

EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

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- Regarding the materials presented for the participation in a competition for the acquisition of the position of Associate Professor of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology, English Literature (Romanticism and Translation of Culture);
- In the competition to fill the vacancy of Associated Professor, as announced in State Gazette No. 31/12.04.2019 and in the web page of the University of Plovdiv <https://procedures.uni-plovdiv.bg>, for the needs of the Department of English Studies of the Faculty of Letters, being Chief Assistant Professor Vitana Vasileva Kostadinova ,PhD, Department of English Studies, the University of Plovdiv the sole applicant.

1. General presentation of both procedure and applicant. All the legal requirements and regulations of the Rules of the University of Plovdiv have been observed in the procedure, as well as the respective terms, execution and contents of the documentation. The sole applicant to the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Vitana Vasileva Kostadinova ,PhD, born in 1970, graduate from the English Language High School of Plovdiv (1989) and majored in Bulgarian and English Languages in the University of Plovdiv (1994). Her Master's degree (M. Phil) was awarded by the University of Glasgow in 1991, and after her successful dissertation defense on "The Reception of Byron in Bulgaria" she was awarded PhD degree in 2008. After she won a competition, she was appointed a full-time Professor Assistant at the University of Plovdiv, and since 2009, she is a Chief Assistant Professor. Her scientific works attached to her application: dissertation, habilitation treatise (monograph), articles and number of quotations completely comply with the national academic and special departmental requirements to hold the academic position of "Associated Professor".

2. General record of applicant's activities

A) Lecturer's and administrative activities. As to the moment of competition, Kostadinova, PhD holds six different lecture courses associated with bachelor's programs in English Studies, Bulgarian and English Languages, Applied Linguistics, Biology and English Language, History of English Literature (Romanticism and Enlightenment), according to creative and critical teaching methods; practical English language and the respective seminars. She also holds elective courses in Cultural

Reception, Translation of Culture, Modern Literature Theories, and six other courses attached to master's programs in the Faculty of Philology and in the Faculty of Philosophy and History. Such a teaching load is not only sufficient, but even higher than the lecturer's business necessary to hold the academic position of Associate Professor. Mr. Kostadinova, PhD is also committed in the preparatory works of multiple auxiliary study guides – "Romanticism: Syllabus", a student training manual, development of tests and questionnaires for current control and term exams. During the period 2011-2016, under her scientific supervision, six undergraduates successfully defended their graduation theses. Lecturer work of Mr. Kostadinova, PhD, is closely linked to her administrative commitments in her capacity of person in charge of the professional direction in the Department of English Studies and tutor of the academic activities of the PhD students at this Department, participant in the organization of conferences and other scientific forums, member of the Managing Board of the Bulgarian Society for the Study of English, Secretary of the Philology Sector of the Union of Scientist in Bulgaria – Plovdiv, etc.

B) Exploratory Research. Mrs. Vitana Kostadinova, PhD, is the author of two monographs: "Byron in Bulgarian Context: Traces in the Sand of Time" (Plovdiv: Pygmalion, 2009), a book, which is her PhD thesis, and "Jane Austen Translated: Transformations Across Space and Time" (Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Press, 2018), presented as her post-doctoral dissertation in this competition to take the position of "Associated Professor". Also, she is one of the co-editors of two collections of articles: "Trees of Knowledge: Roots and Routes" (Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Press, 2016) and "Byron and the Isles of Imagination: A Romantic Chart" (Plovdiv: Context, 2009). The studies and articles presented by the author to this competition are 24. Eight of them are dedicated to different problems of English Studies, Reception, Translation of Culture and the relationships between literary canons and education. The other are closely related to the monograph, presented as a post-doctoral dissertation to the competition.

"Jane Austen Translated: Transformations Across Space and Time" (2018), 288 pages, consists of theoretical introduction, five chapters, conclusion and bibliography. The introduction outlines the theoretical framework of the problematics the monograph is dealing with and essentially represents an apposite culturalist adaptation of translation problematic, confirming its worthwhileness in the further analytical work. The first chapter deals with the aspects of translation of culture through local and global modes; the late translator's reception of Jane Austin's novels in Bulgaria, their close commitment with and dependence on socio-cultural and political contexts; also the case with the online adaption of "Pride and Prejudice" as "The Lizzie Bennet Diaries" in the beginning of the 21st century in America and transmissivity of the two different socio-cultural contexts through feministic point of view. The second chapter contains detailed observations on receptive convergence between

the context of the 90-ies in Bulgaria, when the translations of “Northanger Abbey” and “Persuasion” appeared, with the English rhetoric tradition in the streamline of which these two Jane Austin’s novels are; also on the manners the different screen versions of “Persuasion” are referred to the visualization of the “romantic”. The third chapter is focused on the philosophic and political implications of the novels “Sense and Sensibility” and “Mansfield Park”, including again also the problem of visual transmissivity in the screen versions of Mansfield Park. The fourth chapter presents a detailed analysis of Jane Austin’s main discursive technique: the free indirect discourse and the interpretations in the Bulgarian translations, with the intervention of renarrative forms, involving also more general points of narratology. The fifth chapter productively analyzes balances and imbalances or ironic and romantic principle in interpretative gestures realized by the different screen versions, illustrations, parodies and continuations of “Pride and Prejudice”. The monograph is, undoubtedly, contributory by its diverse aspects and analytical applications in translation of culture, oriented also towards contextual determinateness of translator’s practices and the reconstruction of the authentic semantic milieu of Jane Austin’s novels and taking hold of different visual and popularizing translating resources. It is a work with an indubitable contribution to the modern status of culturalist interpretations in the field of literary researches.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations. As I consider the contributions of the post-doctoral monograph and the other publication presented by Mrs. Kostadinova, PhD to be significant and undisputable, I have no critical remarks or recommendations which could be referred to the competition procedure.

4. Conclusion. In conclusion, I pronounce with conviction before this distinguished jury my high assessment of applicant’s lecturer’s and scientific works and vote positively the academic position of Associated Professor to be awarded to Chief Professor Assistant Vitana Vasileva Kostadinova, PhD.

10 September 2019

Sofia

Prof. Albena Hranova, DSc.