

## ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

By Assoc. Prof. Miyram Salim-Ahmed, PhD

Lecturer at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen,

Faculty of Humanities, Department of Turkish Language and Literature

member of a scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "professor"

field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Turkology and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics)

### **1. Information about the competition**

This review is in connection with order № ПД 38-419 / 19.07.2019 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In the competition for a professor, announced in SG, issue 88 / 13.10.2020, for the needs of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", as the only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova, PhD.

A set of scientific papers and documents of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, were submitted in time for the preparation of the review. The whole procedure of the announced competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

According to the attached reference for covering the minimum national requirements under the Law on Development of Academic Staff and the reference from National Centre for information and Documentation, I confirm that Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD meets all indicators of the minimum national requirements

### **2. Short information about the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD graduated with a bachelor's degree in Turkology and a master's program in Applied Linguistic Turkology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2013 she defended a dissertation on "Linguodidactic modelling of the Turkish case system for Bulgarians (through the prism of the local and distinctive case)." Since 2016 she has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of Turkology and Altaic Studies at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Concerning the work of M. Yordanova, emphasis should be placed on her teaching activities, the mentorship of doctoral

students, as well as her administrative duties at the university. Since 2007 she has been teaching at the same university disciplines such as Practical Turkish Language - Grammar, Writing Exercises, Introduction to Altaic and Turkic Linguistics, Turkish Dialectology, Modern Turkish (Phonetics and Phonology; Lexicology and Lexicography), Comparative Grammar of the Turkic Languages. An important emphasis in the professional biography of M. Yordanova is two scientific manuals of doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertations. Her professional activity is closely related to her research interests in the field of modern Turkish grammar, applied grammar and comparative lexicology.

### **3. Research activities**

#### **3.1 General description of the presented materials**

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, is participating in this competition with papers published after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and after the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 2016. The list of works for participation in the competition contains 1 monograph, 2 published books based on a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor", 10 articles (3 co-authored), of which 3 were published in refereed and indexed and 7 were published in non-refereed scientific publications, 1 textbook and participation in collective compilation of a bilingual dictionary. The scientific works of the candidate are written in Bulgarian, Russian and English. All publications of Assoc. Prof. M. Yordanova, PhD, are logically structured, with reasoned topics and questions.

#### **3.2. Scientific contributions**

The scope of the candidate's research interests includes the theoretical grammar of the Turkish language in a comparative plan with the Bulgarian language, applied grammar and comparative lexicology. Within these subject areas, the author conducts in-depth research, in which she shows serious theoretical training and linguistic sense. Leading role in the list of presented publications has the monographic study "Morphosyntax of the adjective in the Turkish language", which the author submitted as a habilitation thesis on the announced competition for the academic position "Professor". The paper is presented in a volume of 272 pages, with an introduction, five chapters, conclusion, bibliography and appendices.

The monograph is dedicated to one of the central noun lexico-grammatical classes in the Turkish language - the adjective. I fully support the statement of the researcher, who noted

at the beginning that in which the word-formation process and the problems related to the manifestations of the typical for the Turkic languages sound harmonies are brought to the fore, and the semantics, typological characteristics and ways of functioning of the adjective in the modern textual and communicative reality are left in the background "(p. 9).

The subject of the research is the adjective as a specific lexical-grammatical class in the modern Turkish language, and the object of research is the morphological, syntactic and semantic specifics of the adjective in the modern Turkish literary language based on representative examples extracted mainly from five types of sources. The main goal of the candidate is to attempt to realize a complete description of the formal, syntactic and semantic aspects of the adjective in the modern Turkish language with elements of comparative analysis. In this regard, it is necessary to emphasize that issues related to the adjective in modern Turkish are addressed for the first time clearly and systematically in a monographic work.

The presented work is realized based on an extended morphosyntactic functional-semantic approach, in which the study of the modern Turkish grammatical system is carried out through the prism of the Bulgarian language, using new theoretical and theoretical-applied research. One of the main contributing moments of the development is the presentation of certain aspects of the adjective in Turkish in comparison with the Bulgarian language, thus facilitating the presentation, understanding and mastery of the essence and use of this part of speech in Turkish.

In her work, the author adheres to several theoretical and applied principles for the modern interpretation of the adjective in the modern Turkish literary language. The conceptual guidelines for the interpretation of the adjective are mainly in the "spirit" of the French and Russian lexicological and grammatical tradition, of the modern communicatively oriented linguodidactology. In the introductory part, she notes that the study on the adjective reflects the latest achievements in the research of lexical and grammatical classes in the modern Turkish literary language and the system of the Bulgarian language. As a specialist working in the field of the modern and historical grammar of the Turkish language, I can note that the research of Assoc. Prof. M. Yordanova, PhD, is characterized by innovation, relevance and harmonious composition.

One of the conclusions reached by the author after reviewing the comments and scientific analyzes devoted to the adjective as an independent part of the speech of the studied

theoretical and reference sources is that despite the attempts of various authors, there is no universal solution to the adjective as a common lexical, grammar class. From the educational and academic grammars and linguistic researches of prominent Turkologists Dr M. Yordanova manages to extract and formulate the following characteristics of nature, character, grammatical categories, semantic-grammatical classification and syntactic use of adjectives in the Turkish language: *adjectives denote a non-procedural feature; adjectives are an invariant lexical-grammatical class (in Turkish there is no category gender, number); qualitative adjectives have degrees of comparison and intense forms; relative adjectives are limited; adjectives can perform the syntactic function of definition and predicative definition* (Chapter One). An important point in this part of the paper is the attempt to present the Turkish and Bulgarian terminology and definitions in the field of research on the adjective as part of speech in these two languages.

When considering the structural and semantic characteristics of the adjective in Turkish in comparison with the specifics of the adjective in Bulgarian, the classification of adjectives by semantic feature, which is defined as *qualitative* and *relative*, with clear criteria for distinguishing them, is impressive. (Chapter Two). It can be seen that the researcher is well aware of the state of the problem and the existing literature on this issue. Concerning *relative* adjectives, the author convincingly does not join the classifications of Turkish linguists and presents her arguments on this issue: „In Turkish academic grammars, there is usually no tendency to distinguish such adjectives, as in meaning, the adjectives are divided into qualitative adjectives (*nitelemesifatları*) and of definite adjectives (*belirtmesifatları*). The first group (*nitelemesifatları*) generally includes traditional qualitative adjectives and relative adjectives are often added to them. (Demir 2006: 293– 294, Korkmaz 2009: 361–398 etc.). The second group (*belirtmesifatları*) covers lexical units belonging to other lexico-grammatical classes (numeral names, pronouns, etc.) that can function as a definition in the sentence. In this case, there is a mixture of lexical-grammatical criteria with syntactic ones, which calls into question this type of classification. Therefore, this position is not followed in the present study.” (page 114)

The category of *intensity* in adjectives is fully presented and analyzed. The system of the Turkish language establishes a three-stage composition: positive, neutral and negative intensity. The problem of *the quantitative dimension* of the adjective in Turkish, compared to Bulgarian, can also be considered positive. Different structural and semantic features of

adjectives are considered and the available general tendencies for both languages are taken into account.

In her research, Assoc. Prof. Yordanova, PhD, also dwells on a very important issue of Turkish grammar, related to the structure of the Turkish sentence. The fifth chapter of the monograph discusses the syntactic functions in which it is possible to use adjectives. One of the main difficulties that Turkish language learners face in the process of mastering the structure of a sentence is the perception and understanding of syntactic units. Those who study and teach Turkish syntax are probably well aware that many aspects of the Turkish sentence are still theoretically unclear. The author of the considered monographic work derives two main syntactic functions of the Turkish adjective in the modern system of language: "it participates in the composition of the sentence either in the role of a modifier (modifying function) or as part of a compound predicate (predicative function)". It is known that the modifier expressed by an adjective is used to characterize certain parts of the sentence as a subject, direct or indirect object, adverbial modifier. According to M. Yordanova in the modern Turkish language, as well as in the Bulgarian language, the main lexical-grammatical class, which is used to express the syntactic function "modifier" in the sentences, is the adjective (p. 194). It is noteworthy that this chapter of the paper, which is enriched with examples translated into Bulgarian, does not specify terms for "modifier" in the sentence used in Turkish. Regarding the similarities between Turkish and Bulgarian adjectives, the main conclusion reached by the author is that adjectives in these languages have sufficiently clear syntactic and functional features.

