

# OPINION

by Associate Professor Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova, PhD,  
Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Slavonic Philology,  
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski,

regarding the competition  
for the academic position “Professor”  
in professional sphere 2. Humanities, field 2.1. Philology

In the competition for ‘professor’, announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 57 of 26.06.2020 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Philology, as a candidate participates VANIA IVANOVA ZIDAROVA from the Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Philology, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

## **1. General presentation of the received materials**

With order № 33-4140 / 25.08.2020 from 25.08.2020. of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of 'professor' in PU in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty Български language, professional field Contemporary Bulgarian Language (Lexicology), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

For participation in the announced competition she has submitted documents as the only candidate associate professor Ph.D. VANYA IVANOVA ZIDAROVA, Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Philology.

The set of paper materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of the University of Plovdiv, and includes the following documents:

1. CV in European format;

2. diploma for higher education with acquired educational-qualification degree “master” - original with appendix or notarized copy;
3. diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - original or notarized copy;
4. diploma (certificate) for academic position "associate professor" - original or notarized copy, or order of the rector (director) of a higher school or scientific organization for approval of a choice for holding the academic position "associate professor";
5. diploma for scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" (if any) - original or notarized copy;
6. list of the scientific works;
7. reference for observance of the minimum national and additional faculty requirements (if any);
8. declaration for originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
9. annotations of the materials under art. 76. from PRASPU including self-assessment of the contributions;
10. document (certificate) for work experience;
11. documents for educational work;
12. documents for research activity;

Candidate Vanya Zidarova has submitted a total of 86 scientific papers, of which: 3 monographs, 5 textbooks and teaching textbooks and a list of 78 research papers (articles in specialized scientific journals and collections), which are scientific papers written after achieving academic position of „Associate Professor“. All 86 scientific papers are accepted for review. The distribution of scientific papers in the country and abroad is as follows: 77 in Bulgaria, 9 abroad.

The submitted reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology fully meets the requirements.

## **2. Brief biographical data of the applicant:**

Vanya Zidarova studied Bulgarian philology in the period 1978-1982. In the period 1983-1986 he was a full-time doctoral student at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". From 1986 to 1994 he was a senior assistant, in the period 1994 to 2000 he was a chief assistant, and from 2000 to the present he is an associate professor at the University of Plovdiv “P. Hilendarski ”

## **3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova is an active member of the academic board with numerous and diverse performances as a university lecturer, scientist and organizer of scientific events. Her active participation in academic life is confirmed by the fact that she was a coordinator for the Erasmus mobility program at the Department of Bulgarian Language at the University of Plovdiv “P. Hilendarski ”, assessor in the candidate student campaigns, responsible for the accreditation of pedagogical specialties, member of the Commission for Attestation at the Faculty of

Philology, member of the Commission for International Cooperation at the Faculty of Philology, member of a number of scientific juries, member of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Philology.

Her indisputable scientific authority is evidenced by her numerous visits as a guest lecturer at a number of European universities and the realized teaching mobility for the purpose of teaching under the Erasmus program (9 times). Vanya Zidarova was also a lecturer in Bulgarian in Poland.

V. Zidarova presents her scientific production at conferences and other scientific forums both at home and abroad, where she is recognizable as a literate colleague, an indisputable authority in the field of grammar and lexicology.

Given the specifics of the genre of the opinion, I could not dwell in detail and separately on all publications of Vanya Zidarova, submitted for participation in this competition. However, I would like to emphasize that they present it as an erudite and in-depth connoisseur of the current state of the Bulgarian language and the current trends and phenomena in it.

The publications presented for this competition by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova can be grouped in several thematic and genre circles:

In the publications dedicated to the modern Bulgarian language (grammar), a modern description of the nominal determination is made from a functional, communicative, semantic and pragmatic point of view, based on an in-depth analytical review of the numerous studies on the topic. The theory of reference is applied in the semantic-pragmatic description. Several publications address important issues for Bulgarian linguistics related to the typology of the category, the structure and semantic content of the category, the systematization and typology of the various determinants. A new semantic model of determination through a set of semantic and pragmatic features is proposed. As a special contribution, I would like to note that Vanya Zidarova offers a new approach to generic semantics, its means of expression and its attitude to determination.

In a number of publications, having as their subject of scientific analysis issues of lexicology, a number of observations have been made on the language of the modern Bulgarian press, related to its functions, communicative strategies and linguistic features; a lexical-semantic analysis of a number of different classes of tokens has been performed - nominative attributes, attenuative verbs, diminutives; a number of concepts (rich, poor, family) are considered in view of their axiological, culturological and linguistic specifics.

### **Citation:**

The seriousness and depth of Vanya Zidarova's scientific research is evidenced by the powerful citations, namely:

Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (11 issues);  
Cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (24 issues);

Citation or reviews in unreferred journals and collections of scientific reviews (28 issues).

#### **4. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate**

The publications applied for participation in the competition for a professor are an original author's contribution of the candidate and are an emanation of scientific maturity and undoubtedly high professional qualification.

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks regarding the submitted materials and the activity of the candidate. Regarding scientific works, I believe that the fact that they are cited many times in specialized publications, and textbooks are used in all Bulgarian universities, is evidence of their high scientific and applied value.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Vanya Ivanova Zidarova meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for implementation of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the respective Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of degree "Doctor" and the procedure for "Associate Professor". In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition, as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific collections published by academic publishers. Theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. Vanya Zidarova's scientific and teaching qualification is unquestionable.

The rich creative biography and the attached references, the impressive scientific production, contributions, the participation in prestigious scientific forums, the teaching and last but not least the administrative activity of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova unequivocally show that she fully meets the legal requirements and has the necessary training, competencies, knowledge, skills and maturity for the academic position of "professor".

Based on the above, I give my entirely positive assessment of the results achieved in research and teaching work, the contribution and originality of the presented scientific papers and publications of the only participant in the competition, I vote convincingly FOR Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova to be elected professor: 2.1. Philology, field of higher education: 2. Humanities and I recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for election of Vanya Zidarova to the academic position "Professor" at PU "P. Hilendarski" in a professional field in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology.

11.11. 2020

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Ivanova Mihaylova-Stalyanova