

REVIEW

on the academic output for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Field of higher education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language as a foreign language – Theory of translation) – half-time, for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Philology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, published in the State Gazette, issue no. 21/15.03.2022

One candidate participates in the competition: Iveta Georgieva Tasheva – Dimitrova.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Sc. Anastas Gerdjikov, Department of Classical Philology, FCMP, Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“

The competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in the Field of higher education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language as a foreign language – Theory of translation) was announced for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Philology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ in the State Gazette, issue 21/15.03.2022 with the single candidate Dr. Iveta Georgieva Tasheva – Dimitrova. From the documentation provided to me, it is clear that all the necessary documents and materials for participation in the competition have been submitted and the procedural requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ have been complied with.

Dr. Tasheva holds a master's degree (Medicine, with the acquired qualification as a doctor and acquired legal capacity as a doctor – 1996, MU-Sofia) and a PhD in Professional field 7.1 Medicine (Cardiology, dissertation *Endovascular treatment of combined peripheral arterial and coronary disease* – 2019, SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“). She has acquired medical specialties in Internal Medicine (2002), Cardiology (2006), Invasive Cardiology (2010) and Angiology (2019).

I. Tasheva worked in cardiology departments in Yambol, at „St. Ekaterina“ Hospital, at University Hospital „Lozenets“ and at „Ajibadem City Clinics – Tokuda“, was head of the cardiology department at National Cardiology Hospital and at General Hospital for Active Treatment Pazardzhik, and head of the Catheterization Laboratory at „Ajibadem City Clinic“. Since 2020, she has been head of the Cardiology and Invasive Cardiology Clinic at Sofamed Medical Center.

From 1999 to 2002, she worked at the „Internal Diseases“ department of the Medical University – Sofia. Since 2018, she has led lectures and seminars at the Faculty of Slavic Philology and at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University (Introduction to Medical Terminology, Translation of Medical Terminology, seminars on Cardiology and Internal Medicine). I. Tasheva led lecture courses on the disciplines „Medical Translation“ and

„Introduction to Medical Terminology“ in the Master Program „Translator-Editor“. Her research interests are in the field of cardiology, translation of medical terminology and translation theory.

Dr. Tasheva is the author of nearly 80 publications, mostly in the field of medicine, with 21 of which he participated in the current competition (one monograph and 20 articles). The monograph „Medical humanities. Themes, Terms, Translation“ is primarily dedicated to the place and role of medical humanities today. This topic has been discussed around the world for a long time, but it is new in Bulgaria, and that is why I agree with the candidate's statement in the stated by her contributions, that in this sense the work is pioneering. She attempts to define the term „медицинска хуманитаристика“ (with all the reservations due to the interdisciplinary nature of the English-language term „medical humanities“) and, above all, opens the field for debate on this new topic for our research literature.

At the same time, the monograph is not only the first of its kind in Bulgarian scientific literature, but it is a rare phenomenon in that the author is not a linguist, but a doctor who is interested in the theory and practice of translation. There is a high level of interdisciplinarity, because the main topic of traductology is combined not only with linguistic and literary studies, but also with medicine.

The first chapter is devoted to the linguistic problems arising from the translation of medical texts. The author draws attention to the double meaning of the word translation: interlanguage translation, but also transfer of knowledge. From there it reaches general questions such as the translatability of medical knowledge in general, the relationship of intercultural communication with medical knowledge, and current topics in the humanities such as transhumanism. When we talk about medical translation, we usually imagine medical literature or documents, but the candidate also pays attention to oral interpretation, which is important for taking anamnesis with people who do not know the language.

A second chapter deals with the history of the topic. The tradition here is long because medical translation has been practiced since ancient times. I. Tasheva researches the roots of medical terminology in Greek and Latin and the transformations of medical terms in subsequent eras.

The third chapter introduces us to the techniques of medical translation and to the most serious difficulties in the translation of medical terminology – synonyms, eponyms, abbreviations, false friends, etc., indicating possible solutions. The biggest problem, however, remains the specificity of terms, the gradual change or shift of meanings, and the constant expansion of the medical lexicon. The candidate sees the solution to the problem of the accelerated entry of new medical terms in online medical terminology resources.

