

## CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT

by Prof. Irena Kristeva, DSc,  
Department of Romance Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology,  
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski,

Member of the Academic Jury (Rector's Decree № RD 38-540/18.11.2020)  
regarding the competition for the position of Full Professor  
in the professional field 2.1. Philology  
(*Turkic and Altaic studies; General and Comparative Linguistics*),  
published in State Gazette, issue 88 of 13.10.2020

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, is the only candidate for a professorship in the professional field 2.1. Philology (*Turkic and Altaic studies; General and Comparative Linguistics*). She meets all the requirements of the Law on the Promotion of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions in Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She has submitted all the necessary documents and academic production for the announced competition, complying with the requirements of the Law and the Regulations. No procedural violations have been found.

The professional development of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is related to the teaching of Turkish language in the Department of Turkic and Altaic Studies at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She was appointed a full-time Assistant Professor of Turkish language in 2007, and in 2016 she was elected Associate Professor of Modern Turkish language – Morphology and Syntax. In 2013 she acquired a PhD degree in the professional field 2.1. Philology (*Modern Turkish – Grammar of the Turkish language*) after defending her PhD thesis on the topic „Linguodidactic Modelling of the Turkish Case

System“. She is currently lecturing in the bachelor's program in Turkish studies on the following disciplines: Comparative Grammar of the Turkic languages, Modern Turkish – Lexicology and Lexicography, Modern Turkish – Phonetics and Phonology, Turkish Dialectology. She was the research supervisor of two PhD-students who defended successfully their PhD thesis, and is currently supervising two more PhD-students.

The publishing activity of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is a testimony to the constant efforts for scientific development in the field of Turkish studies, Comparative Linguistics and Linguodidactology. She is participating in the competition for a professorship with: a habilitation thesis; two published books on the basis of the defended PhD thesis; three articles published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information; seven articles and reports published in peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; a collaboration in the compiling of a dictionary; a published university textbook.

The monograph *Morphosyntax of the Adjective in Turkish language* (St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2020), submitted as a habilitation thesis, is a contribution study in the field of Theoretical Grammar and Comparative Analysis. The topic is current, relevant and enriching the field of Comparative Research for the pair of languages Turkish-Bulgarian and Interlingual Communication. The monograph is clearly the result of many years of constant dedication, in-depth study of the representative factual corpus and a taste for modelling. It is of interest to both Turkologists and Slavists working in the field of Comparative Linguistics. It will undoubtedly find close application in the teaching of Turkish language in Turkish studies, and wide application in lexicographic and translation activities.

I would summarize the contributing elements of the habilitation thesis of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova in several directions: 1) the applied extended morphosyntactic functional-semantic approach to the study of the

modern Turkish grammatical system through the prism of the Bulgarian language; 2) the morphosyntactic description of the adjective with elements of comparative analysis; 3) the proposed polyfunctional linguo-didactic model of the adjective as a lexical-grammatical class in the Turkish language. The other two monographs, *Linguodidactic Modelling of the Turkish Case System for Bulgarian Learners* (2014) and *The Turkish Case (analytical review)* (2015), are serious theoretical and practical studies that propose a linguo-didactic model of the Turkish case system for the purposes of teaching Turkish language to Bulgarian students.

The attached articles, published in prestigious scientific journals, raise or supplement the issues covered in the habilitation thesis and monographs. Some of them fit into the field of Linguodidactology: „Nominative Case in the Modern Turkish Language“ and „A Semantic Map of the Locative in Modern Turkish“. Others show a lasting interest in Comparative Lexicology: „Terminology Opposition Turkish – Turkic in Bulgarian and French Languages“ and „Phonetical-Morphological and Semantic Adaptation of the General Lexical Elements of Turkic Origin in Bulgarian and French Language“ (co-authored with clearly distinguished parts). The academic textbook „Turkish Language. Grammar Minimum“ is based on the theoretical model of binary grammatical minimum presented in the studies „Theoretical Foundations of Grammar Minimum in Turkish“ and „Grammatical Minimum in Turkish“. Two other studies, „Bulgarian Linguodidactic Interpretation of the Turkish Case System in the Period between the Two World Wars“ and „Turkish Language Teaching at Universities in Bulgaria – Actual Status and Perspectives“, complete the candidate's interest in Applied Grammar.

The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova attests the consistency of her research in the fields of Morphosyntax, Lexicology and Linguodidactology, and her readiness to be fully involved in the academic debate. Proof of their scientific value are the points collected from their

citations, including some in referenced and indexed in Web of Science publications, which exceed the minimum national requirements.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova actively participates in the life of the academic community with numerous and varied appearances as a teacher, scientist, administrator and organizer of scientific events. She is a member of the editorial boards of two national periodicals; a participant in twenty-five international and national congresses, conferences and seminars; a coordinator or a member of seven research projects; an organizer of five international and national scientific forums. Since 2019 she has been the head of the Department of Foreign Language Teaching Methodology and a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology.

## **Conclusion**

Based on all of the above, I can safely say that the stated qualities of the research activity, the scientific and applied contributions of the candidate meet all the necessary requirements for a professorship at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. I whole-heartedly recommend the election of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, as a professor of *Turkic and Altaic studies; General and Comparative Linguistics*.

Sofia, 12.01.2021 г.

Prof. Irena Kristeva, DSc