

## REVIEW

regarding the competition  
for the academic position “Professor” in professional sphere 2. Humanities,  
field 2.1. Philology (Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics),  
published in State Gazette, issue 88/13.10.2020  
by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

**by Prof. Irina Nikolaeva Saraivanova, PhD**

professional field 2.1. Philology,  
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For the competition for professor of Turkic and Altaic Studies; professional field 2.1. Philology, published in State Gazette, issue 88/13.10.2020, p. 73, one candidate has submitted documents – Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova, PhD.

The submitted documentation fully meets 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”. In compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, has submitted:

In regard to the indicators from Group A (min. 50 points) Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, has presented a diploma for a PhD degree from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (№ CY 2013-59/20.06.2013), 50 points. In regard to the indicators from Group C (min. 100 points) a published monograph was presented, entitled *Morphosyntax of the Adjective in Turkish Language* (University Press “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2020, 272 p.), 100 points. In regard to the indicators from Group D (min. 200 points) Assoc. Prof. Milena

Yordanova, PhD, has presented 13 published scientific papers, a total of 280 points. In regard to the indicators from Group E (min. 100 points) citations are presented – a total of 135 points. In regard to the indicators from Group F (min. 100 points) the candidate in the competition for professor presented a list of successfully graduated PhD students, participation in national and international projects, and a published textbook, a total of 155 points.

For the competition the candidate Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, has presented a list of a total of 15 titles, including a monograph, two published books based on a defended PhD dissertation, ten articles (including in published scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned science information databases or in chapters from collective monographs), one published university textbook, co-authorship in a dictionary compilation.

The submitted documents, apart from the requisite titles for participation in the competition for professor, are also in the field of the Altaic and Turkic linguistics. These publications include two more monographs, twenty scientific articles (including in published scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned science information databases or in chapters from collective monographs), scientific reviews and chronicles.

The education and professional career of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova are directly related to Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. As her teacher, and subsequently colleague in the Department of Turkic and Altaic Studies, I have direct impressions of her growth and her realization in the field of general and comparative linguistics. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova has a Bachelor’s Degree in Turkic Studies and a Master’s Degree in Turkish Applied Linguistics from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She was employed as an assistant professor in 2007 at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Her stated interest in the contemporary Turkish language and her affirmation as a linguist are expressed in her dissertation entitled *Linguodidactic Modelling of the Turkish Case System for Bulgarian Speakers (through the Prism of Locative and Adlative Case)*, defended in 2013 (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”). In 2016, she was elected as an associate professor in the field of 2.1. Philology (contemporary Turkish language – morphology and syntax) in the Department of Turkic and Altaic Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova started her teaching activity with courses on practical Turkish language and practical Turkish grammar, followed by courses such as “Introduction to Altaic and Turkic Linguistics”, “Comparative Grammar of the Turkic Languages”, “Contemporary Turkish Language – Phonetics and Phonology”, “Contemporary Turkish Language – Lexicology (and Lexicography)”, and “Turkish Dialectology”. The scientific problems, explored in a number of her publications (including some of the presented for this competition) also reflect the principal scientific profile of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordanova in the field of phonetics, morphology, lexicology (and lexicography – as a co-author in a dictionary compilation), comparative and contrastive linguistics.

Furthermore, the additionally presented evidence should be considered in support of the candidate’s achievements, such as organization and participation in national and international scientific forums and projects, scientific supervision, editorial works and scientific compilations. The academic activity of Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, is also embodied in other directions, she is also actively engaged with administrative responsibilities – since 2012 she has been a long-standing member of various faculty committees, she is a member of the Faculty Council of the FCML and also the Head of the Department of Methodology of Foreign Language Teaching.

The presented habilitation work, monograph study *Morphosyntax of the Adjective in Turkish Language*, is dedicated to an undoubtedly current subject in the field of linguistics and in the theoretical grammar of the Turkish language in particular. Situated in the context of modern theoretical concepts in regard to the adjective, this study extends beyond the scope of the descriptive approach to the subject and reflects an original notion by presenting a contrastive theoretical and simultaneously functional research. The knowledge and competence demonstrated in the submitted scientific text, form the foundation on which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordanova builds a sound scientific analysis, supported by a variety of examples. The theoretical and applied nature of the research is supplemented by detailed appendices, illustrating theoretical formulations.

Theoretical research works on Turkish linguistics in the Bulgarian school in the field of Turkic studies are insufficient. Some of the reasons for this shortage are linked to the challenging nature of the examination of lexical-grammatical classes in the agglutinative

Turkish language through the prism of the inflectional Bulgarian language. Therefore, the implementation of this study through an analysis of the adjective based on the morphosyntactic functional-semantic approach adopted by the author can be regarded as a notable achievement. Such an analysis draws attention to a subject of interest not only to philology researchers with a native Slavic language, but also to linguists beyond the field of Turkish Studies, which the methodological aspect of the text reflects.

Another vital aspect of the monograph should be recognized in particular: the contrastive analysis of the terminology related to the Turkish adjective system, and the introduction of new entries to the conceptual apparatus, suggested by the author, offset a noticeable lack which makes them indispensable and appropriate in this research field.

The contrastive-linguodidactic aspect of this study also has significant merit. The contrastive analysis of two unrelated languages, one of which is agglutinative and the other – inflectional, traditionally offers challenges on different levels. In this regard the definition of the adjective proposed by Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, plays a crucial role in the presented monographic study as it serves as a basis for the analysis.

The essential part of the monograph presents a detailed and profound analysis of the adjectives in the contemporary Turkish literary language from a morphosyntactic aspect: a classification of the adjectives, an intensity category of adjectives, their quantitative dimensions as well as an analysis of their syntactic functions. The classification of the adjectives is based on an analysis of structural and semantic criteria. There is a focus on the productive as well as on the less productive affixes, on composite adjectives, and on the typical for the Turkish language, processes of transposition. From a contrastive and linguodidactic aspect the study offers vital ascertainments and adequate solutions, particularly with respect to composite adjectives and the process of adjectivization or substantivation. Taking into account the challenges related to the specifics related to the attribute of declension, the semantic characteristics of the adjectives can be defined as most “benedictory”. The analysis of the intensity category and the expression of intensification in the third chapter of the monograph contributes to building picture of the adjective in the Turkish language. The focus on the quantitative dimensions of the adjective in the Turkish language in the text is indicative of the significance of the interrelation between the morphosyntactic and quantitative-frequentative

aspect, which the author emphasizes, in order to build an exhaustive analysis of this lexical-grammatical class.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordanova presents convincing argumentation regarding the choice of morphosyntactic analysis in the study. Particularly important to note is that in regards to the Turkish grammatical system, the specifics of sentence organization in the Turkish language stands out, especially in a linguodidactic and contrastive aspect. In this sense, the syntactic functions and the place of the adjective in the sentence legitimately complement the analysis of the Turkish adjective system. The author makes a parallel between Bulgarian and Turkish syntax, establishing similarities and differences between the syntactic functions of the adjective in both languages, supported by extensive empirical data through which a conclusion of a presence of pronounced similarities is reached, regardless of the typological differences between the two languages.

I would also like to emphasize the bearing that the linguodidactic aspect of the study has on the education of the Turkish language in an academic environment and outside of it. This particular trait makes it not only applicable, but also necessary for the education of the students in the Turkic Studies program in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Furthermore, it would be undoubtedly applicable and necessary for native Turkish speakers studying the Bulgarian language.

Based on the foregoing, I will allow myself to conclude that the monograph of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova on the adjective in contemporary Turkish language meets all the requirements for a habilitation work, and is an original scientific study for which no plagiarism has been established. The research constitutes a significant contribution to contrastive linguistics with its pronounced linguodidactic character.

The two published monograph studies, based on the defended dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova reaffirm her scientific interest towards linguodidactic contrastive research in the theoretical grammar of the Turkish language.

Ten articles and published papers (three of which in co-authorship, accompanied by the relevant declaration) are submitted for participation in the competition. Three of them are published in works refereed and indexed in world-renowned science information databases, an

indicator of their scientific value and scientific contribution. This research complements the general impression of the evidence presented within the competition for scientific achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova, as a complete and accomplished scientist in the field of the Turkic Studies, and in general and comparative linguistics. All publications, submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of professor reaffirm the candidate's scientific interest not only in the theoretical and applied grammar of the Turkish language, but also in the field of contrastive lexicology along with a pronounced linguodidactic aspect.

In *Turkish Language. Grammar Minimum*, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova develops a theoretical model, successfully transformed into a textbook for use in Turkish language education in an academic environment and published in Warsaw, Poland in Polish (2018).

I would like to draw special attention to the participation of the candidate as a co-author in the compilation of the *Academic Turkish Bulgarian Dictionary* (compiled under the scientific guidance of Prof. Ivan Dobrev, V. Tarnovo, 2009). With its size and meaningful contents, it is still a one of a kind lexicographic edition, which fills a substantial gap within the bilingual lexicography.

All publications, submitted for participation in the competition, are original scientific research works for which no plagiarism has been established.

In addition to her publications and teaching activities, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova has also successfully organized and participated in national and international scientific projects as well as scientific forums.

The candidate was a scientific supervisor of two successfully graduated PhD students (2019 and 2020), and a current supervisor of two other PhD students.

Based on all the above, I can definitively state that Assoc. Prof. Milena Yordanova, PhD, as the only candidate in the competition for a professor in Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics in the field 2.1. Philology, published in State Gazette, issue 88/13.10.2020, p. 73, by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", meets all the requirements for this academic position. This conclusion warrants me to give a positive

assessment and to recommend the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Yordanova, PhD, as professor in Turkic and Altaic Studies; General and Comparative Linguistics, field 2.1. Philology.

Professor Irina Saraivanova, PhD