

REVIEW

in relation to a competition for taking of the academic position *Associate Professor* in professional direction *2.1.Philology* (Bulgarian language – sociolinguistics) as per the announcement in State Gazette No. 74/21.08.2020 with candidate: doctor DANKA APOSTOLOVA BAYRYAMOVA-ATANASOVA, Chief Assistant at Sofia University “St. KlimentOhridski”, for the needs of Department of Linguistic Studies

Reviewer: Elena Todorova Nikolova, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, branch – Smolyan.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Danka Apostolova Bayryamova-Atanasova is a single candidate as per the competition for Associate Professor, announced by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in direction *2.1.Philology* (Bulgarian language – sociolinguistics) (State Gazette No. 74/21.08.2020).

General description of the presented materials

The complete scientific production of Danka Apostolova Bayryamova-Atanasova consists of 38 publications: 1 dissertation work (abstract of a dissertation), 1 monograph (habilitation work), 6 studies (5 in series and 1 in a collection), 28 scientific articles (10 in series and 18 in a collection) and 2 textbook (1 as an single author in German language and 1 together with other authors). She has participated in 14 scientific conferences with section reports (after 2009). She was an editor of the scientific series “Problems of the Sociolinguistics” (years 2015, 2017). Besides teaching, development and approbation of study texts and tests for check and evaluation of the knowledge of Bulgarian language as a foreign language, her activities also include organization, coordination and management of the unique general German program *Bulgaricum*, targeted at study and promotion of the Bulgarian language and culture within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and the Universität des Saarlandes, town of Saarbrücken – Germany (2006-2008); participation in the organization of international and national scientific conferences of the International Sociolinguistic Society – Sofia and of Department of Linguistic Studies of Sofia University. She was a coordination partner and co-organizer of scientific forum of the Austrian Institute for East and South-Eastern Europe, Sofia as per the project *Modern methods in foreign language teaching* (2003).

The candidate is certified expert-evaluator for the certification test for determination of proficiency level of Bulgarian language as foreign language in all test centers, licensed by Department of Linguistic Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Publications after the dissertation (after 2001)

Danka Bayryamova participates in the competition with a habilitation work (“Burgas language of the migrants from Eastern Strandzha”, Sofia, 2020) and 23 individual publications – 5 studies and 18 scientific articles.

General characterization of the scientific, scientific and application and pedagogical activities of the candidate

1. Data about the candidate

Danka Apostolova Bayryamova-Atanasova graduates Bulgarian philology in 1984 and from 1986 as of today, she works at the Institute for Foreign Students - Sofia, transformed in Department of Linguistic Studies at Sofia University, Department of Bulgarian language and specialized training for foreigners (up to year 1993 as an assistant, up to year 1997 as senior assistant and from that time as of today, as chief assistant). In year 2001 she defends dissertation work, with the subject “Strandzha dialect” and she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”. In the period 1994-1995, she is a lecturer at the University of Salzburg, Institute of Slavic Studies, and in the period 2006-2008 – at the University of Saarbrücken. The candidate has teaching, research and socio-cultural experience, gained in inter-cultural environment, both in Bulgaria and abroad; the candidate has enviable language competency – she has a command of 6 foreign languages (at excellent and good level). She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and of the International Sociolinguistic Society – Sofia.

2. Participation in scientific projects and project management

Danka Bayryamova has participated in 12 international scientific and research projects as per bilateral agreements for cooperation between Sofia University and two German universities – at Saarbrücken and Cologne.

3. Main scientific and scientific and applied contributions

The candidate participates in the competition for an Associate Professor with production, which has high scientific and applied contribution, mainly in the field of socio-linguistics and dialectology as well as in the field of foreign language studies – studying, mastering and teaching of Bulgarian language as a foreign language.

The habilitation work *Burgas language of the migrants from Eastern Strandzha* (2020) is another achievement of the Bulgarian socio-linguistics in the studies of urban language situation. The monographic study consists of five chapters (the first one is introduction), bibliography and annexes (there is no conclusion). The results of the frequency variations of the average values of the dependable socio-linguistic variables (SLV), as well as the results of the single- and double-factor analysis are visualized by many diagrams and tables.

In the first, introductory chapter, according to the established research model, the subject, purposes and tasks of the study, the methods used for collection of empirical data and for their processing and analysis are presented. In the second chapter, based on questionnaire survey a detailed socio-demographic characteristic of the studied migrant East Strandzian micro-community in Burgas is made and the results of the research of the self-observation and self-evaluation of the changes in the speech behaviour during the transfer to the big city and of the language attitudes towards native speech, urban speech and literary language are performed. The analysis of the self-evaluation shows “strong prevailing presence of *close, solidly established connection of AL with parents, countrymen and birthplaces*” (page 32) and the underlined positive attitude towards the native speech confirm these self-evaluations and are manifestation of “respect towards ancestral roots and ancestral memory” (page 38). The acquired results and their argumentation are analogical to the researched language attitudes towards the dialect of the Rhodopi (Kanevska-Nikolova, 2016).

In chapter three, Danka Apostolova shows herself as well trained dialectologist. The precisely presented and systematized source dialect typological features of the East Strandzian speech are the main prerequisite for the analysis of the new state, language changes and tendencies in the urban environment of strongly mixed language communities.

The following two chapters (fourth and fifth) are with highest socio-linguistic contribution. The selection of dependable and undependable SLV, solidly justified, was made in the spirit of the socio-linguistic tradition. The influence of two types of independent variables are detected (socio-demographic factors, like sex, age and level of education, each with two

levels and the situation factor, also with two levels) over 12 dependable variables. Here, the ability of the author to systemize large volume of empirical data, to analyze the results of the two types of statistical procedures and to compare the data with data from previous socio-linguistic researches is clearly shown (for example SLV1 – epentesis of *x* in pronoun forms, with the state of Smolyan urban language and the contemporary speech of village of Momchilovtsi, Smolyan area and SLV6 (the so called “ЪКЪНЕ” (adding of the sound “Ъ”) with its manifestation in the urban language of VelikoTarnovo, studied by Acad. M. Videnov and Prof. B. Baychev). The dynamics of variation of the language variables and the level of influence of the two type of factors is traced with great skill.

The style of the research is highly intellectual, but readable and fascinating.

The study “Some perceptions of the brightness ‘Salienz’ of the language features in the German linguistics” (2018) has its theoretical contribution. The presented perception of German linguists about the nature, conceptualization and role of the *brightness* of the language features during language change and long-term accommodation in case of speech contacts from different types are well illustrated with Bulgarian language material as well. The perception of the German linguist P. Auer about brightness as a complex phenomenon, conditioned by three sets of reasons, is applied in the article “Brightness ‘salienz’ of the dialectic features in new language environment”, which presents important conclusions in purely linguistic and socio-linguistic plain.

Some articles are dedicated to the urban language situation of Burgas (Apostolova, 2014, 2011, 2005, 2002), where the author, with great skill and competence analyses different socio-linguistic markers, their ratio to characterizable dialect features as well as specific aspects of the diglossia.

In two studies (Apostolova 2020, 2018) and three articles (Apostolova 2017, 2016, 2016) present the results of the study of the language attitudes of German speaking individuals towards various aspects of studying of Bulgarian language in academic, non-Bulgarian language environment, based on empirical data. Such researches are very rare, they are current and take in consideration the Bulgarian language policy.

In the second area of research – the situation with dialects in end South-Eastern Area (Strandzha), in consideration of research of the substrates in

theBurgas language, two studies (2006, 2004) which are dedicated to the South-Eastern Bulgarian vocalism are of interest. I unreservedly accept the contribution, stated by the author that a full description and analysis of the historical development of the vocal system of the Eastern Strandzha speech was done for a first time. In three articles (2016 a, 2005 c, 2005) the consonant systems of the old South-Eastern Bulgarian speeches – the speech of MalkoTarnovo and Hasekiiski speech in Eastern Strandzha and Fakiiski speech in Western Strandzha are discussed for first time. In the article “Common features of the Strandzha speeches” (2005 a) the common peculiarities between the two dialect systems at all language levels (in diachronic and synchronous plan) are outlined; it is underlined that these peculiarities have typological significance in the determination of their place among the rest of the Bulgarian dialects.

The third field of research – Bulgarian language as a foreign language; inter language of germananophones, studying Bulgarian language abroad is presented in three articles (Apostolova 2011 a, 2014 a, 2015). The results of the corpus research of mistakes during mastering of Bulgarian language as foreign language by germananophones, studying the language in German academic environment, and namely, when using the Bulgarian naming categories are analyzed. These researches provide contribution in the field of analysis of the Bulgarian inter language and of the study, mastering and teaching of Bulgarian language as a foreign language.

4. Pedagogical activities.

From 1986 to 1994 at Institute for Foreign Students - Sofia, and from 1996 as of today at Department of Linguistic Studies at Sofia University, Danka Apostolova Bayryamova teaches Bulgarian language to foreign students of humanitarian specialties, linguistics, translation of scientific literature; she also organizes contrastive courses – to German, English and new Greek language and also organizes specialized language training. While she was reading lectures at the University of Salzburg, Austria and at the University of Saarbrücken, Germany, she has taught Bulgarian language as foreign language (all levels), contrastive grammar and translation for Slavic and German language students, linguistics etc.

Reflection of the scientific publication of the candidate in Bulgarian and foreign literature

The candidate has found 22 quotes of her works in publications in Bulgaria and abroad, which shows good reflection of her scientific achievements in the Bulgarian and foreign literature.

Other notes

I know Danka Apostolova for a long time as a member of the International Socio-linguistic Society in Sofia, as a dignified representative of the Bulgarian socio-linguistic school, organizer of the biannual conferences and participant in the editorial team of the series “Problem of socio-linguistics”. It is a pleasure and privilege to communicate with such erudite scientist and responsive colleague.

Conclusion

On the grounds of the performed characterization and evaluation of the scientific and research, scientific and applied and pedagogical activities of Danka Bayryamova, in conclusion, I can summarize that the candidate is a scientist with high competence, she has valuable scientific production and participations in significant scientific forums, she manages large-scale project work and large-scale teaching work. All of the above give me reasons with full confidence to recommend to the honorable scientific jury to support the assignment of the academic position “Associate Professor” to Chief Assistant Doctor Danka Apostolova Bayryamova-Atanasova in professional direction 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language –socio-linguistics) in the competition, announced by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, for the needs of Department of Linguistic Studies.

30.11.2020

Reviewer:
/Prof. Doctor of Philological
Sciences Elena Nikolova/