

## **Review**

of the scientific works and contributions of  
*Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov DrSc.*,  
a candidate for the academic title professor  
in the professional division 2.1. Philology,  
Bulgarian language (Sociolinguistics),  
following DLL's requirements,  
announced by SU Kliment Ohridski in  
GG Number 56 from 16.08.2019

Review by Prof. Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, DrSc,  
Institute for Bulgarian Language "Lubomir Andreychin",  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov DrSc, is a linguist devoted entirely to the Bulgarian language, who has taught Bulgarian to foreign students for more than 30 years. He was born in Smolyan. He graduated from SU Kliment Ohridski with a degree in Bulgarian philology and a second major in French philology. Since 1982, he teaches Bulgarian as a second language to foreign students at the Department of Language Learning (DLL) at SU Kliment Ohridski. He earned his PhD in 1997, was appointed Senior Assistant in 1998 and has been an Associate professor since 2003. In 2018 he earned a PhD in Sociolinguistics. In the periods between 2005 to 2009 and 2016 to 2018, Dr. Stoyanov was chosen to supervise an applied linguistics scientific laboratory at the DLL.

Dr. Krasimir Stoyanov, who is the sole candidate, has presented his application documents and a review of his scientific output, which includes 4 monographs, one textbook, 7 reports, the majority of them in referenced journals, 55 articles

published in compilations and scientific journals, reviews, as well as all the known instances of his works being quoted elsewhere.

Dr. Stoyanov's last book, titled *Bulgarian linguistics specialists during the first decade of communist rule (1944-1954)*, Znak`94 Publishing house, Veliko Tarnovo, 2019, 244 pages, ISBN 954-8709-8305-54-9, is the work he is presenting to this panel. The work contains a Preface, Introduction, nine chapters, Conclusions, Bibliography, an abstract in English and Annexes.

Bulgarian linguistics underwent different periods during its development. Without a doubt, one of the most dramatic such periods was the one on which Dr. Stoyanov focuses in his monograph. The study traces the clash between ideological dogma and the enormous intellectual weight of one of the most distinguished Bulgarian linguists to ever leave his mark on this discipline. The work's analysis follows and summarizes the principal factors that dictated the direction taken by linguistic science in the first ten years after the political changes that followed the coup of September 9<sup>th</sup> 1944.

According to the author, "this is the first time in our national history that language was so keenly related to the country's political climate". One of the aims of this study was to explore the significance of the works of the Bulgarian linguists that "made Bulgarian linguistic thought part of international linguistic science". It presents two generations of Bulgarian scientists that are familiar to both Bulgarian and international linguists. The author first examines the period between 1930-1940, during which Bulgarian linguists formed their views in a European environment and under the influence of the latest theories of European linguists. Another merit of this work is its strive for impartiality when presenting the realities of the communist era. The author rightly points out that "everything

"manufactured" by the USSR government was uncritically imported to Bulgaria, and refers especially to Mar's teachings and his influence among Bulgarian linguists during the 1940s and 50s.

I must emphasize the particularly apt representation of the scientific achievements of a Colossus of Bulgarian linguistics - Vladimir Georgiev. Dr. Stoyanov remarks that "a serious answer and scientific commentary to the falsehoods and harm done to Bulgarian science by Mar's teachings was delivered by Vladimir Georgiev". In a number of publications Georgiev asserted his views on the delineation of kinship between languages through the complete exclusion of coincidence and the absolute necessity to obtain "a sufficient number of successful matches, by taking into consideration the oldest forms of the words and the phonetic laws of the corresponding language". These scientific criteria are valid to this day and the establishment of connections between languages relies on upholding the principles of the comparative historical method.

The seventh chapter of the book is titled Predilections. In it, Dr. Stoyanov revealed his disposition toward the works of prof. Andreychin dedicated to Paisius of Hilandar's *Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya*. The candidate accepts the views of M. Videnov. There are detailed descriptions of the works of another professor - Stoyko Stoykov, who contributed to the understanding of the role of jargon in the Bulgarian language. Dr. Stoyanov has reached the important conclusion that "the tendencies followed by Bulgarian linguistic science in this particular decade were a result of the influence of those in power." This raises the question: Were scientists from the Institute for Bulgarian Language (IBL) the only ones to experience pressure from the Politburo and upper echelons of the communist party regarding language during this period?

Another chapter is dedicated to the establishment of the IBL. The author's interest in this subject was prompted by his conviction that "this scientific center is the most influential institution in the field of Bulgarian language research".

Emphasis must be placed on the scientific contributions of the candidate's work:

1. The work studies a very important period of our history, one charged with contradictions, complex and often conflicting contemporary interpretations in the specialized literature.

2. It presents the principles of the government's Stalinist ideological approach to the population's reeducation in terms of its social engineering functions.

3. It summarizes the patterns of social perception of the literary standard as a superfactor in the imposition of the new socio-political model.

4. It details the framework for the introduction of language to its role as an instrument of the ideology imposed on the country in the decade following the end of World War II.

5. It points to the subservient position of science in its intertwined relationship with political power in the country, as the latter enlisted the former to collaborate in the aims of the government on the ideological front. Additionally, it outlines the systemic nature of the government's actions and the continuity of the introduced vocabulary, in their function as an organized political project that would create a new Bulgarian standard with a distinctly expressed ideological matrix.

6. The author has uncovered and commented on the government's normative and codification acts regarding language not as a spontaneous improvisation and episodic proclamations to "become one with the people", but in terms of its program to control both research on the past and chart the future development of the Bulgarian language.

7. The author has brought forward the argument that the Bulgarian language was controlled, and the science studying it was too.

8. Dr. Stoyanov has studied the significance of the sense of prestige as a leading factor in language formation in the period when it was, under Soviet influence, first projected into the minds of the country's political leaders.

9. There is an analysis of several linguistic research endeavors that strove to prove and defend ideology-inspired hypotheses dictated by the political ambitions of the communist elite.

10. The author presents factual arguments regarding the indisputable achievements of Bulgarian linguistic researchers during this dramatic historical period. The analysis of the orthographic reform of 1945 underscores the research efforts and virtues of the work of Bulgarian linguists. In spite of its categorical association with Stalinism, Bulgarian science accomplished the creation and subsequent stabilization of Bulgarian linguistics, which established the base for the impressive scientific team with a proven record from the following decades.

11. The book sets forth evidence of the disastrous strategy of uncritically following ideological pseudoscientific imitation models unsuited to the national philosophy and social development, which led social and intellectual thought to an impasse and destructive consequences.

The 13-page article *Frequently encountered difficulties and mistakes when learning ethnonyms in foreign language education* has been submitted to the competition.

Dr. Stoyanov has presented *References to meet the minimum requirements for the professor position* according to article 26 of the *Law for the development of*

*academic personnel in Bulgaria (ЗПАСРБ) 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Sociolinguistics).*

He was the doctoral adviser of a successful PhD candidate. He speaks French, English, Russian and Spanish.

In 1992, the candidate became one of the co-founders of the International Sociolinguistic Society at SU Kliment Ohridski. Since 1996, has been a member of the Society's governing body and has actively participated in the organization of international sociolinguistic conferences. Dr. Stoyanov has won several competitions: the National charity fund 13 Bulgarian centuries with the theme *Bulgarians on their language*, the Mobility project under SU's Leonardo da Vinci program, the University of Nantes in France on the theme *of Linguistic competence evaluation methodology according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Best practices and harmonization in a European context.*

In 2006, together with the IBL at BAN, Dr. Stoyanov co-founded the Society for a sustainable development of the Bulgarian language. Since 2005, he has been on the governing body of the Philological sciences department at the Union of Bulgarian Scientists. He was a media expert at the Council for electronic media's linguistic department in 2009-2010. Since 2016 he has chaired the Common assembly at SU's DLL.

Dr. Krasimir Stoyanov has an active public life. He is an honorary member of the National Library St. Cyril and Methodius, co-founder of the foundation Parents and children together again, for which he organized and participated in three conferences at SU that resulted in changes to the Law for the protection of children. From 1980 to 1990 he was a freelance reporter for the foreign programs

of the Hristo Botev radio station. He is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Reporters and the International Federation of Reporters.

**All the indicated facts unequivocally attest to the elevated scientific and expert capabilities of the candidate. On this evidence, I cast a positive vote on the candidacy of Dr. Krasimir Manolov Stoyanov for the academic position professor at the Slavic Philology Department as SU Kliment Ohridski.**

5. 01.2020

Reviewer: