

OPINION

Of Prof. **Tatyana Angelova, PhD, Sofia University**

Member of the academic board for awarding the academic title RD 38-298/ May 17th 2021

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in a competition in

1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in... (Bulgarian Language Teaching Methodology)

Candidate: Senior Assistant Prof. Dr. Despina Mirolyubova Vasileva

In the competition for full-time associate professor in the professional field announced for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Philology at Sofia University 1. 3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Bulgarian Language Teaching Methodology), published in the State Gazette, SG no. 22 of 16.03.2021, the only candidate participates - Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Despina Mirolyubova Vasileva, full-time lecturer at the Department of Methodology of the Faculty of Slavic Studies. Based on the materials submitted for evaluation in the competition, I believe that the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Despina Vasileva meets the requirements of Art.56 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of Sofia University.

Academic Teaching

From the report on the workload of the competition it is clear that Dr. Despina Vasileva has a full schedule of classes in the specialty of Bulgarian Philology for the bachelor's degree, namely she manages pre-service training of students. D. Vasileva also manages the undergraduate practice of Bulgarian students, as well as the pedagogical practice of undergraduates from the Master program „ Education in Bulgarian language and literature in secondary school." The accumulated teaching experience is a prerequisite for her habilitation. Moreover, D. Vasileva organically connects her teaching competencies with the books and workbooks through which she teaches her students, as well as with her participation as an author of textbooks and workbooks for primary and secondary school.

Research Activities

For the research performances of Dr. Despina Vasileva testifies to a list of titles of serious scientific publications that reflect the sustainable research interest of the candidate; reports with which she has participated in national and international conferences, participation in research projects. To participate in the competition, Dr. Vasileva presented a significant scientific production: a) habilitation thesis "Development of cognitive and metacognitive reading skills in Bulgarian language teaching", Sofia 2021, 202 p. ; b) 2 studies on the issues of media and civic

competence, published in collections; c) 5 articles on the problems of digital civic competence in its relation to Bulgarian language teaching and metacognitive skills and attitudes for reading, all scientific papers published in indexed and referenced scientific journals and c) 1 article in the collection "Education for life, professional realization and well-being ", published by the Thracian University.

The monograph "Development of cognitive and metacognitive skills for reading in Bulgarian language teaching", Sofia 2021, 202 pp. is a theoretical and applied study, which examines reading models, exploring possible approaches to re-conceptualization and enrichment of existing practices and reading techniques offered by the Bulgarian language teaching methodology. The topic of the study is meaningful, the text structure is unique, as the summaries and conclusions made by the author are relevant to the Bulgarian educational situation and are a contribution to the development of university education in the methodology of the Bulgarian language teaching. The ideas for constructing the concept of reading competence are productive, including three components - reading skills, reading behavior, attitudes towards reading. Research design is reasonable, based on modern research procedures, such as Eye Tracking technology for text perception and comprehension depending on the type of media (paper or electronic) and the time for reading it. The results of the research are significant not only for the teaching of Bulgarian language, but also for the language training.

Special attention should be paid to Dr. Vasileva's interests in metacognitive strategies in Bulgarian language teaching. In the works "Use of metacognitive strategies in the teaching of Bulgarian language and literature - a factor for the creating of a thinking generation", "Development of reading strategies in the context of learning strategies", "Motivation and reading" defends the productive understanding that the development of metacognitive strategies in Bulgarian language teaching is an approach for the creation of skills for independent learning, for critical interpretation of information and its application. The author proposes models of tasks and types of activities to improve reading comprehension, assuming that this process is an essential part of long-term educational practice.

D. Vasileva dedicates her scientific interest to: the learner's motivation to read; to the training in composing a media text and the creation of civic competence through the Bulgarian language teaching. These are studies and writings, significant for the theory and practice of teaching the Bulgarian language.

In terms of volume and quality, the presented scientific production is completely sufficient and meets the recommended criteria for the award of the academic position "Associate Professor".

Ch. Assistant Professor Despina Vasileva participates in serious research projects: she is a member of the research team in the project "Evidence in the Bulgarian language - formal features and degrees of reliability in perception", № of the contract 80-10-70 / 13.04.2020, as well as a member of 5 projects on the problems of teaching students in methodology, civic education and civic competencies in the Bulgarian school, etc. Participation in a project activity speaks eloquently about raising the candidate's own professional qualification.

The citations presented in the reference speak of a serious scientific presence in the academic discourse of a young researcher with sustainable interests.

I would like to share my personal impressions of Dr. Vasileva from our joint work in the Department of Methodology, led by Prof. A. Petrov. I remembered the statements of a young researcher, a university specialist motivated to teach, and a smart young man who developed modern university science.

Conclusion

Based on what has been said, I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Despina Mirolyubova Vasileva as Associate Professor of Pedagogy of Teaching in ... (Bulgarian Language Teaching Methodology).

July 24th 2021

Prof. Dr. Tatyana Angelova:

