

REVIEW

by **Lachezar Lyubenov Perchekliyski, PhD**

and Associate Professor at South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad – member of the Scientific jury for the review of materials submitted for consideration regarding the academic position of PROFESSOR at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, in the professional field

2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Old Bulgarian)

The position of “Professor” was announced in the State Gazette, issue 103 pub. 10.12.2021

Regarding: Review of the scientific, research and academic work of the only candidate for the position of professor – Assoc. Prof. **Petko Dimitrov Petkov**, PhD who works as lecturer at the Faculty of Slavic Studies (Cyril and Methodius Studies) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Assoc. Prof. Petko D. Petkov is a scientist with abundant experience as a lecturer and researcher. His professional interests involve different aspects of the Old Bulgarian and the history of the Bulgarian language.

Petko Petkov graduated in the field of Bulgarian Philology at the University of Veliko Tarnovo in 1983, but began his career as a scientist and lecturer at the South-West University in Blagoevgrad (1990 – 2002), and afterwards at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (2002 – present), where he taught courses in Old Bulgarian, History of Bulgarian language etc. The candidate defended his PhD in 2015 on the topic of “Lexis and word formation in the Old Bulgarian translation of the Egyptian patericon” and in 2016 was selected as a full associate professor at the Sofia University. From 2010 to 2012 Petkov was a lecturer at the University of Saarland, Germany.

Petko Petkov is being considered for the position of professor based on the following monographic scientific publications:

1. “*Zaropismo ili Balgarska Istoria* от отец Едуардо Валпа“ [*Zaropismo or Bulgarian history* by father Eduardo Valpa] (Bukvitsa Publishing House, Sofia, 2022);
2. ”Драготин апостол. Български ръкопис от XII – XIII век“ [*Dragotinian apostle. Bulgarian manuscript from the 12th or 13th centuries*] (St. Kliment Ohridski Publishing House, Sofia, 2019, 480 p. co-authored by I. Hristova-Shomova);
3. ”Пергаментни кирилски откъслечи от библиотеката на Зографската света обител“ [*Parchment remains from the library of the Zograf Monastery*] (Zograf Monastery

Publishing House, Mount Athos, 2019, 272 p.; co-authored by K. Popovski and A Boyadzhiev);

4. ”Каталог на славянските ръкописи от Зографската света обител(№ 287 – 405)“ [Catalogue of the Slavic manuscripts of the Zograf Monastery (№ 287 – 405)] (Zograf Monastery Publishing House, Mount Athos, 2018, 288 p.; co-authored by Kl. Ivanova, E Musakova, K. Popovski, A Boyadzhiev, A. Bobev, L. Nenova and M. Dimitrova);

5. ”Песни за Климент. Служби за св. Климент, писани от X до XX век“ [Songs for Clement. Services of St. Clement, written from the 10th to the 20th centuries] (St. Kliment Ohridski Publishing House, Sofia, 2016, 615 p.; co-authored by I. Hristova-Shomova, V. Savova, A. Dimitrova and others);

6. ”Из старите ръкописи: южнославянски текстове от XIV и XV в. (Христоматия)“ [Excerpts from the old manuscripts: South-Slavic texts from the 14th and 15th centuries (Chrestomathy)] (St. Kliment Ohridski Publishing House, Sofia, 2022, 302 p.).

To the list of publications (compiled after his habilitation in 2016) presented by P. Petkov are included two studies (of which 1 co-authored) and 17 articles (of which 8 are co-authored), concerning the issues of the historical development of the Bulgarian language during the period from the 9th to 19th centuries. The candidate has noticed around 100 citations of his publications by Bulgarian and foreign authors. Some of the publications of these authors can be found in periodicals indexed by Scopus or Web of Science.

A further enquiry into the scientific and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Petkov reveals his participation in 6 research projects (as a team member in five of them and as leader of the sixth), the presentation of 17 reports in prestigious science forums in Bulgaria and abroad, compiling and editing of an anniversary collection, etc.

The publication ”*Zaropismo ili Balgarska Istoria* by father Eduardo Valpa“ is the main body of work by virtue of which P. Petkov seeks to be considered for the position of professor. The book contains a print edition of the final draft of Bulgarian Paulician history from 1849, its text being preceded by an extensive philological study.

