

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

**by Prof. Svetla Karteva-Dancheva, PhD,
Department of Korean Studies, Sofia University “St. Kliment
Ohridski”, member of the scientific jury for participation in the
competition for the academic position “Professor”
in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Tyurkology and Altaic
studies; general and comparative linguistics),
(Rector’s Decree №RD 38-540/18.11.2020)
announced in State Gazette, issue 88 of 13.10.2020**

The competition for a the academic position „Professor“ in the professional field 2.1 Philology (Tyurkology and Altaic Studies; general and comparative linguistics), announced in SG, issue 88/13.10.2020 meets all the requirements of the Law on the Promotion of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions in Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, and no procedural violations have been found. The only candidate, Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova, PhD, has submitted all the necessary documents for the competition on time, complying with the requirements of the Law and the Regulations.

The candidate meets also the minimum national requirements according to the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (Art. 26) respectively the Regulation for its implementation – Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is registered in the List of Habilitated in the Register of Academic staff of NACID and the collected points of her according to the attached reference are 720.

General information about candidate's academic activity

Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova (PhD) is a full-time lecturer at the Department of Turkology and Altaic Studies at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology of Sofia University since 15.07.2007 initially as an Assistant, since 27.11.2013 as Asst.Prof. and since 24.10.2016 as Assoc. Professor in Modern Turkish language, morphology and syntax.

In 2013 she acquires the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the professional field 2.1 Philology (Modern Turkish language- grammar of the Turkish language).

During her 13-years academic work at Sofia University, Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova has prepared a total of 13 courses of lectures and practical exercises for the BA-Programme of Turkic Studies. For postgraduate training in Ottoman Studies she has prepared lecture courses on Modern Turkish language (1-st, 2-nd part) and Practical Turkish language (1-st, 2-nd, 3-rd part). The teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is characterizing by a creativity and continuous improvement of teaching methods.

She is the research supervisor of two PhD-students who defended successfully their PhD theses (Mirella Alhasani (Dubali) in 2019 and respectively Anatoli Vasilev Deshev in 2018), and currently of the full-time PhD- students - Mihal Valeriev Pavlov, enrolled in 2020 and Yoannis Sotiridias Sotirios, enrolled in 2019.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova actively and successfully conducts a number of administrative activities: in 2012-2019 she was a member of the Attestation Commission at the Department of Turkology and Altaic Studies ; in 2015-2019 – a member of the Attestation Commission at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, since 2019 she is a member of the Project activity Commission and of the Election Commission of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology.

Since 2019 she has been the Head of the Department of Methodology of Foreign language teaching and a member of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is a participant in numerous prestigious national and international research projects, and two of them head.

She is an organizer and participant in a number of conferences, seminars and other scientific forums in Bulgaria and Turkey.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova also participates in a team as a compiler of scientific collections: „Turkology today: challenges and perspectives: 65 years of Turkology speciality at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“(University Press „St. Kliment Ohridski“), Sofia, 2017; and „Bulgarian scientist oriented to the East“ (University Press „St. Kliment Ohridski“), Sofia, 2017.

She is a member of the editorial board of the journal "Philology" and of the "Yearbook of the Sofia University" St. Kliment Ohridski "- Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology" as Scientific Secretary.

I am fully convinced that Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova meets both the criteria regarding the academic employment for the academic position of “Professor” and those on the topic of the announced competition. With her active academic activity Dr. Yordanova significantly contributes to the popularization and successful development of the specialty of Turkology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski.“

Assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of candidate’s research works submitted for the competition

Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova is taking part in the competition with a total of 15 publications, which present serious research both in the field of theoretical grammar of the Turkish language in a comparative aspect with the Bulgarian language, and in the field of applied grammar and comparative lexicology. Among them is a monograph / habilitation thesis /, two books published on the basis of a defended doctoral dissertation, three articles (one of which in Russian), published in referenced and indexed world-famous databases with scientific information / WEB OF SCIENCE /, seven articles, / one of which in English /, published in non-referred scientific journals or in edited collective volumes, and one university textbook / published in Polish /. Assoc. Prof. Yordanova is also a co-author / in a team / of the Academic Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary (under the scientific editorship of Prof. Dr. Ivan Dobrev).

One of the most important publications submitted for participation in the competition is the habilitation work *Morphosyntax of the adjective in the Turkish language* / UI “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2020. 272 p. / It consists of a preface, introduction, five chapters, conclusion, bibliography, four appendices and a summary in English.

As a lexical-grammatical category, the adjective occupies an important place in the modern Turkish language. It is the subject of analysis both in intralinguistic and in interlingual aspect. In the monographic work, the lexico-grammatical class of adjectives is studied from the perspective of modern linguistics and linguo-didactology. The topic is innovative and relevant, as for the first time it is developed in a comparative aspect with regard to the agglutinative Turkish and inflectional Bulgarian language.

The introduction presents the theoretical foundations of the study. An original theoretical model has been developed, which defines the morphosyntactic projection of the adjective as a lexical-semantic class in the modern Turkish language. A morphosyntactic functional-semantic approach is used, through which the study of the modern Turkish grammatical system is performed through the prism of the Bulgarian language. By its nature, this approach is innovative and is based on several theoretical and applied principles, which determine the concept of the author. The aim of the research is clearly and precisely defined, namely: “an attempt to realize a complete description of the formal, syntactic and semantic aspects of the adjective as one of the central noun lexico-grammatical classes in the modern Turkish literary language with elements of comparative (comparative contrastive) analysis”/p.11/. Specific tasks are set precisely, which the author assigns to herself to perform in order to achieve the stated goal.

