

## OPINION

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

Member of the academic board for awarding the academic title (№ ПД 38-240/ 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in a competition in

2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Applied linguistics)

**Candidate: Senior Assistant Prof. Dr. Venera Mateeva - Baicheva**

In the competition for a full-time associate professor in a professional field announced for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Philology at Sofia University 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Applied Linguistics), published in the State Gazette, SG no. 22 of 16.03.2021, the only candidate participates - Senior Assistant Professor Venera Georgieva Mateeva - Baicheva, PhD, full-time lecturer at the Department of Bulgarian Language as a foreign language at the Faculty of Slavic Philology. Based on the materials submitted for evaluation in the competition, I believe that the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Venera Mateeva-Baicheva meets the requirements of Art. 56 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of Sofia University.

### **Academic Teaching**

From the reference for the study load of the competition it is clear that Dr. Mateeva-Baicheva has a full schedule of classes in the bachelor's degree, namely she leads exercises in Bulgarian as a foreign language for students in the program "Erasmus" (in English), in the bachelor's programs of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy (in English), the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Biology. V. Baicheva has been assigned lecture courses in phonetics and lexicology of the Bulgarian language for reference translators, courses in the Master's program "Language and Cultural Space". The teaching experience gained during the performances while working with the students is a prerequisite for her habilitation. Moreover, V. Mateeva-Baicheva is able to apply her teaching competencies as an author of the books and manuals through which she teaches the students. Baicheva also has the author's participation in the textbooks and workbooks for primary and secondary school, incl. textbooks directly related to the study of the Bulgarian language by students/learners abroad.

### **Research Activities**

For the research performances of Dr. Venera Mateeva-Baicheva, PhD, speaks the titles of serious scientific publications, reflecting the sustainable research interest of the candidate. For participation in the competition Dr. Baicheva presented a total of 14 issues. From them as



scientific production will be reported: 1 monograph, 2 articles in the magazine *Bulgarian language and literature*, which is indexed and referenced, 1 article in the magazine *Bulgarian speech*, 1 article in a jubilee collection in honor of Prof. Radka Vlahova, 1 article in a collection of papers from the International Faculty Conference "Supremacy and Adaptation" of the Faculty of Slavic Studies in 2017 and 1 theoretical article on syntactic constructions and parallels between children's speech and the speech of foreigners studying Bulgarian, published in "New Bulgarian Grammar "S. 2016. The other texts are reviews that are not reported as scientific productions (some of them are co-authored).

The monograph "Language aspects of sharing foreign culture (Modern methodology and procedures in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language)", Sofia, 2021, 190 pp. is a theoretical and applied study, which examines significant aspects of learning Bulgarian as a foreign language by foreigners, getting acquainted with the culture of Bulgarian, master the Bulgarian language as a means of academic communication. The presentation of basic principles of the theory of mastering the second language and the concept of foreign language learning as belonging to applied linguistics is scientifically substantiated. The second part of the monograph develops a research design on the typology of mistakes made by foreigners studying Bulgarian, analyzes identified difficulties in the learning process, in particular in the field of nouns and verbs. The approach based on the results of the research to offer models for predicting and preventing deviations from the language norm in students with different mother tongues is productive.

V. Baicheva also studies the interference errors in the use of the auxiliary verb *I am* - an article in which the results of the research are significant for the teaching of Bulgarian as the first. In the spirit of the changing educational context, Dr. Baicheva also deals with e – learning of Bulgarian as a foreign language (Virtual Learning Environment). The author offers models of tasks and types of activities for mastering the pronoun system by foreigners; mastering the word order of the pronoun clitics, which makes the learners especially difficult and last but not least pays attention to a significant problem for the native speakers - studying the grammatical forms of the utterance when expressing politeness in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language. In connection with the works of V. Baicheva I have a recommendation - the term *national language for Bulgarian* is used, and the correct name is the *official language for Bulgarian* (according to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria).

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

Dr. Venera Mateeva - Baicheva participates in significant research projects: she is a member of the research team in the project "New practical grammar in Bulgarian for foreigners", as well as a member of a project on the problems of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language to children. Participation in a project activity speaks eloquently about raising the candidate's own professional qualification.

The citations presented in the reference speak of a scientific presence in the academic discourse of a young researcher. I would like to share my personal impressions of Dr. Baicheva from her participation in Faculty Conferences. She leaves the impression of a motivated young university lecturer and researcher who enriches the university education in Bulgarian as a foreign language.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on what has been said, I strongly and confidently recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Venera Mateeva - Baicheva as Associate Professor of 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Applied Linguistics).

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

Prof. Dr. Tatyana Angelova:

