

SHORT REVIEW

for the competition of holding the academic position PROFESSOR in a professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty Bulgarian language (Lexicology), according to the announcement in SG, issue 24/ 17.03.2023, with a candidate: Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Bulgarian language at the Faculty of Slavic Philology at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Author of the short review (member of the jury): Gergana Dimitrova Padareva-Ilieva, PhD, Associate Professor at South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

The presented by Assoc. Prof. Mihailova-Stalyanova set of materials is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, (LASDRB), the Regulations governing the application of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (RGALASDRB) and the Internal Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for the acquisition of the academic position of Professor.

Short bio data of the candidate

The candidate is a graduate of St. “Kliment Ohridski” with a first degree in Polish Philology and a second degree in English Philology. She defended her doctoral dissertation in 2000 and in the same year was appointed as an Assistant Professor of contemporary Bulgarian language at the Department of Bulgarian Language of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova has been an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Slavonic Philology since 2014. She specialized abroad in 2023, and has completed 5 Erasmus+ teaching mobilities since 2014 at a total of two universities.

General description of the applicant's activities

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Mihailova-Stalyanova teaches lecture courses in Bulgarian Lexicology, Phonetics and Lexicology, Public speech, Communication and manipulation, Political and journalistic speech (MA Linguistics), Teaching Bulgarian as L2 – opportunities and challenges (MA Cross-border Bulgarian Studies).

She is a mentor and a supervisor of seven graduate students from different BA and MA programmes at the Faculty of Slavonic Philology.

Scientific activity

The candidate develops her scientific activity in several directions: editorial activity, project activity, publication activity. Assoc. Prof. Mihaylova-Stalyanova has been the editor-in-chief of the journal *Bulgarian Speech* since 2016, editor and compiler of scientific publications in Bulgaria and abroad. She has participated in a total of 11 scientific projects since 2014, she is the leader of 8 of them. Two of the projects are funded by Bulgarian Scientific Research Fund, and the rest are projects within Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate is a supervisor of one PhD student with a dissertation on "The linguistic picture of crime in Bulgarian and Polish", successfully defended in 2023.

The publication activity of the candidate can also be presented in several main activities – compilation of dictionaries (in a team), author and a co-author of monography works, author and a co-author of scientific publications, co-author of university textbooks.

In the competition Assoc. Prof. Mihaylova-Stalyanova participates with a total of 37 publications – 2 monographs (one of which is co-authored), 9 articles published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of science and Scopus) (5 of them co-authored), 3 co-authored dictionaries, appropriate for students of Slavic studies, 16 articles published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes (7 of them co-authored), 7 university workbooks co-authored for foreign students studying Bulgarian.

Some of the publications are in English – one monograph and six articles, and 11 (scientific articles and teaching workbooks) are published abroad.

Scientific contributions of the candidate:

The main publications of the candidate are devoted to the issues related to public speech and the trends in contemporary Bulgarian speech.

The main monograph "Speech in Contemporary Bulgarian Society" deals with topics such as linguistic aggression, new words and meanings, political correctness. In several chapters, the author presents various lexical aspects in our language, not just presenting her observations, but considering them in the context of the relationship between the fate of language and social development. In the first part of the monograph, Stalyanova presents the results of a survey conducted within the framework of the project "Language Aggression and

Society", which aimed at research and scientific analysis of verbal aggression in educational institutions, carried out in the period 2016-2019 with a huge number of respondents – 1463 (age 10 – 24 years) from 19 Bulgarian schools and 4 universities, divided by age into three groups. The aim of this study is the verbal means of inflicting and perceiving offence. Although the text presents only the results of the surveys conducted among the students of one of the groups (8th – 12th grade), it draws our attention to an important issue for the society. I assume that the author will present the results for the rest of the groups, as well as their in-depth analysis, in future. In this sense, I find that the study has the potential to go deeper by drawing correct conclusions from the overall analysis of the large number of respondents. Nevertheless, this part of the book identifies issues of significant importance for Bulgarian society.

