

PEER REVIEW

By Petya Nacheva Osenova, PhD, professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

of the materials presented for the selection procedure
for obtaining the academic position of **'Professor'**
at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional field 2. 1. Philology (General Linguistics – Cognitive Linguistics and
Word Formation – (English Language))

Particulars of the procedure

By Order № ПД-38-408, dated 14.07.2022, of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", I was appointed as a Member of the Scientific Jury in the selection procedure for obtaining the academic position of 'Professor'.

Associate Professor Alexandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva, PhD, is the only participant in the selection procedure for obtaining the academic position of 'Professor' announced in SG no.48, dated June 26th 2022.

The set of materials presented by the candidate includes all necessary documents relevant to the procedure. Associate Professor Bagasheva has met the minimum national requirements stipulated in Art.2b, Para.2 and 3 of DASRBA as well as the requirements of the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Associate Professor Bagasheva has established herself as an excellent scholar and lecturer at the Department of English and American Studies, FCMPH, SU "St. Kl. Ohridski". Impressive is also her spirited and versatile activity. Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva has participated in a number of trainings at national and international levels with a view to increasing her qualifications, mostly related to distance and online teaching. She has participated in, or managed a number of scientific projects (with the Scientific Research Center, the Ministry of Education and Science, international ones, etc.) and has held positions of administrative responsibility such as Head of Department, Deputy Dean among others. She is a member of editorial boards of respected

Bulgarian magazines, as well as boards related to English Language Studies and Linguistics in general abroad. The candidate also has an extensive experience as a translator.

Description of the research works

The candidate is participating in the procedure with the total of 18 publications as follows: 1 monograph; 1 bilingual English-Bulgarian dictionary; 4 books with test tasks for the matriculation exam or the English Language Olympiad; 12 publications in Bulgarian and foreign magazines and collections. Of these publications, 7 are co-authored.

Scientific contributions

The main work related to the procedure is the presented monograph. For that reason, a greater emphasis is laid on it. The work, entitled *Prototypes, Metonymy and Word Formation*, is written in English and has the following bibliographic characteristics: Sofia, POLIS, 2022, 182 pages.

The research is contributive in a number of ways: it studies a specific word-formation pattern, namely the compound word, in the context of the prototype theory; it examines the linguistic phenomenon in a contrastive plan; it brings to the fore the mechanisms of metonymy and analogy in deriving compound words; it develops a suitable typology of the compound words in Bulgarian language (nouns) and English language (verbs).

The monograph consists of an introduction, 6 chapters and a conclusion, and is 182 pages long. The bibliography is very rich and includes more than 400 sources. The study focuses on the word formation of the type compound words (the typical term in the Germanic languages being *compounding*). It is interesting that the phenomenon is analyzed in a contrastive plan with the Bulgarian language, where it is projected into several different types and is analyzed ambiguously in the Bulgarian grammars – for example, collocations the type of *business meeting* are considered either compound words or syntactic combinations. The author has specified her goals very clearly and comprehensibly. She examines those compound words which have departed from the compound word prototype, relying on the role of the conceptual metonymy and analogy as primary mechanisms. As theoretical background, Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva has used the apparatus of cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics and constructivism. In this sense, her research is highly interdisciplinary and multifaceted. Constructivism is exemplified by Croft's model, which is called Radical Constructivist Grammar (p. 21). Cognitive Constructivist

Grammar has also been discussed. Lexicalist theories, such as the Support Phrasal Grammar, also employ constructivist approaches. I fully support the use thereof, because some language phenomena cannot be well described compositionally or by constituents only. Such phenomena are the main clauses with subordinate relative clauses, multi-component words, appositions, etc.

The author saturates an important research field lacking a prototypical invariant of the compound English verbs (p. 44). A significant insight of hers is that meaning is constructed in the minds of communicators through the use of various general cognitive strategies and operations, metonymy and analogy among others. (p. 52) Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva holds that metonymy is a dynamic conceptualizing mechanism, the results of which are present, apart from other places, also in the word formation. (p. 59) In my opinion, this approach is particularly helpful when considering compound words in the two languages under consideration. The author distinguishes the derivational metonymy from the lexical and referential ones. (p. 69) She also describes its distinctive features, which will not be enumerated here, the important thing being that it is a mechanism for a new lexical concept. I support the idea of using Pustejovski's qualia structure in the analysis of the verb-centric nouns because it describes the main semantic features of the noun types. For me, as a Bulgarian and Slavic languages expert, of particular interest is *Part Four*, where complex nouns in Bulgarian are discussed. Contributing is the author's proposal to reduce the five identified groups of relations to two, namely, coordination and subordination. A very interesting direction for future work would be the identified competition between models. For example, the synthetic type compound noun pattern (*biznes darenie*) competes with the even more synthetic pattern *kravodaryavane*, or the synthetic pattern *bingo zala* competes with a prepositional phrase of the type *zala za bingo*. The next *Part Five* is also highly contributing because it analyzes the reduplicative compound words. Provided has been a table presenting a comparison between the respective models in the Bulgarian and English languages. I'd be fascinated to learn where the type of masking information of the order of the demonstrative pronouns *tam i tam* falls – whether with *tuk i tam*, or a new type is needed, or it falls nowhere. (p. 96). The author considers the presented reduplicative patterns as a special type of co-compound words. For the English language, Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva also uses frames, because there is a good available FrameNet resource for this language.

The Conclusion of the book is actually much more informative than a standard conclusion. In general, the monograph is written in an extremely lively and dialogical style, which makes the

text very pleasant to read. For example, it is in the Conclusion, that a definition of a compound word is given. (p. 132)

The presented publications discuss in depth a number of interesting linguistic problems, which are also touched upon in the monograph. Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva's research focuses on the following topics: the semantics of the compound verb-centric words in a contrastive aspect - English and Bulgarian; semantic and conceptual analyses of the compound verbs in English; applying frame semantics to the compound verbs in English; analysis of the verb-centric compound nouns; the compound words from the perspective of the word formation; the conceptualizations of various concepts in Bulgarian and English, etc.

Important conclusions have been drawn among which that the English language shows a higher degree of iconicity than the Bulgarian language; the expression of analyticity is different; the English language is characterized by a high compound verbs productivity, while the Bulgarian language is almost lacking such; three models of modifying the conceptual frameworks of compound verbs in English are shown (by constituent explication; by spatial schema modeling and by conceptual blending); the mechanisms of coining words in the course of interlanguage translation have been investigated; clarified have been the parameters of the evaluative morphology in Bulgarian, the conclusion being that they represent "gradual quantification of objects, events and characteristics thereof" and the qualificative transfers related to this, interpretable only in the immediate context".

In the majority of her publications, the author uses approaches from cognitive science (especially the processes of metonymy and metaphorization) and constructivism.

Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva's co-authorship in compilation of dictionaries and creation of materials for matriculation and Olympiad tests is also indicative of the practical orientation of her research.

The candidate has submitted 29 citations. Of these, 7 are in journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web Of Science.

Teaching experience

The candidate has an extensive teaching experience. She has been teaching at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" since 2004, which means that so far she has accumulated a solid experience. She teaches courses at all educational levels: undergraduate (Practical Grammar, Semantics,

Introduction to General Linguistics), master's (Cognitive Approaches, Applied Linguistics, Linguistic Anthropology) and doctoral (Cognitive Approaches, Language Models).

Conclusion

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scientific works of the candidate presented in this selection procedure, and having analyzed the significance and contributions thereof, I resolutely give them a positive evaluation and recommend that the Scientific Jury should award Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Bagasheva, PhD, the academic position of "Professor" at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", in the field of higher education 2. Humanities; professional field 2. 1. Philology (General Linguistics – Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation – (English Language)).

24.10.2022