

## REVIEW

on the academic output for participation in the competition for the academic position Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in professional field 2.1. Philology (General Linguistics – Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation - English), published in the State Gazette, no.48, June 28, 2022

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gueorgui Ivanov Jetchev, Department of Romance Studies, Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski"

The only candidate that participates in the competition is Associate Professor Dr. Aleksandra Bozhidarova Bagasheva.

From the documentation provided to the members of the committee, it is clear that all the necessary documents and materials for participation in the competition have been submitted and the procedural requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ have been respected.

The candidate meets the national minimum requirements for the academic position of Professor according to the Act of development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva holds a Master's degree in English Philology at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski since 1995 and a PhD since 2004 with a dissertation in the field of Cognitive Semantics. From 2004 to 2012 she was Assistant, Senior Assistant and Chief Assistant and since 2012 she is Associate Professor at the Department of English and American Studies of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrova has pedagogical experience in a wide range of disciplines at bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. She has lectured on Introduction in General Linguistics, Analytical Grammar, Practical Syntax and Semantics at the bachelor's degree ; Linguistic Anthropology and Cognitive Approaches to literature and culture, Origin and evolution of Human Language at the master's degree. For the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology she is in charge of the course Language Data and Linguistic Models.

Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva successfully supervised two doctoral students who defended their dissertations in 2016 at Veliko Tarnovo University and at Sofia University in 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva participated in 11 scientific projects and was the coordinator of 3 of them. Among them are Cross-linguistic research into derivational networks (2016), New territories in Word Formation (2013) and French-Bulgarian Contrastive Study of Anglicization in General and Specialized Communication (2013).

Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva is a member of the International Cognitive Linguistics Association and the Bulgarian Society for British Studies. She has been the president of the organizing committee of FTL 5 - International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language (2020) and a member of the committees of ParadigMo2 (2021) and two successive editions of Word-Formation Theories and of Typology and Universals in Word-Formation (in 2018 and 2022, respectively).

She is a reviewer for Contrastive Linguistics (since 2011), Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology (since 2015) and Philologia (since 2017). She is a member of the advisory board of ExELL (Explorations in English Language and Linguistics) – an international peer-reviewed electronic journal, Zeitschrift für Wortbildung / Journal of Word Formation (Peter Lang Academic Publishing Group) and SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics, published by the Slovak Association for the Study of English.

Her research interests are in the field of Cognitive Linguistics, Word Formation and, lastly, the newly created Cultural Linguistics.

Since the beginning of her scientific career, Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva has produced 2 books, and 22 other publications in the field of Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation, with 18 of which she applied for this competition. She is one of the editors of Derivational Networks Across Languages (De Gruyter, 2020), where she authored one of the chapters (Derivational networks in Bulgarian). She also edited Paradigmatic Relations in Word Formation (2021) from the series Empirical Approaches to Linguistic Theory of the publisher Brill, where she co-authored the introductory chapter and authored the second chapter (Paradigmaticity in Compounding), as well as Traditions and Transitions. Selected papers from the conference held at St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia 2018, vol 1 and vol. 2.

She edited issues of Italian Journal of Linguistics/Rivista di Linguistica, Textus and SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics.

The publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva for participation in the competition give an idea of the expansion of her scientific interests over the years and the depth of her scientific approach.

*Semantic packaging in verb-based compounds in English and Bulgarian* is an article published in 2013 in *Slavia Meridionalis*, a journal of the Polish Academy of Science, and co-authored with Christo Stamenov and Maria Kolarova. The article examines two types of compound words (verb-centred substantive compounds and compound verbs) in the two languages. The authors use the methods of Natural Morphology and conclude that the iconicity of word-formation processes associated with the biuniqueness of the sign accounts for restrictions on word-formation paradigms in Bulgarian, where the distinction between inflectional morphology and word-formation is more sharply delineated. In Bulgarian the analytical word-formation processes are characteristic only for the nominal subsystem.

