

## STANDPOINT

Prof. Elisaveta Vladimirova Boyadzhieva, PhD

member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position “professor” in 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Sociolinguistics) announced in the No. 56 State Gazette of August 16, 2019 in accordance to Rector's Order No. RD 38-624 of October 21, 2019 based on Minutes No. 9 of October 15, 2019 of the Faculty Council

**Subject:** Scientific and professional activities and academic production of the participants in the competition.

### **I. Summary data on the applicant's scientific production and activities.**

The only participant in the competition is Associate professor Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov, DrSc. There are no violations in the admission procedure. The candidate meets the minimum national requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Internal Regulations of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" for the occupation of the academic position "Professor".

Assoc. prof. Krasimir Stoyanov was born in Smolyan. He graduated from Sofia University “Kl. Ohridski” majoring in Bulgarian philology and minoring in French in 1980. He started work as a teacher of Bulgarian literature at 46<sup>th</sup> secondary school in Sofia. In 1982 he was appointed a lecturer in Bulgarian language for foreigners at the Institute for Foreign Students (IFS), now the Department for Foreign Languages (DFL) at Sofia University" Kliment Ohridski " where he has been working ever since. In 1997 he defended his doctoral dissertation entitled *Public Changes (1989-1996) and the newspaper language*, and in 1998 he was appointed Chief Assistant Professor in DFL. In 2003 he was elected associate professor, and in 2018 he defended his doctoral dissertation for the award of the scientific title "Doctor of Science" on the topic of *Language Policy in Bulgarian Newspapers after the end of World War II (1944-1956)*.

He is a co-founder of the International Sociolinguistic Society at Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski ”and a member of its Board since 1996. He has been taking an active part in organizing its regular conferences. He has also participated in several projects of national importance such as *The Bulgarian for his language*. He is a co-founder of the *Bulgarian*

*Language Society for Sustainable Development* at the Institute of Bulgarian Language - BAS, and a member of the management of the Department of Philological Sciences at the Union of the Bulgarian Scientists. He is also a member of the Bulgarian and the International Unions of Journalists.

## **II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results of the applicant's scientific production.**

Assoc. prof. Krasimir Stoyanov participates in the competition for a professorship's position with one monograph, four treatises and twenty articles.

The monograph entitled *Bulgarian-language linguists during the first decade of socialism (1944 - 1954) (Contribution to the History of Bulgarian Linguistics)* is historiographic in nature and presents an in-depth study of the efforts of prominent Bulgarian linguists educated in the linguistic tradition of leading European schools such as the Krakow linguistic School and the Prague linguistic Circle as well as in the classical framework of structuralism, who, however, were forced to operate under extremely difficult ideological conditions in Bulgaria during the first ten years after the Second World War.

A particular focus is placed on opposing the ideologized dogma of the new political order and the theoretical principles underlying the science of language. In the analysis the author shows a deep knowledge of the problem of this opposition and the ability to critically rethink the approaches to the description of linguistic phenomena imposed at that time. Particularly interesting in this regard are the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters of the study. In them, Stoyanov shows an exceptional awareness and ability to read critically the ideologemes that dominated this period and which influenced all spheres of the scientific and social life. The productions of the "New Doctrine of the Language" of the Soviet linguist N. J Mar and Stalin's work "Marxism and the Issues of Linguistics" are subjected to analysis. With skill and dexterity the author analyzes their inevitable influence on the work of the Bulgarian linguists and the quiet resistance to them. Chapter seven traces some extreme positions of Bulgarian linguists under the influence of those two ideological 'Bibles' of the time. Particularly valuable is the eighth chapter in which the author discusses in detail the different stages of establishing the Institute of Bulgarian Language as a state-governed institution to create and implement the language policy in this country. The last ninth chapter is a summary of the ways and methods of the coercive Sovietization of the Bulgarian science of language. The author's conclusions clearly reveal his clear understanding of

the harm of the ideologization of the scientific attempts during this decade and its detrimental effects that, in his own words, were visible until the 1960s, and in my view, for the next two decades as well.

With his monograph, Krasimir Stoyanov shows and proves with new means the already existing theories and hypotheses in the scientific field of sociolinguistics, namely the independence of the development of the Bulgarian language regardless of the specific historical, social and ideological conditions. He points out the inability of the ideological clichés to stop this natural development and focuses on the efforts of many Bulgarian linguists to defend the right to such development, albeit under the guise of loyalty to the dominating ideological principles of the time. He also formulates a new scientific problem, namely the application of a historiographical approach in the analysis of the development of the Bulgarian linguistic science, refracted through the prism of the dominant ideology in the given period.

The four treatises presented by the applicant show the breadth and diversity of his interests in the sphere of sociolinguistics. The *Ritualized Slogan Lexis Studies in the Bulgarian Press during the Times of Violent Contradiction in Ideologies (1944-1947)* analyzes the ritual linguistic structures, motives and social imperatives as part of the process of ritualization of ideological norms prevailing in the Eastern Bloc countries. In the treatise *Female and Male Speech in Bulgarian Lifestyle Magazines*, by means of linguo-statistical analysis the grammatical, morphological, lexical and stylistic characteristics creating a system of formal markers of differences in the production of journalistic texts depending on the gender of the producer are formulated. In the treatise *Les défis linguistiques du discours des medias bulgares après les Changements de 1989* the changes occurring in the Bulgarian language as a result of social changes since 1989 are investigated. The analysis covers a body of linguistic examples that are representative of the direction and quality of the language development in contemporary Bulgarian mass media. *The Hierarchy of Public Space in the Language of Post-totalitarian Press in Bulgaria* analyses the use of qualifiers such as *super, hyper, No.1, top, mega, [bash]* in the Bulgarian journalistic texts after 1990. By offering a spatial model of degrees and dependencies the author draws conclusions concerning the public spaces and the criteria for social values in the contemporary Bulgarian society

The articles presented by Krasimir Stoyanov give a clear idea of his various interests in different aspects of contemporary Bulgarian sociolinguistic studies. They discuss topics dealing

with several distinct issues which concern four major areas of interest: the features of spoken Bulgarian, the language of the Bulgarian media, the relations of the Bulgarian literary language and its regional variants, and methodological problems of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language.

The large number of citations - more than 20 in monographs and articles by Bulgarian and foreign authors confirm the importance and relevance of the problems posed in the works of Krasimir Stoyanov.

The applicant's many years of experience as a teacher of Bulgarian as a foreign language in IFS and DFL is materialized in his textbook *Survival Bulgarian (Bulgarian Language for Foreigners)*.

### **Conclusion**

The works of assoc. prof. Krasimir Stoyanov divulge his significant contributions to the field of sociolinguistics and the studies of Modern Bulgarian. The applicant is an established researcher and educator. My assessment of his activities and scholarly achievements is entirely positive, which gives me the reason to encourage the Honorable Scientific Jury and the Faculty Council to grant assoc. prof. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov the academic position "professor".

23 December 2019

Prof. Dr. Elissaveta Boyadzhieva