The second part of the book is devoted to new words and their meanings. It raises the role of politicians and media in "imposing" and popularizing certain lexemes and their meanings as one of the ways of "pushing" new phenomena into the language. Of undeniable interest are the analyses justifying the reasons for the use of certain new words and meanings that interfere with extra-linguistic factors. Political correctness, as a relatively new but gaining momentum phenomenon, is commented by the author in the light of the changes in our language dictated by our desire to keep up with this global trend. In this sense, Stalyanova gives examples of appropriate and inappropriate words, as well as the contexts in which they are permissible, and also addresses the problems faced by the translator when dealing with politically (in)correct words.

In this study Nadezhda Stalyanova presents another interesting topic that affects contemporary Bulgarian speech – the use of phraseologisms as part of the linguistic competence of Bulgarians. The analysis of specific phrases with certain components, besides its significance for lexicology, contains an important conclusion that concerns specifically Bulgarian phraseology and concerns a possible revision of phraseological dictionaries. It also includes issues related to the frequency of their use. All issues should be addressed not only by lexicologists but also by educators and methodologists, for example. With its separate studies, observations, and conclusions, the book leaves open certain questions that interest not only linguists but also specialists in other fields such as sociologists, psychologists, and public relations specialists. It would be interesting if in the future the author develops in-depth her research on the interesting results from the survey, analyzing them even more thoroughly, including interdisciplinary, so that they would receive applicability in other scientific fields too.

The earlier book, the co-authored monograph *The Power of Public Speech* contains 9 chapters, the main goal of this book is to highlight significant tendencies in public speech, which, according to the authors, will determine the development of society. The first two chapters are devoted to linguistic aggression, hate speech, also viewed through the lens of freedom of speech. Hate speech is also linked to hate crimes as penal offences. It is evident that the role of the media in shaping the contemporary public sphere and the imposition of certain speech tendencies is one of the author's main scientific interests – undeniably important and significant for our society. One of the chapters of the book is devoted to it, examined through the prism of self-regulation and the code of ethics. Technological innovations that are transforming the public sphere as well as our personal lives are also on the agenda. This aspect is presented in three of the book's chapters, political correctness is interpreted in two chapters. The practical side of the issue, such as the linguistic expertise in two real cases at the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, is also worth mentioning. Thus, we can say that the book brings together theoretical considerations, observations on modern speech and the practical application of both in various aspects.

The scientific articles with which Assoc. Prof. Stalyanova participated in the competition, some of which are included in the content of the books presented above, can be divided into several thematic areas: Lexicology, divided into two groups – new words and meanings and phraseology, public speech and teaching Bulgarian as L2 – in scientific publications, workbooks and dictionaries. The main contributions of the publications are correctly reflected by the candidate in the competition documentation. A few of them will be highlighted here, describing the main contribution in the publications of Assoc. Prof. Stalyanova:

- the linguistic analysis is placed in the context of the language-personality-society relationship;
- the theoretical-applied contributions are in the field of lexicology with the two volumes of the "Dictionary of Linguistic Terms for Slavic Studies Students" and with the seven study aids dedicated to the teaching of the Bulgarian language as a L2.

Conclusion:

Assoc. Prof. Mihaylova-Stalyanova is a researcher with the potential to monitor and reflect tendencies, especially lexical ones, in contemporary Bulgarian speech. Her expertise in other Slavic languages and her experience as an author of workbooks in Bulgarian as L2 are another important addition to her scientific activity of a practical-applied nature.

Given the stated in this opinion and taking into account the presented documentation, scientific and teaching work I give a positive assessment of the overall activity of the applicant. I suggest with that the Honorable Scientific Jury elect Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova, PhD to the academic position of PROFESSOR in area of higher education 2. HUMANITIES professional field 2.1. PHILOLOGY.

18th of July 2023

Author of the short review:

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