*Compounds, lexicalization patterns and parts-of-speech: English and Bulgarian compound verbs in comparison and contrast* is published in SKASE Journal of theoretical linguistics (journal of the Slovak Association for the Study of English), a Special Number with selected

papers from the Universals and Typology in Word-Formation II conference (Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia, August 26-28, 2012). The author concludes that compound verbs are not as deviant or marginal as they seem to be. The analysis demonstrates that the constructionist approach is a promising model for the typological study of compound verbs as it captures language-specific features of compound objects in the types of local construction schemas which serve as moulding schemata. This approach allows for discarding the established classifications of compounds, especially of compound verbs, which hinge on lexical categoriality. Creating compound verbs is characteristic of Modern English, while compound verbs in Bulgarian seem to be inherited. In terms of lexicalization patterns, in Bulgarian compound verbs there is a marked preference for packaging Participants and Themes but Circumstances and Instruments are disfavoured.

*Compound verbs in English and Bulgarian and the relativity debate* has been published in the series Human Cognitive Processing of John Benjamins (Multilingual Cognition and Language Use Processing and typological perspectives, 2014). Bagasheva argues that the constraints regulating the characteristic products of word-formation processes in different languages showcase the Whorfian principle at work. The structure-centred analysis of the differences in the creation and usage of compound verbs in English and Bulgarian reveals the centrality of the effects of the ergative cryptotype among the major differences between the two languages. The analysis conceptualizes events for communicative purposes via the “self-imposing causal loop”.

*Features of Evaluative Morphology in Bulgarian* appeared in a special number of SKASE Journal of theoretical linguistics in 2015 and is referenced in Web of Science. It is part of Selected papers from the 12th ESSE conference in Košice, Slovakia, 2014. This paper focuses on Evaluative morphology, an area which remains understudied despite the abundance of publications on the topic. The review of the rich resources of evaluative morphology in Bulgarian reveals that while the attitudinal values of evaluative morphology in Bulgarian are hard to enumerate, but an “approximative gradational quantification of objects, events and their properties” can be safely suggested as the prototypical semantic core of evaluative morphology in Bulgarian. This finding supports the new radial model of the semantics of evaluative morphology proposed by Körtvélyessy (2015).

The article *On verbocentric nominal compounds denoting humans in Bulgarian* is found in another issue of the same review and is A Festschrift for Pavol Štekauer. The verbocentric nominal compounds are divided into semantically endocentric and exocentric. In the endocentric group no further conceptual processes are involved in the calibration of the lexical concepts they engender. In the exocentric ones, frame-based metonymy is accompanied by further cognitive operations under the auspices of abstraction as an operational mechanism, which complete the spell out of the respective lexical concept. These cognitive operations include metaphor, metonymy, irony, etc. as content cognitive operations and their detailed study is a promising future research venue.

*Paradigmatic word-formation, metonymy and compound verbs in English and Bulgarian* is part of the On-line Proceedings of the Ninth Mediterranean Morphology Meeting (MMM9) Dubrovnik, Croatia, 15-18 September 2013. Alexandra Bagasheva argues that compound

verbs constitute a genuine word-formation category and that it is possible to achieve uniformity in their analysis despite the notorious heterogeneity of their formation. It is suggested that by adopting paradigmatic word-formation analysis and accepting metonymy as the basic meaning computation mechanism behind compound verbs, analytical parsimony and uniformity can be attained. Embracing a product view morphotactically, but a process view morphosemantically, the paper offers uniform analysis of compound verbs in English and Bulgarian.

“Да сложим ръка” на образността в езика: за **ръката** като орган на мисленето is part of Current problems of contemporary linguistics, published by the Bulgarian Academy of Science in 2016. The article discusses the concept of figurativity in the context of understanding language as an emergent, heterarchical, complex adaptive, modal perceptual symbol system whose use and comprehension by immersed experiencers involves culturally specific embodied (re)enactment. Central for this system is the body projected as primary image and action schemas on the basis of which via serial metonymies the perceptual symbol system can be extended to construct abstract categories. It is argued that figurativity is a matter of choice of representational frames associated with immediate visualization on the basis of their stemming from one (or both) of the two primary schemas, rather than with marked secondary conceptualization.

*The Semantics and Morphology of Identity Enhancement in the Lexicons of Bulgarian and English* is a chapter in volume 5 (English versus Slavic. Lexicon in a Morphological and Semantic Perspective, 2017) of the series Studies in Linguistics, Anglophone Literatures and Cultures of Peter Lang. The chapter focuses on the study of identity enhancement as one of the semantic components of intensification in a contrastive plan in Bulgarian and in English. An isomorphism of form and content is inferred in the expression of this kind of meaning in intensification. The analysis uses the concepts of prototypicality, reduced identity, denied identity and imagistic iconicity (reduplication, ideophones, diminutives, etc.).

*On a subclass of nominal compounds in Bulgarian: The nature of phrasal compounds* is chapter 4 in volume 1 of the series Morphological Investigations of Language Science Press: Further investigations into the nature of phrasal compounding (2017) which are most frequent in lifestyle magazines and in the jargon of tourism. Their type-creating power can be metacommunicative, metonymy-driven or fictive.

*Cultural Conceptualisations of MOUTH, LIPS, TONGUE, and TEETH in Bulgarian and English* is a chapter in volume 1 of the series *Advances in Cultural Linguistics* of Springer. It is the first book to bring together research in the emerging field of Cultural Linguistics. The chapter elaborates on ‘an embodiment via body parts’ analysis of mouth and its meronymy in Bulgarian and English. The analysis focuses on figurative expressions as ‘rich points’ and delves into the specificities of figurativity underwriting the linguistic data as parts of flexible cultural conceptualisations.

The monography *Prototypes, metonymy and word formation* has been reviewed by Prof. Dr. Pavol Štekauer, DrSc., Full Professor in English Linguistics, Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, P. J. Šafárik University, Kosice, Slovakia and Prof. Vincent

Renner, professeur de linguistique anglaise à l'UFR des langues de l'université Lyon 2, directeur du CeRLA (Centre de recherche en linguistique appliquée). Alexandra Bagasheva presents an overview of her understanding of the complexity of compound lexemes and the basic roles of paradigmaticity, analogy and metonymy as cognitive operations or mechanisms for the creation of compounds. Within the overarching frameworks of cognitive linguistics and constructivism, she employs the concepts of iconicity and prototypicality to showcase the analysis of modifying nominal compounds in Bulgarian, reduplicative compounds in English and Bulgarian and compound verbs in English, all of which are the products of the opportunistic 'maximization of opportunity' strategy of language users. Metonymy and word formation are not two alternative and rivalling mechanisms for lexicalizing concepts but rather metonymy is a hierarchically higher mechanism with special reflections in word formation. Iconicity is central for linguistic patterns and indispensable for a paradigmatic understanding of word formation phenomena. A new compound lexeme goes through the motions of innovation, variation and change; if it survives, it finds its niche in the dynamic ecosystem of language.

In conclusion, I believe that the candidate fully meets the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1 of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the presented publications are indicative of the scholarly level of Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva and in particular of her expertise in the field of Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation in the English language, but also of Cultural Linguistics and Semantics of the English, the Bulgarian and other languages. The necessary teaching hours required by Art. 24, par. 3 of the Law are also available.

The contributions, skills and competencies demonstrated by the presented publications, as well as the experience of the candidate in teaching, research projects and supervision of PhD students give me reason to express a strong positive opinion for Assoc. Prof. Bagasheva to take the academic position of „Professor“ in professional field 2.1. Philology (Cognitive Linguistics and Word Formation (English)).

Date: November 7, 2022  
Sofia

Reviewer :

Assoc.Prof. Dr Gueorgui Jetchev