The conclusion (pp. 203-204) is very short and in my opinion, has the character of a summary or descriptive presentation of the work. It would be good to highlight the results achieved and contributions from the implementation of the many tasks that the author sets at the beginning of the development.

The illustrative material includes examples illustrating the specifics and functioning of the adjective in Turkish. The examples are mainly extracted from five types of sources. These are literary works, Turkish press, internet sources, dictionaries and encyclopedic editions, educational literature. The appendices (pp. 211-269) deserve high praise. These include the *Alphabetical Neutral-Elative Indicator*, the *Alphabetical Elative-Neutral Indicator*, *the*

*Ranking Frequency List of Adjectives and the Alphabetical Frequency List of Adjectives with Bulgarian translation.*

The bibliography includes over 120 titles, including sources in Bulgarian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, English, German, French, Russian and others.

The monographic work "Morphosyntax of the adjective in the Turkish language" is a study with significant scientific and practical contributions. The analyzes proposed in the monograph have applied value in the field of teaching or the development of other publications, as well as in comparative research. The results of the study can be used by specialists Turkologists, Slavists and Bulgarians.

Among the peer-reviewed scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. M. Yordanova, PhD, several scientific contributions and scientific-applied achievements related to the field of theoretical and applied grammar and comparative lexicology stand out. In this regard, the textbook written by Assoc. Prof. Yordanova - „Językturecki. Minimumgramatyczne”, deserves high praise. It is based on the developed theoretical model for the binary grammatical minimum in the two editions published several years ago "Theoretical bases of grammatical minimum in Turkish" and "Grammatical minimum in Turkish". M. Yordanova is one of the few linguists - specialists in Turkish language in our country, who have the knowledge, desire and patience to prepare a grammar textbook.

Among the publications with which Assoc. Prof. Yordanova participates in the competition, the articles dealing with problems of comparative lexicology deserve attention, as well as the lexicographic work "Academic Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary", in which the candidate is a member of the author's team. The author's interesting comparative studies undoubtedly emphasize the contributions and merits of her scientific works (Articles 6.2, 6.3, 7.4, 7.7). The study of lexical elements of languages, representatives of different families and language groups, as well as the linguistic relations between these languages is a challenge for which every researcher will receive recognition.

The contribution and the scientific influence of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Yordanova, PhD, the number of observed citations is indicative, which are 15. The works are cited in studies by Bulgarian and foreign authors, 3 of them are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information.

From all the above it is clear that in her research Assoc. Prof. M. Yordanova, PhD, with a thorough and analytical approach, has taken the opportunity to formulate important guidelines in the theory and practice of the modern Turkish language. Her activity and productivity are a prerequisite for the undoubted and future linguistic contributions in the field of Turkology in Bulgaria and abroad. Highly appreciating her research and work, I am convinced, I am convinced that Assoc. Prof. Yordanova, PhD, will continue to explore and expand the areas of her scientific interests.

During the reviewed period, Assoc. Prof. M. Yordanova, PhD has been the leader of 2 research projects. She is the editor of two unreferred editions. He is a member of the editorial board of Philologia magazine, 2017.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on the good level of scientific production and professional merits, I find it reasonable to propose Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD to take the academic position of "professor" in higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Turkology and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics)

25.01.2021

Shumen

Reviewer:



/ Prof Miyram Salim-Ahmed, PhD /