

## OPINION

Of Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Dosev, PhD  
University of Economics – Varna

regarding the contest for the academic position *Professor*  
at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

### 1. General information:

By Order N: RD 38-624 of 21.10.2019 of the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia and following the proposal of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Slavic Philology (Minutes N: 9 of 15.10.2019) I have been included as an external member in the scientific panel to conduct the examination of the contest for the position of *professor* in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - sociolinguistics). At its first meeting, the scientific panel decided that I should prepare an opinion. I am an associate professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology, *General and Comparative Linguistics* (Applied Linguistics - Bulgarian). I am a lecturer in the Slavic Languages Department at the Department of Language Training at the University of Economics - Varna.

My Opinion has been prepared pursuant to the *Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Awarding Academic Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Sofia University.*

### 2. Information about the contest:

The contest for the position of *professor* in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - sociolinguistics) was published in the State Gazette, issue 56 of 16/08/2019. The contest is for the needs of the Bulgarian Language and Specialized Training of Foreigners Department at the Department of Language Training (DLT) of the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

Only one candidate applied for the contest: Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov.

### 3. Contest applicant:

Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov holds a degree in *Bulgarian Philology* and second major in *French language* from the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. He speaks English, French and Russian. His professional career began as a teacher of Bulgarian language and literature at the 46th Konstantin Fotinov Secondary School. Since 1982 he has been a teacher of Bulgarian language for foreigners in the Department of language training at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. He has lectured in France (Nantes) and Turkey (Istanbul). From 1980 to 1990 he also worked as a freelance journalist for the Hristo Botev Program (Radio Sofia).

Krasimir Stoyanov defended his dissertation in 1997 and was awarded his PhD in *Bulgarian language*. In 2003 he was habilitated as an associate professor under field 2.1. Philology, and in 2018 he was awarded with a *Doctorate of Philological Sciences*.

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov also holds a number of administrative and public positions. He was head of the Scientific Laboratory of Applied Linguistics in the Department of Language Training for the periods 2005-2009 and 2016-2018. Since 2016 he has been chairman of the General Assembly of the DLT. From 2009 to 2010 he was a media expert at the Electronic Media Council. Since 1996 he has been a member of the management of the International Sociolinguistic Society, and since 2005 he has been a member of the management of the Philological Sciences section of the Council of Scientists in Bulgaria.

#### **4. Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the scientific work, presented for the contest**

First of all, I will express my dissatisfaction with the messy way in which the scientific work was presented to the members of the scientific jury. This definitely made it difficult for us and delayed our work.

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov presented the following publications for the contest, which did not participate in previous procedures for obtaining a scientific degree or position:

- ✓ 1 monograph;
- ✓ 4 studies
- ✓ 18 papers (one of which in print)
- ✓ 1 textbook

In general, the scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov cover issues related to sociolinguistics, the history of Bulgarian linguistics, media speech and Bulgarian language training for foreigners. One of the studies was written in English and another in French, both of which were published in prestigious foreign editions.

##### ***4.1. General data on the monography***

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov applied for the contest with a monograph entitled " Bulgarian Language Linguists in the First Decades of Socialism (1944 - 1954) (Contribution to the History of Bulgarian Linguistics)". The monograph has a total volume of 243 pages (15 pages of appendices). The bibliography is extremely voluminous, not numbered, however spread over 25 pages, including titles in English, French and Russian. The monographic work itself consists of an introduction, 9 chapters and conclusions.

##### ***4.2. Significance of the issues discussed in the monography***

I believe that the issues discussed in the monograph are significant and relevant to the current situation. Nowadays, when there is talk of increasing functional illiteracy of students and an increasing number of non-native Bulgarian first-graders, topics related to the development of the Bulgarian literary language and socio-linguistic situation in the country are becoming even more relevant.

##### ***4.3. Structure and content of the monography***

In the introduction to the monograph, the purpose of the study is stated, namely: "the analysis in the present study aims to reveal the contributing elements of the results of the research efforts of a national school of linguistics, quite unusual as concerns the nature of their creative vocation and dedication, which brought the Bulgarian linguistic thought into the world linguistic science" (p. 19). According to Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov, the idea of the project is to "trace the creation, development and realization of creative ideas in linguistics under the political conditions of the first post-war decade. This means seeking answers to questions about what conditioned and necessitated the choice of the research being conducted in the particular language issues; what is the approach and methodology of the targeted studies; what is the social environment and how it corresponded to the research intentions; how far and when deviations from politically imposed ideology were allowed; what were the relationships at this historical moment between the totalitarian model of governance and the management of scientific activity; what is the value of linguistic science and its significance in plans to implement the one-party model of governing a totalitarian state" (ibid.). The author uses a sociolinguistic approach to fulfill his goal. As noted in the foreword of the edition by Academician Videnov, one is impressed by the wide public panorama, against the background of which the scientific searches of our linguists during this period are considered. The monograph addresses some of the most important problems for linguistic science in those 10 years - the forced citation of Communist leaders by Bulgarian scientists with European backgrounds, the disputes related to the spelling reform, the horror and confusion following

the defeat of N. Y. Mar's pseudoscience. The conclusions drawn at the end of the monograph are correctly formulated and summarize the results of the study. According to Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov, the literary language during that period was charged with non-peculiar functions and was perceived as a means of imposing communist ideology in Eastern Europe. Unfortunately, such an understanding presupposes "a relationship of service to science and its subjective factors of the aims and ambitions of political power exercised in the state" (p. 195). Despite the extremely difficult conditions during the period under review, the achievements of Bulgarian scientists are truly indisputable. The spelling reform is just one of the many pieces of evidence. Another such proof is the creation of scientific schools, of a galaxy of outstanding scientists, established through their work in the European linguistic science. The achievements of the Bulgarian scientists who worked in those 10 difficult years are due to their exceptional talent and strength to uphold the scientific truth.

The monography in question has made a contribution to Bulgarian linguistics in several respects. On the one hand, this study clearly proves the enormous influence of the state policy on the work of the Bulgarian linguists during this crucial period, and on the other, their power and talent under these conditions to defend the scientific truth. Despite their total ideological attachment to Stalinism, Bulgarian scholars have succeeded in establishing and consolidating a serious scientific basis for Bulgarian linguistics and in creating an impressive scientific team that has proven itself with its achievements and followers in the decades to come. Another scientific contribution is the presentation of some linguistic efforts during this period to prove and defend ideologically-based arguments dictated by the political ambitions of state power. The presentation of the borrowing of foreign methods, scientific theses and approaches, as well as the attempts (sometimes quite uncritical) for their use in the Bulgarian linguistic science, are also contributory. The reviewed papers and studies presented for the contest also have different contributions to Bulgarian linguistics, both in terms of the proposed new and attractive methods for teaching Bulgarian to foreigners, as well as in the sociolinguistic approach in analyzing media texts.

#### **5. Other:**

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov is co-founder and member of the International Sociolinguistics Society. He co-authored an international project with the participation of the University of Nantes. Assoc. Prof. Stoyanov has been the scientific leader of one successful PhD student.

#### **6. Conclusion:**

All of the above gives me reason to support the submitted candidature. I will vote IN FAVOUR of Krasimir Stoyanov occupying the academic position of *Professor* under field 2.1. Philology.

December 22, 2019  
Varna

Signature:   
/Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Dosev, PhD/