

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Dimitar Vesselinov Dimitrov
concerning the scientific works and scientific contributions
of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova,
candidate in a competition for filling the academic position “Professor”
in the area of higher education 2. Humanities
Professional field 2.1. Philology, Bulgarian Language (Lexicology)

1.Competition data

By order ПД 38-201 of 26.04. 2023 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” I have been appointed as a member of the Committee for the competition for the academic position “Professor” for professional direction 2.1. Philology, Bulgarian Language (Lexicology) for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Studies. The competition has been announced in the State Gazette issue No. 24 of 17.03.2023; the only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in this competition is Associate Professor Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova, a long-time lecturer in the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Slavic Studies. The documents submitted to the Scientific Committee for consideration in this competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

The deposited publications are original and have been written by the author. The set of administrative documents includes: curriculum vitae, diploma for completed higher education, diploma for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, certificate for the academic position “Associate Professor”, certificate for the academic positions held so far, certificate of participation and management of scientific projects, list of publications, certificate of conformity to the minimum national requirements, list of noted citations, evidence of original scientific contributions, information on compilation and editing work, scientific guidance for students and doctoral students, summaries of 37 publications with which the candidate participates in the competition, a copy of the State Gazette No. 24, 17 March 2023, declaration that the deposited scientific works and citations have not been used in the procedures for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, the scientific degree “Doctor of Science” and the academic position “Associate Professor” by Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova.

2.Candidate data

Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova was born on 26.11.1973 in Sofia. In 1991, she graduated from a foreign language high school. She is a graduate of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, having successfully completed her first major in 1996 in Slavic Philology (Polish Philology) and her second major in English Language and Literature. She holds a professional-pedagogical qualification as an English teacher, subsequently validated by the University of Cambridge. In 2000, she defended a dissertation on the topic “Verba percipiendi in Bulgarian and Polish” [*„Verba percipiendi в българския и полския език“*] under the scientific supervision of Prof. Vasilka Radeva. She started her professional career as a lecturer at Sofia University in 2000, where she successively held

the positions of “Assistant”, “Senior Assistant” and “Chief Assistant” until 2014. In 2014, she was promoted to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the Bulgarian Language Department of the Faculty of Slavic Studies with a habilitation thesis “Linguistic Portraits of Bulgarian Politicians” [*„Езикови портрети на български политици“*] (University Publishing House, Sofia, 2012). She is fluent in Polish, English and Russian. In the period 2016-2019, she was the director of the Centre for the Analysis of Political and Journalistic Speech. She has specialised in Poland (2005) and in the Czech Republic (2023). She has been a guest lecturer at universities in Poland (2006, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2015 and 2016), in Hungary (2010 and 2012) and in the Czech Republic (2007, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2022). Between 2006 and 2016, she has managed 11 scientific projects and between 2017 and 2021, she has participated in 4 scientific projects as a member of the research team. Since 2016, she has been the editor-in-chief of the magazine “Bulgarian Speech” (published by the Faculty of Slavic Studies).

3. Teaching work

Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova is an established lecturer at the Faculty of Slavic Studies. As an Associate Professor, she reads lecture courses on Lexicology of the Bulgarian language, Phonetics of the Bulgarian language, Public speech, communication and manipulation (Bachelor’s degree programme), Political and journalistic speech and Teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language – opportunities and challenges (Master’s degree programme). The above lecture courses are in conformity with the professional field for which the competition for the academic position “Professor” has been announced.

4. Data on the candidate's scientific output

A total of 37 publications have been submitted for this competition, as follows: 2 monographs; 25 articles, of which 9 are published in indexed editions; 3 dictionaries; 7 university study guides. One of the deposited monographs is co-authored and written in English, with the candidate's textual contribution clearly indicated. Of the 9 articles published in indexed editions, 4 have been written independently and 5 are co-authored. Of the 16 articles in non-indexed editions, 9 have been written independently. The dictionaries are co-authored, two of them are dedicated to the linguistic terms for Slavists and one is a thematic dictionary of the Bulgarian, Czech, Polish and Ukrainian languages. The university study guides are also co-authored and include linguodidactologically selected vocabulary targeting the needs of foreigners studying Bulgarian, as well as a corresponding set of Bulgarian texts for translation by foreigners. The scientific output in terms of volume and quality is in conformity with the requirements of the announced competition and has a marked contributive character.

5. Research activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova is a talented researcher who has proven her creative potential in the field of lexicology, speech communication and the teaching of Bulgarian as a foreign language. The scientific output of the candidate covers around one hundred titles and includes monographs, articles, presentations at scientific forums, dictionaries and study guides, and for her participation in the announced competition Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Mihaylova-Stalyanova has provided a list of 37 new publications.

Her monograph “Speech in Contemporary Bulgarian Society” [*„Речта в съвременното българско общество“*] (2020) is a complex study of the dynamic processes in contemporary lexical practice reflected in public speaking, political speech and the media. The study is innovative, up-to-date and has the necessary qualities to be defined as a serious habilitation thesis. It is characterised by high erudition, scientific integrity and precise analysis. It consists of five chapters, aimed respectively at the problems of linguistic aggression in society, neologisation in public speech, the “society-speech” relationship, the specificities of political speech, phraseology and idioms with respect to public speech. The study has a high scientific value in both theoretical and applied aspects. It reveals the author’s high philological and linguodidactological culture. It stands out with its precision in terminological use, clarity and coherence in exposition, as well as with its modern scientific style. Public communication is examined through the prism of modern sociolinguistics, folk psychology and linguodidactology and is studied as a current philological phenomenon. The analysis of linguistic aggression in society deserves special attention. The monograph is a valuable source for our research and teaching community in the field of speech communication and the teaching of Bulgarian as a foreign language.

The 25 articles submitted for the competition, dealing with phraseology, public speech, new words and meanings and linguodidactological aspects of the Bulgarian language as a foreign language, are noteworthy for the particular seriousness of the research with which current problems in these philological and linguodidactological fields have been analysed. Publications in indexed and peer-reviewed editions are of particular value, which, however, does not diminish the value of the other materials. It

should be noted that the collective monograph “The Power of Public Speech”, published in co-authorship with Elena Kreychova in 2017, also has high theoretical and applied qualities.

Considering the philological profile of the competition, the two lexicographical works submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova which are distinguished by their theoretical-practical orientation should also be mentioned: “Dictionary of Linguistic Terms for Slavic Studies Students” [*„Речник на лингвистичните термини за студенти слависти“*] in two parts (2019-2020), co-authored with Elena Kreychova, and “Concise Thematic Bulgarian, Czech, Polish and Ukrainian Dictionary” [*„Кратък тематичен речник на българския, чешкия, полския и украинския език“*], co-authored with Elena Kreychova and Olga Soroka (2016). Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova is also the co-author of 7 study guides for mastering the Bulgarian vocabulary and phraseology as well as for mastering skills derived from various translation practices.

Conclusion

The overall teaching and research activities of Associate Professor Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova are distinguished by their high academic value. The scientific works submitted for the competition are up-to-date, innovative, in-depth and with pronounced theoretical and practical contributions. Taking all of the above into consideration allows me to vote in favour of the promotion of Associate Professor Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova to the academic position of “Professor” at the Bulgarian Language Department at the Faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University “St.

Kliment Ohridski” in the professional field 2.1. Philology, Bulgarian Language
(Lexicology).

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Prof. Dr. Dimitar Vesselinov