The second half of the monograph includes several translations from Bulgarian to English of own texts of the candidate in the field of cardiology with comments to them, which are practically useful for translators.

Some inaccuracies have crept into the text, for example, the notions indicated on p. 51 do not differ in spelling, but phonetically and morphologically, the graphics are secondary,

and the statement on p. 47 that Greek has always prevailed over Latin as the language of medicine and science is obviously incorrect.

The main contribution of the monograph is in directing our attention to an important and modern field, almost unknown in Bulgaria. Its significance compared to other areas of specialized translation lies in the great responsibility of medical translation, on which a human life may depend. For this reason, I support the candidate's opinion that a specialist doctor with knowledge of the language is more suitable for medical translation than a professional translator with some medical knowledge (p. 43).

The monograph also contributes with its theoretical and practical statements about medical translation, which, in addition to mastery of the language, also requires an excellent mastery of terminology. An additional specific contribution is its focus on cardiology, especially as regards the practical focus and translatability of the vocabulary.

The articles „Medicine and the question of the future“, „On one of the types of specialized translation“ and „Medical connotations in the concept of „crisis“ are thematically related to this monograph and are also of a contributing nature.

The article „Medicine and the question of the future“ examines one of the many applications of medical translation that is also discussed in the monograph – its ability to transfer knowledge. The author examines some of the main and most debated ideas of transhumanism related to medicine – gene enhancement, technologically driven evolution and the possibility of immortality.

The fact that medical translation is not just an interlanguage translation, but also a transfer of knowledge is also the subject of the article „On one of the types of specialized translation“. According to the candidate, among specialized translations, medical translation is one of the most difficult and responsible, because it requires knowledge of medical terminology and the specificity of terms, but also because of the change and displacement of meanings and the constant expansion of the medical lexicon. A wrong epicrisis or diagnosis can have much more serious results than the usual consequences of a poorly executed or wrong translation. The candidate also considered the main dangers – working with secondary terms, medical metaphors, etc.

„Medical Connotations in the Concept of „Crisis“ is a review of the history of the concept and an attempt to show that in all subsequent spheres (politics, economics, public sphere, philosophy, etc.) it enters together with a set of connotations inherited from its original medical meaning. This thesis should not be taken to an extreme, because Koselleck and the author herself point out that, along with medicine, at the beginning of the history of the concept is also the sphere of law, and in addition, in the two oldest spheres, the main meaning of the concept „crisis“ is 'judgment, decision' and many of the additional meanings acquired over time in other areas are not initially present.

I am not competent to assess the contribution character of the other articles with which Iveta Tasheva applied, but along with their medical focus, some of them – „Transcatheter aortic valve implantation in patients with high degree of aortic regulation and terminal

pulmonary insufficiency“, „Endovascular coronary stenting followed by implantation of transcatheter aortic valve prosthesis“ and „Endovascular treatment in a patient with Takayasu arteritis“, include examples of translation from Bulgarian to English of medical terminology and other important vocabulary.

I. Tasheva has noted more than 70 citations of her publications, almost all of them in publications indexed in Scopus and in Web of Science, which, however, are for the candidate's medical publications. On the other hand, she participated in two research projects specifically in the field of the competition. She has also nearly 60 participations in scientific (medical) conferences, many of which are important international forums.

In conclusion, along with the mentioned qualities, I. Tasheva's candidacy has two weaknesses. First, insufficient teaching experience, which, however, is not a precedent, as it often happens with candidates from research institutes. Second, the majority of her publications are on medical topics, and only in recent years has she focused on the field of competition. The latter, however, also has its positives, as I agreed above with the candidate's thesis that for work in the field of medical translation it is more important to be an expert in medicine, rather than a professional translator. It is easier for such a candidate to make up for possible deficiencies in the field of philology than for the philologist to become a specialist in the field of medicine.

For the reasons listed, I believe that Dr. I. Tasheva meets the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1 of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, and the submitted publications sufficiently demonstrate the candidate's contributions, skills and competencies. All this gives me reason to express a positive opinion on the selection of Dr. Iveta Georgieva Tasheva – Dimitrova for the academic position of „associate professor“ in professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language as a foreign language – Theory of translation)



June 25, 2022

Reviewer:

Sofia

(Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov)