REVIEW

for a competition procedure for the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 2.1. Philology (General Linguistics – Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation (English Language)), announced in State Gazette No 48 from 28.06.2022 for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Department of English and American Studies

One candidacy has been submitted to the competition, namely that of assoc. prof. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, PhD, who is a full-time staff member at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski*.

After a procedure for checking the candidate's eligibility, by decision of the respective faculty committee, she was admitted for participation in the competition.

1. Data analyzed in relation to the compliance of the application with the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "associate professor".

The candidate in the procedure, assoc. prof. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, PhD, has submitted all required documents certifying the compliance of her application with the requirements of the Law about Scientific Degrees and Titles, as well as the Rules of Procedures of the University of Sofia *St. Kliment Ohridski*. The submitted documents confirm the correctness of the aggregated indicators of the scientific data for the research, teaching and expert work of assoc. prof. Dr. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, which correspond fully to the minimum national requirements under bl. 2b, para 2 and 3 of the ODARB, as well as to the additional requirements of Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski*.

2. Presentation of the candidate

As can be seen from the candidate's documentation, presented for the procedure, assoc. prof. Dr. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, has a rich academic and professional career, which can be defined as a process of a continuous educational and training development and upgrading beginning with her school education through the BA and MA programmes in the field of English and American studies, as well as a process of connecting her academic career with the practice of teaching English linguistics, more specifically cognitive linguistics and word formation to university students not only in Bulgaria, but abroad as well. The candidate's professional

development is due to her participation in various trainings, internships, study visits of a different duration, thematic orientation, etc.

Her academic career started back in 1995 when she graduated from Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski* in her MA degree in English Studies, specialtity English Studies and teacher in English language and literature, with a specialization of linguistics and translation. Up to her placement as a full-time member of the Department of English and American Studies in the Faculty of Classical and New Philology at Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski* in 2007 she worked as a translator at the University's Student Affairs Office and in a translation agency. She was also a part-time lecturer at the Department of English and American Studies in the Faculty of Classical and New Philology at Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski*. Alexandra was a full-time PhD student at the department from 1997 till 2004. The title of her PhD thesis which she defended quite successfully is *Linguistic Coding of Events from a Cognitive Semantics Perspective*. From 2007 to 2012 she was a senior lecturer and since 2012 up to now she has been an associate professor at the department. She has a number of qualifications related to her teaching and academic activities pointed out in her CV, which speaks a lot about her preparation in the field of English Studies, more specifically linguistics (English and Bulgarian). Her publications are in the above mentioned field and she has presented certificates about them. Part of her professional development is connected with joint work for preparation and creation of educational materials which can be used in the new epidemic environment, as for example in a flipped classroom and electronic environment and distance (online) teaching of languages and the humanities together with Vytautas Magnus University and University of Silesia in Katowice и с L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bagasheva has got a lot more other certificates which are internationally renowned and are mentioned in her CV.

The fact that during 2014-2022 she had courses, some of which interdisciplinary, in the BA, MA and PhD programmes to students of English Studies and African Studies is demonstrative enough about her knowledge and skills which she uses in her classes in an appropriate way. It becomes obvious from the documents about her teaching experience that most of her courses are related to the topic of the current procedure. She has also participated in a number of projects as a coordinator and as a participant (11 – all of them listed in the materials) and conferences and all her presentations are published. She has created new systems for teaching English. She has also compiled 3 dictionaries, etc. Alexandra has been an academic advisor to two PhD students from

Sofia University and Veliko Tarnovo University. She is also the editor of 1 refereed and 2 non-refereed academic journals and is a member of 3 editorial boards. She is a regular reviewer for national and international journals.

The documentation shows that there is sufficient proof of the fulfilment of the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "professor". Her publications even outnumber the required minimum. The candidate's research, qualification and publication activities are really impressive with their wide academic basis integrating various linguistic theories, paradigms and models with their practical application.

The candidate's academic interests are in the field of general linguistics, cognitive, cultural, and comparative linguistics, semantics, lexicography, word formation, psycholinguistics and a lot more.

The total number of her publications (71) (the list is not exhaustive), yet the presented number of publications is more than enough for applying for an associate professor position according to the requirements of the procedure for professorship. Her publications after she was awarded her PhD degree and after the habilitation procedure for an associate professor (40) are broken down into: 1 monograph (38); in renowned academic journals or books of proceedings, international as well as national, refereed in Scopus and Web of Science, in books of proceedings with academic reviews or in refereed collected papers, in books of collected papers from conferences and annual editions - 20 + 2 (forthcoming) in co-authorship (39, 40), 1 dictionary in co-authorship (6); 4 books with tests for Olympiads in English (18, 19, 28, 36), 2 papers for the matriculation exams in English (14, 27). Apart from that, Dr. Bagasheva is a part of editorial boards of books of proceedings (9 international journals (13, 16, 24, 29, 31-35, 37); her reviews of other researchers' publications are published in academic journals.

Alexandra Bagasheva has a great number of citations in Web of Science as well as in Scopus – a total of 19 cited publications (papers of various length, book reviews, etc.), cited in 37 sources – papers in books of proceedings from national and international conferences and academic journals, most of which refereed in Scopus and Web of Science, as in non-refereed publications with academic reviews, etc., pointed out in reference 11, some of which with the allotted points as regards the indicators in item 112, para 2.

Her monograph *Prototypes, Metonymy and Word Formation* shows her knowledgeability when applying quite successfully the mentioned linguists' viewpoints in her analysis as well as

presenting her own interpretations. The information is quite detailed and exhaustive as it relies on various language models and interpretations as well as theoretical frameworks, and also syntagmatic and paradigmatic approaches. It puts an emphasis on the compound words in English and Bulgarian and their specificity while creating and interpreting them, as well on the cognitive processes and mechanisms related to the role of analogy, paradigmaticity and metonymy. The mechanisms applied to modified subordinative nominal compounds in Bulgarian and to reduplicative compound words in both languages as well as compound verbs in English are discussed. Metonymy is represented as one of the cognitive processes of creating compounds and as mapping, thus making a differentiation between *metonymic processing of language* and *processing of metonymic language*. The bibliography is quite exhaustive and contains some of the latest references in the respective study.

As regards her other publications, I am acquainted with some of them, though a fraction of them, as I have participated in conferences she has made presentations, and the way she has answered the posed questions during the forums in a skillful and convincing manner is worth admiring. Her investigations are always deep and quite exhaustive and are always supported by a rich evidential material. Alexandra has participated in a number of highly specialized national and international conferences and symposia, forums in which a great number of high level specialists usually participate. A great number of the conferences in which she presents her research are abroad and correspond to the fields Dr. Bagasheva works in.

Part of assoc. prof. Bagasheva's publications are oriented to the issues of word formation and the phenomena related to them. The reasons for the appearance of various word formation types through analogy, similarities or lack of such as well through different schemes are pointed out. A conclusion is made that iconicity in Bulgarian is greater than in English as the lack of morphological markers for the various parts of speech presupposes the connection of one from with more than one meaning and in this case iconicity cannot be supported. In other publications, from a frame semantics perspective a semantic and conceptual analysis of compound verbs in English is presented. Different types of models of "conceptual frame modification are pointed out: a) by constituent foregrounding; b) by spatial scenario embedding; and c) by engendering an emergent blended frame. On the basis of the analyses, it turns out that the process of creating compound verbs in English contrary to that in Bulgarian is a productive process. In the processes of word formation, the factors which stimulate or restrict creativity and play on words are taken into

consideration. Concepts such as occasionalisms, neologisms, etc. are also discussed and revised. Dr. Bagasheva has got publications dedicated to the cultural conceptualizations of parts of the human body in Bulgarian and in English such as *mouth*, *lips*, *tongue* and *teeth*, and to their uses in various phrasal words in both languages which conceptualize communication in a different way. Their analysis is based on frame semantics and cultural linguistics, which presupposes an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to their meaning.

This is just a part of the multisided studies of Dr. Bagasheva's but it is more than a sufficient proof for her interests and her research.

Besides, the publications of 2 dictionaries before the current procedure and 1 during the period of the present procedure is worth mentioning as it is a time-consuming and serious task and yet she has also found the time for writing her monograph. Apart from that she takes part in preparatory courses for admission tests as well as in the tests.

Alexandra Bagasheva's organizational and administrative activities are of a various nature, connected with the conducting of national and international conferences and forums, enumerated in her application materials.

What should be mentioned is that Dr. Bagasheva is the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology's Vice-Dean of project work and students' affairs at Sofia University, which is a hard and responsible work.

3. Assessment of the applicant's quality of his scientific productivity and contributions

The documents presented by the candidate for the procedure on the scientific and applied contributions highlight the most important conceptual and applied aspects of the innovation of her scientific endeavours. What I would like to add is the fact that I appreciate highly assoc. prof. Bagasheva's investigations to explore in depth and adequately apply the existing theoretical prerequisites in the field of linguistics as a whole, comparative research, cognitive and cultural linguistics and to more specific grammatical phenomena in English and Bulgarian, which is undoubtedly a contribution to the more general linguistics as well as to its more concrete manifestations. The studied grammatical issues are also applied in the teaching of English not only in Bulgaria, but also at some renowned foreign universities.

One of the major contributions in the candidate's publications is the relation of a specific type of metonymy with word formation, which she defines as a formal cognitive operation within the

boundaries of an onomasiological approach to word formation. According to her, metonymy is "a conceptual structure creation process" which can be reduced within the confines of the domain or to make the widening of the domain possible. She states that the linguistic behaviour of the speaker can be modelled analytically with the help of metonymy, analogy and paradigmaticity. According to her, analogy and paradigmaticity play a substantial role as some of the types of word formative paradigms. They also function as metacognitive scripts which participants in the communicative process apply so that they can abstract and create various linguistic models. The analysis in some of her studies makes her come to the conclusion that cultural conceptualisations which play a substantial role in the coding of language in communication in Bulgarian and in English is of a different nature.

The review of the scientific production and academic work of Dr. Alexandra Bagasheva's gives me strong reasons to declare that her candidacy fully meets the requirements for the scientific position of a professor.

4. Conclusion

Taking into account both the quantitative scientific minimum requirements for the academic position of professor, as well as the qualitative analysis of assoc. prof. Dr. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva's scientific production, work and contributions, as well as her personal features and skills, I strongly support her candidacy in this procedure and give my positive assessment about her scientific and applied achievements, as her academic and professional orientation in the field of philological sciences fulfils the requirements of the *Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria* and its accompanying regulations. I recommend to the Academic Selection Committee to vote positively for awarding the **academic rank of PROFESSOR to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva in the area of: 2. Humanities, professional field, 2.1. Philology (General Linguistics – Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation (English Language)), for the needs of the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University** *St. Kliment Ohridski.*

November 4th, 2022   Signature:

(prof. Rumyana Todorova, PhD)