

## STATEMENT

**in the Competition for Holding the Academic Position of “Professor”**

**in 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Applied Linguistics),**

**Announced in the State Gazette, Issue 67 of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024,**

**with a Single Candidate – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mirena Atanasova Patseva**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mirena Atanasova Patseva is distinguished by her extensive professional experience in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language. Extremely useful both for her teaching work and for her scientific research is her knowledge (to varying degrees) of a number of foreign languages (German, Russian, English, Greek, French, Sanskrit).

The candidate graduated from the 91<sup>st</sup> German Language High School in Sofia (1979), and five years later she graduated in Bulgarian Philology from the Faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 1986, she received a master’s degree in History and Theory of Culture at the Faculty of History of Sofia University, and in 1991 she was awarded the scientific and educational degree “doctor” in the field of general linguistics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics at the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Since 1992, M. Patseva has held various positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, and since 2010 she has been an associate professor of modern Bulgarian language at the Department of Bulgarian as a Foreign Language of the Faculty of Slavic Studies. She has a number of specialisations at universities and research centres in Sofia, Saarbrücken, Seville, Thessaloniki, New Delhi, Budapest. She was a lecturer in Bulgarian language and culture at the University of Delhi, Delhi (2003 – 2005), and the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki (2013 – 2017). The candidate is a member of several authoritative international scientific organisations, has participated in a total of 16 scientific projects, five of which – as a leader (4 national and one of the European Commission). She is the winner of the Rector’s Award of Sofia University, presented to her on the occasion of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the university (1998).

22 publications were submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of professor: 2 monographs, one of which is a habilitation work, 2 studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes, and 18 articles and reports: 5 of them published in scientific issues, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 13 published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes. One of the studies and 5 of the articles are in English, one article – in Russian; 9 articles are co-authored.

The total number of the author’s publications is 113, which are cited in 159 sources.

The reference to the works submitted for participation in the competition shows the candidate’s rich and diverse scientific production. The focus of the research interest is Bulgarian lexical prosody, to which publications G62, G78, G91, G92, and G713 are dedicated, as well as the habilitation work *Morphological and Prosodic Aspects in the Accentuation of Nouns in the Bulgarian Language* (2024). The latter studies the interaction between morphological and metric aspects in Bulgarian accentuation within the framework of the theory of interference

between morphology and prosody, also taking into account historical linguistic stratifications, the structure of the lexicon, and the frequency of use of lexical units. The work outlines different trends regarding the accentual characteristics of morphemes in the composition of Bulgarian nouns. The author proves that the most frequently accented morphemes are the roots in non-derivative lexemes and the suffixes in derivatives, while the articular morphemes and inflection are in most cases realised without an accent. She ascertains a tendency for accentual differentiation of multifunctional morphemes depending on their function in the individual word-forming categories. According to the observations of M. Patseva, marked suffixes prevail in mutational structures, and unmarked ones – in modificational ones. The researcher concludes that the accent is associated with morphological factors, prevailing in comparison with metrical ones.

The prosodic characteristics of speech, but with a view to teaching the pronunciation features of Bulgarian as a foreign language, are considered in publications G61, G71, G72, G74, and G76; various aspects of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language are presented in publications G75, G73, G63, E22-2, and G65. The remaining publications trace the relationship between language, society, and psyche (G4, G64, G712), as well as the concepts of the psychological functioning of language in the Indian linguistic tradition and their design in the light of modern psycholinguistics (G77, G79, G70, G711).

The outlined research areas demonstrate excellent knowledge of various research schools, theories, and methods in the study of individual aspects of linguistic phenomena. The author's reference correctly reflects the contribution of the publications.

The analysis of the presented materials and original scientific works, containing indisputable theoretical, practical, and applied contributions, shows that they are in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for holding the academic position of "professor".

All this gives me reason with full conviction to propose to the esteemed academic jury to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mirena Atanasova Patseva the position of professor in field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language – Applied Linguistics).

Sofia, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Avramova