

## REVIEW

by Nelya Stefanova Ivanova, PhD,

Professor at Slavic Languages and German Department, University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" – Burgas,

of the materials presented for participation in a competition for holding the academic position of **“Professor“** at Plovdiv University **"Paisii Hilendarski"**

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities,  
professional area 2.1. Philology,

major: Modern Bulgarian (Lexicology)

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc from Bulgarian Department at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” participates as an Applicant in the competition for “Professor“, announced in State Gazette issue 57 dated 26.06.2020 and on the web page of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of Bulgarian Department at Faculty of Philology.

### **1. General Introduction of Procedure and Materials Received**

By Order No. P33—4140 dated: 25.08.2020 by the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (Plovdiv University), I am assigned as a member of the academic jury of a competition for holding the academic position of “Professor” at Plovdiv University in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional area 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian (Lexicology)), announced for the needs of Bulgarian Department at the Faculty of Philology.

A single Applicant has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc from Bulgarian Department at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc on a hard copy is in a full compliance with Art. 77 (1) of Academic Staff Development Regulations of Plovdiv University and includes all needed documents certifying the legitimacy of her application in this competition: education, academic and doctoral degree “Doctor”, doctoral degree “Doctor of Science“, academic position “Associate Professor“, references of teaching and researching activity, as well as the whole research and applied research production accompanied by Declaration of Originality and Authenticity and reference of compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of “Professor”.

The Applicant Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc has attached 88 research papers in total: 2 monographs, 6 textbooks and workbooks, 78 articles and reports, 6 of which are published in referred and internationally popular databases with scientific information. Papers are in the areas of Phonology, Morphology, Lexicology, Conceptology, Semantics, Pragmatics and Communication of modern Bulgarian.

Applicant's works in the research problems of competition are accepted in this competition for review after holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" (2000) and out of the dissertation for obtaining the doctoral degree "Doctor of Science" ("Semantics and Pragmatics of Determination in Bulgarian", 2018) and namely: habilitation paper (the monograph "Dynamics and Innovations in Bulgarian Lexical System", Plovdiv: Koala Press, 2019, page 228), 47 articles and reports published in our country and abroad (10), 3 textbooks and workbooks.

## **2. Short Biographical Data of Applicant**

Academic and professional growth of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova is connected with Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" where she completed with distinction the major: "Bulgarian Studies" in 1982 and Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" where after full-time doctoral studies (1983 – 1986), she defends the dissertation paper "Semantics and Use of the Word Form "One" in Modern Bulgarian (with view of the category definiteness-indefiniteness)", obtaining academic and doctoral degree "PhD".

Until 2000, Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova held the following academic positions one after another at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski": Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor, Chief Assistant Professor, and since 2000 to date – Modern Bulgarian Associate Professor at Bulgarian Department, as in 2018, she obtained the doctoral degree "Doctor of Science" after defence of dissertation paper "Semantics and Pragmatics of Determination in Bulgarian".

Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova has 2 specializations: at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (1985) and at the University of Warsaw, (Poland, 1992).

## **3. General Characteristics of Applicant's Activity**

In her academic activity, Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova proves herself a lecturer and scholar with great erudition, academic competence, professional qualification and activity in compliance with the highest academic standards in our country and abroad: she develops and teaches lecture courses for students studying for their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in over 8 majors of the Faculty of Philology at Plovdiv University (for instance, Modern Bulgarian, Modern Bulgarian Phonetics, Modern Bulgarian Lexicology, Specifics of Public Communication and Media Language, History, Theory and Practice of Bulgarian Lexicography, Parts of Speech Theories – Classification Approaches, Contemporary Word-formation Processes, Semiotics and Linguistics), for which, for the reviewed period, she drew up and issued 4 textbooks and workbooks (Bulgarian. Theoretical Course with Practicum for Students Not Studying Bulgarian Studies, 2007; Modern Bulgarian Lexicology. Textbook for Students, 2009; Bulgarian Lexicology. Workbook with Exercises for Students, 2009; Modern Bulgarian Phonology. Workbook with Exercises for Students, 2012), facilitating theoretical and practical training of taught students.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova abroad is absolutely pregnant with meaning and dynamic: from 1992 until 2012, she was a Bulgarian Lecturer and guest lecturer in 3 European universities: Poznan (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Budapest (Hungary), also within the period 2005 – 2018, she realized teaching mobility in the programmes CEEPUS

and ERASMUS for the purpose of teaching in 10 European universities: Bratislava (Slovakia), Torun (Poland), Bordeaux (France), Prague (Czech Republic), Ghent (Belgium), Göttingen (Germany), Brno (Czech Republic), Pardubice (Czech Republic), Komotini (Greece).

Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova's participation by appraisals of various type in initiatives developing and reinforcing Bulgarian Studies and Slavonic Studies is due to her undoubted prestige among academic communities in our country and abroad: she is an external reviewer of the scientific journal *Slavia Meridionalis* of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw), member of the international jury in translation at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland (2011), she is an editor of V. Nenkova's book (*Bulgarian School in Rome*) for A. and I. Peykovi (2008), she is a participant in research and educational project of Plovdiv University "Market-oriented Modules in Professional Areas of Humanities" co-financed by European Social Fund (2013-2014), she is an external expert /evaluator/ at National Science Fund /Humanities/ at the Ministry of Education and Science (2018, 2019, 2020), she is an author /independently and in joint authorship/ of reviews of significant works of prominent scholars – specialists in Bulgarian Studies from our country (5) and the anniversary collection *PHILOLOGICA LXVII* (2011), drawn up by Slavonic Studies Department at Jan Amos Komenský University of Bratislava (Slovakia) in honour of the famous Slovak scholar – Prof. Š. Ondruš, she is also an organizer of national and international science forums, she is a member of a series of academic juries.

Expert activity of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova reaches the highest degree in the academic supervision, realized by her, (dated 2017) of 1 full-time PhD student in PhD programme "Bulgarian" at Bulgarian Department at Plovdiv University with topic of dissertation research "Word-formation and Semantic Structure of Bulgarian Compound Nouns".

The accumulated professional experience and acquired organizational qualities enable Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova to manage successfully also with the responsible obligations at administrative level at Plovdiv University as a member of Faculty Council of Faculty of Philology, Erasmus Programme Coordinator at Bulgarian Department, a member of Attestation and International Cooperation Boards at Faculty of Philology, responsible person for accreditation of pedagogy majors of Plovdiv University.

Undoubtedly, the most significant activity of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova's impressive academic career is her research activity which focuses on some of the most up-to-date issues of modern Bulgarian. Although it is not a subject of this review, I would like to point in particular to the deep research (2018) of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova on the category of noun determination (the category of definiteness-indefiniteness), being debatable for Bulgarian linguistics, assigning Bulgarian a specific place among other Slavic languages.

For review in the research area of this competition (Modern Bulgarian. Lexicology), I accept 51 research papers: 1 monograph (habilitation paper), 47 articles and reports published in our country and abroad (10), 3 textbooks and workbooks, all of them independent, devoted to modern Bulgarian lexical system, innovations and up-to-date tendencies in it and their reflection on speech practice and lexicographic description. Research production fully complies with the national scientometric criteria for holding the academic position of "Professor" in professional area 2.1. Philology.

There are 6 publications in scientific editions which are referred in internationally popular databases with scientific information. Proof of the research production significance is the resonance which it receives among the academic community in our country and abroad: the reference attached in documentation contains a list of 63 quotations, 11 of which are in referred scientific editions, 24 – in monographs and collective volumes with academic review, 28 quotations – in non-referred journals and collections of academic review.

From quantity point of view, the compliance of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova's production with scientometric criteria for holding the academic position of "Professor" equals to 1635 points which is almost triple the 550 points required for observing the minimum requirements.

The main contributions in this competition are achieved in the habilitation paper presented: the monograph "Dynamics and Innovations in Bulgarian Lexical System", Plovdiv: Koala press, 2019, page 228), which represents a deep analysis of contemporary processes in Bulgarian lexical system in last 30 years (after 1990 to date), provoked by the significant political, economic and technological changes of our society in that period. The main contributions in this competition are achieved in the habilitation paper presented: the monograph "Dynamics and Innovations in Bulgarian Lexical System", Plovdiv: Koala Press, 2019, page 228), which represents a deep analysis of contemporary processes in Bulgarian lexis in the last 30 years (after 1989 to date), conditioned by the significant political, economic and technological changes in that period and new culture of communication and lexical norms resulted from it.