In the beginning of the work Petkov provides some information on some catholic literature, outlines certain biographical details about father Eduardo Valpa, points to evidence of extant manuscripts containing the text of the *Zaropismo* (these are the draft and fair copy of the father as well as two other copies). The author concludes that the catholic priest’s history is a revision of the *Tsarstvennik* by Hristaki Pavlovich from 1844. To be able to compare the content and language in the Eduardo Valpa’s manuscript with those of Hristaki Pavlovich, Petkov looks at the edition of the first printed Bulgarian history. The content of *Tsarstvennik*

and *Zaropismo* are compared. P. Petkov's conclusion is that Eduardo Valpa approaches the text of Hristaki Pavlovich not only as a translator but as a co-author. While adapting the language of the Paulician literary norm, the priest includes many additions and clarifications. According to Petkov "Eduardo contributes approximately a third of the text by volume, while correcting and adding to the rest according to his own understanding of literary and scientific texts and scientific reliability" (p. 22). Besides this the scholar compares and specifies most dates according to his own (likely Latin) sources, by using an unknown index in order to calculate the years elapsed from the creation of the world. Petkov states that the text of the *Zaropismo* is in effect the history of Bulgaria from the catholic viewpoint.

Further the author Petkov presents graphic, phonetic, grammatical and lexical characteristics of literary language of the printed history. The conclusion is "the language of the *Tsarstvennik* is an amalgam of literary and vernacular elements with a prevalence for the literary" (p. 33). In this manner the strong influence of the Church-Slavonic language on the language model of Hristaki of Dupnitsa is outlined.

Petkov conducts a similar analysis, however significantly broader and deeper, of the language in the *Zaropismo*. In the very beginning it is noted that "in the matter of spelling Eduardo's manuscript follows the examples and rules of the Paulician literary norm, reflected in all manuscripts and printed books of the 19th century intended for this community" (p. 33). Following this is a quite thorough explanation of the language features related to the Latin graphics, as well as the spelling, phonetic, grammatical and lexical characteristics in the written monument. Linguistic facts are outlined with appropriate examples. I have a remark regarding the graphic representation of the examples from the *Zaropismo* and the *Tsarstvennik*. As there is no graphical differentiation, often the examples (words, letters etc.) merge with the basic text and are hard to discern visually, for instance: "Е бележи последователно гласната е"; "Рефлексът на старобългарския малък ер е е", etc. This pertains mostly to the Cyrillic script, but also to some Latin letters that completely overlap with the Cyrillic ones.

The fair copy of *Zaropismo* is published critically containing the original Latin graphic design. The author's interference is minimal. The text is presented in parallel with other copies of the work, as well as the *Tsarstvennik* of Hristaki Pavlovich. Variants in the lexis, grammar and phrases of the text are outlined everywhere. By including all manuscripts in the publication of the Slavic Paulician History Petkov enables us to trace the textual history of the *Zaropismo* (p. 104).

The overall impression of P. Petkov's work is more than positive. The spelling analysis of the language and the critical edition of the *Zaropismo* are conducted very professionally. The analysis demonstrates the abilities of an experienced connoisseur of the historical development of the Bulgarian language.

Very valuable to field of the history of Bulgarian language is the co-authored monograph of Petko Petkov and Iskra Hristova-Shomova *Драготин апостол. Български ръкопис от XII – XIII в.* [Dragotinian apostol. A Bulgarian manuscript from the 12th or 13th century]. The book contains a complete philological analysis of a very interesting and unique in its content and language aprakos apostle (palimpsest) of the Middle Bulgarian period (manuscript № 880 of the CMNL), whose provenance is the south-west of Bulgaria. The contents section of the book outlines the work of each author. P. Petkov participates (alongside I. Hristova-Shomova) in the codicological and paleographical description of the *Dragotinian apostol*, in the print edition of the text, and independently makes the description of the language of the monument. The text is presented with regard to its graphical, spelling (p. 59 – 65), phonetic (p. 67 – 78) grammatical (omitted in the contents section; morphology p. 79 – 86, syntax 87 – 89) and lexical (p. 91 – 97) features. The critical edition of the *Dragotinian apostol* utilized many manuscripts, 6 of which (Enina apostle, Ohrid apostle, Apostle of Slepcha, Strumitsa apostle, manuscripts № 508 и № 882 от CMNL) were utilized for the variants, while over 40 others (apostles, gospels, printed bibles, service menaions and triodions) – for comparison. Parallel to the Slavonic text is the published printed text of the Greek apostle. This permits for an easy comparison thus clearly outlining the departures, additions and omissions in the text of the *Dragotinian apostol* from the 12th or 13th centuries.

Another co-authored publication (Petko Petkov, father Kozma /Krasimir/ Popovski and Andrey Boyadzhiev) that is of great value to science is the *Пергаментни кирилски откъслещи от библиотеката на Зографската света обител* [Parchment remains from the library of the Zograf monastery]. The book contains the typed texts of the extant parchment fragments of written monuments from the 10th to the 14th centuries in the Zograf monastery. The publication of each of the parchments is accompanied by a thorough paleographic, codicological, textological and linguistic-spelling description, as well as multiple other notes. The parchment remnants are published in the order of their numeration in the catalogue. Following the diplomatic publication of the parchment fragments is an album containing photographs of the manuscripts (p. 195 – 271). Given that it is not indicated otherwise in the contents section, we must assume that all three coauthors have contributed equally in the creation of the work in question. Two of the Slavic-Cyrillic fragments (Zogr. 282 from the 13th

century and Zogr. 285 from the 14th century) are analyzed in a separate article (2016) published by Petkov.

Petko Petkov is one of the co-authors (together with Kl. Ivanova, El. Musakova, father K. Popovski, A Boyadzhiev, A Bobev, L. Nenova and M. Dimitrova) of the *Каталог на славянските ръкописи от Зографската света обител (№ 287 – 405)* [Catalogue of the Slavic manuscripts in the Zograf monastery (№ 287 – 405)]. The book includes 119 short descriptions of Slavic manuscripts, kept in the library of the Zograf monastery. The more significant paleographic, codicological and linguistic-spelling features are outlined. Most of the written monuments included in this book have never heretofore been described or cataloged. Following the description of the manuscripts from the library of the Zograf monastery are an album with their facsimiles, and different indexes, that aid the reader in their work with the *Catalogue*. Connected to it is an article (2019) from the same authors (incl. P. Petkov), that describes the theoretical principles used in the formation of the Catalogue of newly discovered late manuscripts from the Zograf monastery.

The collection *Песни за Климент. Служби за св. Климент, писани от X до XX век* [Songs for Clement – Services of St. Clement, written from the 10th to the 20th centuries] contains hymnographic works, dedicated to St. Clement of Ohrid, that were written by his immediate disciples or later followers. The published texts are accompanied by thorough or shorter literary and linguistic studies by different authors (I. Hristova-Shomova, V. Savova, B. Mircheva, etc.). Besides being a co-editor of this publication, P. Petkov is also an author of it. He is a part of the collective that prepared the print edition (Slavic and Greek) of *Service for St. Clement of Ohrid with a Life* by Demetrios Chomatenos (p. 215 – 308). He published the *Life of Clement of Ohrid* by Demetrios Chomatenos in the Zograf prologue (Zogr. 47) (p. 457 – 464), *Service for St. Clement of Ohrid*, translated by father Callistrat of Zograf based on the copy by Irinarkh (c. 553 – 556), *Service for St. Clement of Ohrid* in Church-Slavonic, compiled by bishop Partheniy Levkiyski (p. 557 – 578), *Ful-text Life of Clement of Ohrid* by Theophylactus Bulgarus translated by Partheniy Levkiyski (p. 579 – 593), *Akathist of St. Clement of Ohrid* (p. 595 – 602) and *Prayer to St. Clement of Ohrid* (p. 603).

The chrestomathy *Из старите ръкописи: южнославянски текстове от XIV и XV в.* [Excerpts from the old manuscripts: South-Slavic texts from the 14th and 15th centuries] is of great scientific and applied value. In it the author P. Petkov has included selections of different Bulgarian and Serbian manuscripts (copies of translations from the 10th and 11th centuries, translations carried out during the 14th century, and original works), charters of Bulgarian kings, notes from Slavic scribes and other documents of historical value. The texts are selected

in such a manner as to represent the state of literary being during the 14th и 15th centuries in the southern Slavic lands. “Examples are given according to the manuscript containing all possible abbreviations and supralinear signs” (p. 4). The author’s philological influence in publishing these works is kept to a minimum. The chrestomathy is very appropriate for the education of students (philologists, historians, theologians, etc.).

The P. Petkov’s philological passion toward medieval Slavic literature is evident in other works that he has published along with observations regarding the language. These are some writings of Christian authors translated from Greek into Old Bulgarian and Middle Bulgarian. To this group we may studies and articles in which Petkov publishes: 1) the diplomatic Slavic text of *The dispute of Panagiotes with Azymites* according to a Moldovian copy from the 14th century (co-authored by I. Ivanova and I. Ivanov); 2) the Slavic text of *Chapters with acrostich* by the ideologue of the hesychasm Gregory Sinaita according to a copy in manuscript № 214 of the Zograf monastery; 3) *Praise to the forty great martyrs* by St. Basil the Great in manuscript № 3 of the Zograf monastery’s library; 4) the text of the Slavic translation of *Homily on being thankful* by St. Basil the Great according to manuscript № 130 of the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius in Moscow; 5) the Slavic translations (four in total for the period of 10th to 14th centuries) of *Commentary on the sixth psalm* by Anastasius Sinaita.

He has also published the text of the third sermon dedicated to St. George by the medieval Bulgarian writer Gregory Tsamblak according to a copy in manuscript № 189 of the Zograf monastery (co-authored by Krasimir Popovski), as well as a short description of the monasteries of Mount Athos according to a reference book which was printed in Thessaloniki in 1819.

In another group of articles Petkov provides preliminary information of the content and language of interesting manuscripts located in the library of the Zograf monastery. Among the examined written monuments is manuscript № 3 (from 1367 г.), which is the earliest copy of a new Slavic translation of the *Asceticon* of St. Basil the Great, realized in the middle of the 14th century. There are also two recently discovered patericon manuscripts of a later period (№ 406 и № 407), written by the hieromonk Irinarch towards the end of the 19th or the beginning of the 20th century, and manuscript № 328 (from the 20th century), containing a copy of a lost manuscript by Yordan Hadzhikonstantinov-Dzhinot.

In two co-authored articles P. Petkov analyses interesting notes in books from the Zograf monastery. The first paper (alongside K. Popovski and D. Peev) examines the scribe Dragan’s inscription, which is located in the *Dragan Menaion* from the end of the 13th century,

and the second (alongside A. Boyadzhiev) presents the marginal notes in a incunabular *Didactic gospel* (from 1606) by patriarch Callistus.

The Petko Petkov's interest toward the modern Bulgarian dialects is reflected in three articles co-authored by Ivan. G. Iliev, in which are considered: 1) an unknown model for the formation of a negative imperative in Bulgarian dialect observed in settlers from Lovech and Pleven that relocated to the region of Eastern Thrace after 1878; 2) the primary and secondary nasal vowels in a Western Rhodope Bulgarian dialect; 3) the creation of modern literary texts based on dialect.

Petkov is the compiler and scientific editor (alongside V. Savova, I. Trofonova and Iv. Petrov) of an anniversary collection in honor of I. Hristova-Shomova (2019).

In conclusion it can be said that the candidate for the position of a full professor – Petko D. Petkov, has accomplished a great deal of research. His works are markedly analytical when commenting on aspects of language and precise in the publication of different medieval texts. There have not been observed any foreign ideas or theses that Petkov has tried to pass off as his own. The work of the candidate bears original contributions that have received scientific acclaim. The importance of the problems discussed in the Petkov's scientific publications is confirmed by the attached information on the noticed quotations.

Taking into consideration the research and lecturing activities of the candidate, **I vote positively** for the selection of Assoc. Prof. Petko Dimitrov Petkov, PhD as a full professor in the professional field *2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Old Bulgarian)* at the Faculty of Slavic Studies (Cyril and Methodius Studies) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

18.04.2022

Blagoevgrad

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. L. Perchekliyski, PhD/