The first chapter is devoted to the adjective as a morphosyntactic problematics. A detailed review of the opinions of a number of researchers has been made, many national theoretical traditions related to the definition of the adjective as a specific lexical-grammatical class with a certain status and formal, substantive and complex characteristics have been highlighted. The proposed analysis impresses both with the in-depth study of the research of prominent representatives of world linguistics and with the competent own summaries of the author. Based on this, a working definition of the

adjective has been adopted, which is not only well formulated, but also argued in detail by the author.

The second chapter is devoted to the types of adjectives in the Turkish language. The structural characteristics of Turkish adjectives have been studied, as a result of which they are classified according to formal criteria. As a result of an analysis of their semantic features, their classification according to content criteria is derived. Clear criteria are formulated for distinguishing between qualitative and relative adjectives. In the course of the research comparisons were made with the peculiarities of adjectives in the Bulgarian language. The analysis is characterized by excellent knowledge of the material, with precise and accurate commentary on the many examples that have been used.

The third chapter deals with the semantic category of intensity, which is characteristic of qualitative adjectives. Assoc. Prof. Yordanova elaborates on the three levels of intensity from a semantic point of view - positive, neutral and negative. The different levels of quality saturation, as well as the different ways of expressing them, are illustrated with many appropriate examples, translated into Bulgarian. Special attention is paid to the positive intensity and its position in relation to the neutral and negative intensity. As a result, the three-stage composition of the intensity category and the importance of its modeling for its functioning in speech are established.

In chapter four, the quantitative dimension of the adjective in Turkish is considered, in comparison with the Bulgarian language. The structural and semantic features of adjectives from the point of view of their frequency are considered, and tendencies common to both languages are outlined. Materials from the authoritative "A Frequency Dictionary of Turkish" (2017) with co-authors Yeshim Aksan, Mustafa Aksan, Yumit Mersinli, Umut Ufuk Demirhan were used to perform the quantitative-frequency analysis. This confirms the author's ability to handle modern scientific sources and guarantees high quality of her analysis.

Chapter five is devoted to the syntactic functions of the adjective. The author proceeds from the fact that in Turkish it has a fixed position in the substantivated syntagms, while in Bulgarian this position can change depending on the emotional charge of the utterance. An in-depth comparative analysis of the syntactic behavior of Turkish

and Bulgarian adjectives is presented, which shows the presence of similarities in terms of attributive and predicate constructions. The important conclusion is that the similarities between qualitative adjectives in the two languages are more noticeable than those with respect to relative adjectives.

In the final part, Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova presents the main conclusions and summaries of the analysis of the morphological, semantic and syntactic specifics of the adjective in modern Turkish. Precisely and accurately formulated conclusions prove the achievement of the set goal and support the importance of the problem and the contributions of the research.

The habilitation work uses rich bibliographic material, citing works of Turkish, Western European, Russian and Bulgarian scholars, many of whom are leaders in the field of Turkish, Turkic and Bulgarian linguistics. In the course of the research the opinions of the authors are quoted accurately and correctly.

Four appendices have been added at the end of the monograph: “Alphabetical neutral-elative index”, “Alphabetical elative-neutral index”, “Ranking frequency list of adjectives”, and “Alphabetical frequency list of adjectives”. They include examples typical of the use of the Turkish adjective, accompanied by the corresponding functional translation into Bulgarian, which determines the possibility for practical application of the study. They include examples typical of the use of the Turkish adjective, accompanied by the corresponding functional translation into Bulgarian, which determines the possibility for practical application of the study.

In general, the presented monographic work is an innovative multifunctional study, with a significant theoretical and applied contribution to the Turkish-Bulgarian comparative linguodidactology. The obtained results can be used not only in the learning process in mastering the adjective in Turkish through the prism of the Bulgarian language, but also by Altaic specialists who study the adjective as a lexical-grammatical category in other Altaic languages.

The studies and articles submitted for the purpose of this competition are in-depth studies, which show enviable erudition and research experience. In them, Assoc. Prof. Yordanova demonstrates her characteristic analytical skills, combined with the ability to theorize. The results determine scientific contributions both in the field of theoretical

grammar of the Turkish language / in a comparative aspect with the Bulgarian language /, and within the framework of applied grammar and comparative lexicology.

On the basis of a theoretical model developed by Assoc. Prof. Yordanova for a binary grammatical minimum, for participation in the competition the academic textbook “Język turecki. Minimum gramatyczne” /Turkish language. Grammatical minimum/ was written and submitted. Its scientific contributions include applying in practice the results of a theoretical model developed for Bulgarians, transformed for speakers of other Slavic languages.

It is worth noting that both the monograph and all the publications submitted for participation in this competition are original scientific works for which no plagiarism has been established.

Assoc. Prof. Yordanova has cited 15 citations of her scientific publications, as a large part of them in foreign language publications, which speaks of the reputation of the respective publications of the author.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above said, I am fully convinced to declare that Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova, as the only candidate in the competition for Professor of Tyurkology and Altaic studies;general and comparative linguistics at the Department of Tyurkology and Altaic Studies, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, meets all the necessary requirements for this academic position and I persuasively recommend her election as a professor in the professional field 2.1 Philology (Tyurkology and Altaic studies;general and comparative linguistics) .

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