In conceptual respect, the paper is built by many layers: around both axes together of linguistic view towards modern Bulgarian lexis: the system-language and functional one, which enables the author to trace the changes in Bulgarian lexical system in quantitative (processes of lexical derivation) and qualitative (processes of semantic derivation) aspect, to establish their foreign-language (creation of new words, borrowing of foreign words) and domestic-language (restructuring of classes of lexemes, transfer of lexemes into other classes) dimensions, to outline new phenomena and tendencies of development. For the lexical system which is the most numerous, organized in the most complex way and most dependent on extralingual factors language subsystem, such synchronous "cut" in a period of social changes, is absolutely comprehensive and not an easy research task at all, which is completed deeply and with substantiation in this paper, with rich theoretical and empiric material generated, with clearly stated research positions and terminological accuracy.

In particular, important baseline principle of analysis, contributing to its scientific reliability, is recognizing the nominative autonomy of separate lexical meaning /lexical-semantic variant/ and accepting it as a basic structural element of the lexical system. This approach enables the author to analyse in a consistent way the semantic and functional paradigms of lexemes as groups of words with formal-semantic unity and particular communicative significance (frequency and sphere of usage, communicative designation), to trace their lexicographic description which is realized here via comparison of monolingual dictionaries of various periods of Bulgarian language development to the newest ones (New Words and Meanings Dictionary 2001, 2010, 2001-2015), as far as the lexicographic sources manage to point to the newest in the usage, to make etymological references, diachronic tracings, thematic classifications, to make a study of the language memory for a particular lexis

(active before the 80s) by a sufficiently respectable survey, to analyse the lexical innovations in the computer-mediated communication, specifics of media language, etc.

In theoretical aspect, constructing of such comprehensive research platform has a contribution character because it represents the whole concept of analysis of lexical system of modern Bulgarian which enables lexical dynamics to be found as a part of the general dynamics of Bulgarian in the newest period of its development.

Compositional structure of the monograph follows the analysis of the processes in the lexical system which results change its appearance and have a significant impact on the speech practice, as each of them is presented in a separate part. This structural decision is very appropriate according to us because it enables more illustrative material to be included for which author's comment creates theoretical context, attracting the positions of other researchers or setting in motion more accurate terminology than the one used up to now: together with the detailed analysis, the reader can trace the upgrading over the existing research positions, achieved in this paper, which definitely is amongst its theoretical contributions.

After the short introductory part "Lexis as a System and Structure" (5 – 17) revealing the basic characteristics of the lexical system and principles of its description, deep presentation of both main lines of its development follows: Dynamic of Lexical System (23–189) and Tendences and Innovations in Lexical Practice (189–215). The first one includes the changes through which the quantitative and qualitative dynamics of the lexical system sets in motion: archaization (deactualization) and reanimation (author's term, renewal, re-actualization) of lexemes, lexicalization, univerbation, terminologization and determinologization, neologization, semantic derivation, lexical derivation, internationalization (international lexis, borrowing of foreign words, English as the new lingua franca). For each process, factors which cause it and results which influence the vocabulary are analysed. For instance, transposition of the layers active – passive lexis is traced through the processes of archaization and reanimation of lexemes (40-67): processes which do not lead to quantitative dynamics of the lexis but reflect the internal-structure regrouping of lexis as a result of the effect of foreign-language factors (with historisms) and domestic-language factors (with archaisms). Analysis is very detailed and includes lexicographic information from several sources, systematizations and really well reasoned commenting part of the author, enhanced here with discussion of results (53-67) by a sufficiently respectable survey which the author makes among the students of Plovdiv University (100 respondents born in 1999), for the meaning of 12 lexemes (historisms, archaisms, polysemous words with archaised separate meaning: *пионер/pioneer*, *бригада/brigade* (*бригадир/brigade leader*), *Комсомол/Komsomol* (*комсомолец/Komsomol member*), *Кореком/Corecom*, *ТКЗС/Labour Cooperative Agricultural Farm*, *съботник/working Saturday*, *казарма/barracks*, *милиционер/militiaman*, *теляк/body-rub bath attendant*), *чавдарче/chavdarche*, *звеновод/section leader*, *петилетка/five-year plan*, which belonged to the active lexis to the end of the 80s and they were completely understandable for the older generation but as it becomes obvious, they are almost unknown for the young generation these days. Author's observation that "people with different linguistic competence, different linguistic memory and different linguistic culture live in the society within the same time frame" is absolutely accurate, page 66). Observations of pragmatized meaning of reanimated words which acquire ironic (*царедворец/courtier*) or negative

