

EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Desislava Stoyanova Cheshmedzhieva-Stoycheva, PhD,**
lecturer in English at the English Studies Department, Faculty of Humanities, *Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen,*

regarding the selection procedure for the academic position of **Associate Professor** at the Faculty of Philology, *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*, in the area of: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology – English literature: Romanticism and Translation of Culture.

The procedure was announced in *the State Gazette*, issue 31 dated 12 April 2019.

Candidate: Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova, PhD

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

As a part of the procedure for the appointment of the academic position “associate professor” Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova has presented a total of 25 academic papers, including a monograph: *Jane Austen Translated: Transformations Across Space and Time*. Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Press, 2018., twenty-two academic papers and two papers of over 25 pages all published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals.

Subject:

With a decree № R33-2882 dated 11 June 2019 by the Rector of *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv* the undersigned has been selected as a member of the Academic Selection Committee for the selection procedure for the awarding of the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” at **Plovdiv University** in the area of: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology – English literature: Romanticism and Translation of Culture, announced by the Department of English Philology at the Faculty of Philology.

There is only **one candidate** to be considered for the selection procedure: Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova from *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*.

The set of materials presented by Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova **is** in compliance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University.

The candidate Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova has submitted a total of 25 academic papers: 2 papers of more than 25 pages, 1 monograph and a list of twenty-two research papers. Thus, a total of 25 research pieces (all of which are different from the ones submitted for the PhD procedure) are accepted and considered for the final assessment of the application. The distribution of research is as follows: the monograph which is used as an application for the current procedure is published in Bulgaria, one of the papers of more than 25 pages is published in Bulgaria, while the other one is published abroad; of all twenty-two research papers 19 are published in the country, while 3 abroad. Five of the papers are written in Bulgarian while all the other papers of the candidate are in English.

In 1994 Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova graduated a five-year philology course in Bulgarian and English language and literature with teaching qualifications in both languages at *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*, Plovdiv. In 2001 Vitana Kostadinova was awarded a second master degree in the field of Romanticism literature – Romanticism and the Forms of Modernity from the University of Glasgow. In 2008 the candidate was granted a PhD degree in Germanic Languages (Modern English) with the subject of the dissertation: *Byron in Bulgarian Context: Traces on the Sand of Time*. Plovdiv: Pigmalion, 2009. From 2001 up to the present Vitana Kostadinova has taken part in a variety of international and Bulgarian conferences and has also won various grants. The candidate is a member of various scientific societies and unions. Dr. Kostadinova has taken part in a number of projects. Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova has been working at Plovdiv University since 1995. She has been giving lectures and seminars in the bachelor as well as master degree programmes of the department and she has proposed and developed 5 elective and/ or facultative courses in the bachelor and 3 obligatory courses in the master degree programmes.

Everything mentioned so far leads to the conclusion that Dr. Vitana Kostadinova has the necessary experience and knowledge to carry her teaching activity at a very high level. In addition, all her scientific research shows her dedication and focus on the analysed topic.

2. General characteristic of the activity of the candidate

The habilitation submitted for assessment, i.e. *Jane Austen Translated: Transformations Across Space and Time*. Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Press, 2018, continues the direction of the author's research on the transmission of culture and its transfer from the source language to the target language. Chapters 1 through 5

discuss the various aspects of the translation process and its relation to the transfer of culture(s) and the observed inconsistencies regarding the various ways Austin's works were presented to Bulgarian audiences. The introduction lays out the theoretical findings used by the author, while the final part – the main conclusions she has reached. As Vitana Kostadinova herself points out, "In chronological terms, the analysis extends from Jane Austen's time to our twenty-first century; in terms of socio-geography, the study includes the English, Bulgarian and American contexts". Here I find one of Dr. Kostadinova's major contributions, namely, the presentation of cultural similarities and differences between the Bulgarian and English reality over time.

Another of Vitana Kostadinova's contributions is also based on the quotations her works enjoy. To date, the candidate has submitted 8 citations, 1 of which is in a refereed and indexed world-renowned scientific information database, 5 in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review, and another 5 (3 reviews and 2 citations) are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

The submitted academic and applied research of the candidate Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova fully complies with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of Article 1a, paragraph 2 of the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff for a candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

As a recommendation, I can suggest that the candidate focus on publishing her research in sources referenced in primary databases such as SCOPUS and Web of Science, which would help her gain wider international recognition. I would also recommend changing the formatting of her citations, as it is not clear at the moment which of the candidate's works were cited and where exactly. I also did not happen to see the candidate's own understanding of her contribution to science which I deem important.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of said Act and the corresponding Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of her Doctor's degree. The applicant's works have original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, as a representative part of them have been published in journals and scientific publications, published by international academic publishers. The theoretical developments thereon have practical application, and some of them are directly oriented towards educational work. Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova's scientific and teaching qualifications are beyond doubt.

The results achieved by Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova in the educational and research activities fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Rules of the University for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff.

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scientific papers presented in the procedure, and having analysed their importance and the scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I find it justifiable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Committee to prepare a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Dr. Vitana Vassileva Kostadinova to the academic position of "Assistant Professor" at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the professional field of 2.1. Philology – English literature: Romanticism and Translation of Culture.

23 August 2019

Prepared by:

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