

## **OPINION**

**by Dr. Gergana Kirilova Dacheva - professor at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"**

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position of "associate professor"

of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

by: field of higher education education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology  
(Bulgarian language – Stylistics)

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

In the competition for "docent", announced in the State Gazette, no. 24/17.03.2023 for the needs of the "Bulgarian language" department at the Faculty of Slavic Philology, Yana Lyubenova Sivilova participated as the only candidate.

Yana Sivilova graduated in 2001 with a master's degree, majoring in Slavic philology - Polish profile, at the Faculty of Slavic Philology of the State University «St. Kliment Ohridski». In 2009, he defended his doctorate in general and comparative linguistics at the Department of General, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski". From 2004 to 2011, she was a part-time assistant at SU, and from 2011 she was appointed as the main assistant at the Department of Bulgarian Language.

### **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity**

In the competition for associate professor, Yana Sivilova presented herself with a habilitation thesis (published monograph) on the topic "Archaeology of the Phrase" and 24 publications with different issues, most of them related to the topic of the habilitation thesis. All of them show a lasting interest in the chosen topic, as well as persistence in developing the problem. Yana Sivilova takes an active part in various scientific forums (national and international).

Yana Sivilova's work on the topic "Archaeology of the phrase" is of interest to both philologists and a wider range of readers, as it examines the problem from both a philological and cultural point of view. The habilitation thesis is 257 pages long, consisting of an introduction, four

chapters and a conclusion. At the end, an index of the discussed phrasemes in alphabetical order is proposed.

In Bulgarian science, *Archeology of the Phrase* is the first comprehensive study focused on the origin of phrases and their use. The book focuses on lexicalized word combinations, successively exploring their etymology and offering an analysis of their stylistic functions in literary and non-literary contexts.

In the introduction, Yana Sivilova presents some essential aspects of her chosen issue, clarifies the goals and objectives of the research, and justifies her point of view.

In the first chapter, which is theoretical, the author defines the main concept, the phraseme, as an irregular and restrictive unit. Yana Sivilova shows an excellent knowledge of the theoretical concepts on the issues related to the phraseme and its implementations in different types of context.

In the second chapter, the author reviews the approaches used so far in researching the etymology of lexicalized word combinations. Attention is paid to expressions that entered Bulgarian under the influence of the ancient tradition and the biblical text. Last but not least, the ways in which international phraseology is established in the Bulgarian language are studied here. Yana Sivilova thoroughly and professionally tracks the various expressions, analyzing them purposefully and consistently.

In the third chapter, the influences of neighboring Balkan (mainly Turkish) and other European languages on Bulgarian phraseology are described. A contribution in this part is the juxtaposition of the original and translated versions of texts popular during the Renaissance with a view to the expressions they contain. This chapter is very interesting for me, as it combines phraseology, stylistics and the history of the Bulgarian literary language, placing an emphasis on an understudied and partially explored linguistic level.

In the fourth chapter, the role of phrasemes in phatic dialogue and narrative is explored in detail on corpus material and own recordings. Yana Sivilova makes extremely important observations related to the current conversational situation, synthesizing her analyzes in conclusions. This chapter is in fact the author's main contribution to stylistic issues and enriches the previous studies by highlighting some new phenomena in Bulgarian colloquial speech. Personally, I find Yana Sivilova's observations of weather forecasting as "a formulaic genre

(guaranteeing the easy perception of certain data) and the failed attempt at its transformation" particularly interesting. I have not come across such a study from a stylistic point of view before, and this is an absolute find in the book for me. Of course, I cannot fail to note the in-depth analyzes of literary texts, such as the study of the novel "Chamkoria" by Milen Ruskov from the point of view of phraseology and the specifics of its style. However, much has been written about the style of a particular author.

The conclusion presents a synthesis of Yana Sivilova's analyzes and proves his ability to analyze and synthesize the excerpted material, as well as to attract the necessary theoretical statements with which to justify his observations. In the conclusion, the main conclusions of the study are formulated.

Yana Sivilova's bibliographic knowledge of the subject is excellent.

Yana Sivilova's scientific contributions are serious and indisputable. The associate professor candidate conscientiously and thoroughly researched her chosen issue, showing her professionalism and interest in the topic. The attached reference for the minimum national requirements complies with the ZRASRB and the Regulations for its application. The citations of various publications by Yana Sivilova show the authority of her research.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks and recommendations.

## **CONCLUSION**

The ideas and scientific contributions realized in the publications and habilitation work of Yana Sivilova, the only candidate in the competition for associate professor in 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language – Stylistics), State Gazette, no. 24/17.03.2023, her serious scientific and professional qualities, the reference for the national minimum requirements for an "associate professor" give me reason to confidently support the election of Yana Sivilova in the competition for an associate professor, and I believe that the presented materials meet the requirements of ZRASRB, of the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". I will vote with conviction for the election of Yana Sivilova as associate professor of 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language – Stylistics). I believe that the scientific publications selected

by Yana Sivilova for the competition represent herself, the Department of Bulgarian Language, the Faculty of Slavic Philology and SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" dignified and authoritative.

Prof. Dr. Gergana Dacheva

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