connotation these days, and others which lose their negative connotation in reanimation and are stylistically neutral these days (*жандармерия/gendarmerie, полицай/policeman, капиталист/capitalist*), page 49, 67, are presently valid.

Lexicalization as a word-formation process as a result of which specific neologisms, independent lexemes, from word forms, collocations or morphemes are formed, is analysed by the author in connection with two development tendencies in Bulgarian lexis: the first one is lexicalization of diminutives, as the main characteristics are connected with the lexical meaning of the new lexeme which means new, different from the diminutive, denotative class: *барче/barche* (small cupboard), with the „transparency“ of metaphorical or metonymic mechanism of its formation (*чехълче/chehalche* (small slipper), *жабџка/zhabka* (small frog)), and with the presupposition of “small size” in the attitude of the person using the term, *касичка/kasichka* (small case), *стълбица/stalbitsa* (small ladder), the second tendency is expressed in lexicalization of abbreviation (it is found most often in abbreviations of foreign origin: *есемес (SMS), джипи (GP), джисем (GSM), сиви (CV), дивиди (DVD), пиар (PR)*, (68-82).

One of the most interesting parts in the monograph is the one devoted to the univerbation as formal and semantic compression, because this method is commonly used in contemporary communication and because of the bright discussions about its nature and nominating, (99-113). The author rightly makes analytical survey of the extensive literature on the subject, as she advances with substantiation the broad view of univerbation as “heterogeneous, derivational method by which the syntagm or complex word is transformed into single-root monolexeme”, page 91, and differentiates 3 varieties of its: from collocation to complex word (*европарламент (European Parliament), телемост (TV bridge)*), from collocation to simple word (*кръвно (blood pressure), парно (steam heating system), зарядно (charging device)*) and from complex word to simple word (*енерго (electric power supply company), супер (supermarket), видео (video player)*). Univerbation is often accompanied by suffixation (*панелџа (large-panel-system building), маршрутџа (fixed route taxi), офшорџа (offshore company)*). Acknowledging the position that univerbation is natural tendency in development of all languages, the author shares the view that, these days, it turns from speech into language-system process.

The interaction between terminological and commonly used lexis in Bulgarian literary language is presented through the processes terminologization/determinologization expressing internal-system lexical dynamics, (99-113). With terminologization (when commonly used words acquire terminological meaning), two aspects are analysed: functional (when redirecting is without change of meaning: *ускорение (acceleration), мощ (power), скорост (speed), сила (strength)*) and semantic (with metaphorical reconsideration of the meaning: *лопатџа (blade)* of turbine, grammatical *под (gender), корен (root)* of word. The essence of reverse process /determinologization/, according to the author, is in transition of terms into the class of commonly used lexis only for nominative purpose which is more narrow comprehension of the process but, as a matter of fact, as the author also notes, the usage of these words usually have an expressive hint which is obvious from the illustrative material, page 108.

Undoubtedly, the most up-to-date part of the monographic paper is devoted to vocabulary updating: a process which complies with its nature of an open system and its designation to

provide the nominative means for denotation of extralingual phenomena (113–188). In this context, the analysis of processes through which Bulgarian vocabulary is updated in the last 30 years, marked by significant social changes, technology innovation, language freedom and intercultural contacts (all of them enhancing the vocabulary dynamics), is of great value because of both its hyper-topicality and the ability of outlining tendencies for future development of the Bulgarian lexical system. Besides the purely scientific dimension, issues of vocabulary change have a serious social resonance, that is why I think that the research in this part generates both theoretical and applied contributions.

