1996, and in 2017 defended the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching... at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia. Sofia, where she worked at that time as an English teacher. The topic of her dissertation is: "English Language Learning Strategies Using Translation in Chemical Technology Programs – Methodological Propositions".

Tsvetanka Dilkova has many years of experience as an English language teacher in various educational institutions: "Hristo Botev" Secondary School, Vratsa; Second English Language School "Thomas Jefferson", Sofia; Foreign Languages Section at the Department of Humanities and Quality Assurance of Education at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia; Department of Basic Education at the College of Management, Trade and Marketing, Sofia. Since 2019, Tsvetanka Dilkova is an assistant in the professional field of the announced

competition - 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching... (Methodology of Teaching English Language) at the Department of Methodology of Foreign Language Teaching at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and from 2020 until now - Senior Assistant in the same department.

As a lecturer at Sofia University Sen. Ass. Dr. Tsvetanka Dilkova conducts auditorium and extracurricular classes, including use of e-learning, and develops the curriculum in disciplines directly related to the announced competition: "Methodology of teaching English language with lesson observations", "Lesson observations", "Current pedagogical practice" and "Internship practice" for hybrid specialties at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

3. Data on the scientific output of the candidate

For this competition are presented 16 publications, of which one monograph, one book based on a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor", fourteen articles and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. The scientific production presented for review can be divided into the following thematic areas: 1) linguocultural aspects of teaching English language as a foreign language; 2) Linguodidactic issues of teaching English as a foreign language for specific purposes; 3) Teaching and learning English as a foreign language in an academic environment. The review of the documents provided shows that the applicant meets the minimum national requirements of the LDASRB and the requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific field and professional field of the competition, and the thematic focus of the candidate's publications corresponds to the specifics of the announced competition.

The monographic work on "The Linguo-Cultural Aspect in Modern English Textbooks" is distinguished by its novelty, innovation, and applicability in teaching practice. The study is related to an analysis of the linguo-cultural potential of English textbooks, based on three systems used on the territory of Bulgarian secondary schools with intensive English language learning – Gateway (A1, A2 levels of CEFR), Focus for Bulgaria (A1, A2 levels of CEFR) and Legacy (A1, A2 levels of CEFR). As a structure, the monograph consists of an introduction, four chapters and a concluding part with conclusions presenting the main contributions of the study, a bibliography with the scientific and methodological literature used, as well as twenty-five appendices.

The first chapter of the monograph traces the history of the development of the English language as a starting point for understanding the structure of the language and the reasons why it

has become a global language, an international language and a modern lingua franca. The author draws attention to the current contradiction between the education in the Bulgarian school, oriented towards the model of native speakers of the English language and the "expanding model of English as lingua franca".

In the second chapter of her monograph Tsvetanka Dilkova examines current problems of English language teaching, namely: the study of English for specific purposes and its intensive study in Bulgarian secondary schools. The author makes important conclusions about the unused opportunities of teaching English for specific purposes and Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL).

In the third chapter of the monographic study, the author points out the place of linguo-cultural studies in modern foreign language education and the linguo-cultural aspect in three textbooks. The scientific contribution in this part is related to the theoretical framework for comparative analysis of these learning systems in four aspects: positioning of the linguocultural section in textbooks and comparison of its volume with the rest of the textbook material, thematic content of the linguocultural sections, thematic content in the CLIL section and the culture section, compliance with the curricula.

The fourth chapter discusses the correspondence of the studied English language learning systems in terms of linguocultural content with the English language curricula approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. The author points out that despite the existence of thematic correspondence, in quantitative terms the purely linguistic content is at the expense of the linguocultural content.

The research is distinguished by the originality of the author's theses, rich evidence, and scientific contributions regarding the development of the linguocultural competence of the learners. The conclusions and recommendations made by the author to the writers of English textbooks, as well as the set of exemplary exercises that stimulate the formation of linguocultural skills and can be adapted to the content of different learning systems, prove her professional and research skills to obtain original and scientifically applied contributions.

Based on the above mentioned, I appreciate the monographic work of Dr. Tsvetanka Dilkova as an innovative and contribution research in the field of methodology of foreign language teaching.

The review of Dr. Dilkova's other scientific productions creates impressions of good theoretical awareness and skills for drawing author's summaries and their application in the practice of foreign language teaching.

I support the contributions indicated by the applicant in the report submitted by her. Proof of the contribution moments in the works of Dr. Tsvetanka Dilkova are the scientific-metric requirements met according to the table under the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules for its implementation.

My general impressions of the candidate are that all professional and personal prerequisites for occupying a higher academic position are present – there is thoroughness and systematics in her research activity, high pedagogical competence in her work as a lecturer at universities, a sense of responsibility and consistency in the search for innovative methods and approaches for language acquisition. Senior Assistant Dr. Tsvetanka Dilkova meets the minimum national requirements under art. 2b and the Rules of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching...(Methodology of Teaching English Language), Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". I give my positive assessment of the application.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the above mentioned, I recommend to the scientific jury to make a proposal to the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the election of Senior Assistant Dr. Tsvetanka Tsoleva Dilkova at the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching...(Methodology of Teaching English Language).

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