Good theoretical awareness and analytical culture enable the author to present neologization as a formal, semantic, etymological, functional, sociolinguistic process. Polemics of the term “neologism” itself is skilfully handled and new words and meanings emerging is traced not only in the newest Bulgarian dictionaries (the last one covers the period until 2015) but also by most various resources which contemporary speech practice has: media, opinion journalism, internet. We can judge the scale of research in this part by the quantitative data: only used lexicographic sources cover 10 thousand new words, meanings and constructions, page 123. The reasons for neologism emerging in various periods of development of Bulgarian (nominative, stylistic, puristic) are discussed and both main ways for their coining are presented in great detail: processes of lexical (primary nomination) and semantic derivation (secondary nomination), as it is established that the second one is applied very rarely in comparison to the primary nomination or borrowing of new words (author’s data are for 700 semantic neologisms of total 5000 new words in the Dictionary of New Words and Meanings, 2010), page 132.

Discussing the emerging of semantic neologisms, the author reasonably raises the issue of differentiating the expressive figurative usage of a particular lexeme from forming its new figurative meaning. Need of making this issue clear has provoked interesting tracing of the semantic development of 26 randomly selected lexemes (*адрес/address*, *аниматор/entertainer*, *банан/banana*, *барета/beret*, *бръмбар/beetle*, *джоб/pocket*, *екстра/extra*, *ефирен/ethereal*, *икона/icon*, *каналджия/sewage worker*, *компаньон/ка/companion*, *коректор/proof-reader*, *козирка/visor*, *купон/coupon*, *къртица/mole*, *миш-маш/mish-mash*, *мафия/mafia*, *пакет/package*, *паласка/cartridge-box*, *парашутист/parachutist*, *паста/paste*, *пирамида/pyramid*, *пират/pirate*, *писалка/pen*, *промоция/promotion*, *сателит/satellite*, *чалга/chalga*) according to their lexicographic description in monolingual dictionaries reflecting distant periods of time: 1993, 2001, 2015. It is found that with part of semantic neologisms, the figurative meaning is borrowed together with the word (*икона/icon*, *мишка/mouse*, *меню/menu*) and with others, it is formed on a Bulgarian basis (*барета/beret*, *пирамида/pyramid*).

Author’s conclusions for the reasons of emerging of new meanings through semantic derivation, for their integration in the lexical system and for their including into new nominative chains in a process of lexical derivation (coining new words), convincingly supported by rich linguistic material, are valuable not only for the theoretical description of Bulgarian lexis as a dynamic system but they would for sure serve for completing the lexicographic data of next dictionaries for new words and meanings.

This is completely valid also for the parts of monograph in which the processes of lexical derivation and borrowing of foreign words are analysed in detail, with substantiation and with

terminological precision, which leads to quantitative expansion of vocabulary, dominating role of English in communication these days is discussed, as well as the words borrowed from English and their adaptation to phonetical and morphological system of Bulgarian. Very rich illustrative material is presented. It is recognized that sudden increase in number of new lexemes in Bulgarian affects all spheres of social life and way of living. In word-formation respect, it is found that “domestic” lexical neologisms (all of them derived words) are formed mainly by suffixation (most productive suffixes are specified: *-ист/-ist*, *-ник/-nik*, *-ик/-ik*, page 144) or composition. The author sees the reasons for activation of the previous approach in the desire for greater semantic transparency in their formation (“onomasiological transparency”, page 146). Composites fall into the focus of lively scientific discussion presented with skill by the author and with necessity of expressing her own position: it concerns nominating of the first part of composites (at the border between words and morphemes), as the term which the author adopts, *radixoids*, concerns “the components which have relatively understandable semantics but do not represent independent lexeme in Bulgarian (*мега-/mega-*, *макро-/macro-*, *анти-/anti-*, *супер-/super-*, *хипер-/hyper-*), 149. Another two varieties of composites are reviewed: with first part shortened independent lexeme, general adjective (*евросубсидии/EU subsidies*, *екосистема/ecosystem*) or independent lexeme connected by applying or separately formed one (*бизнес план/business plan*, *артстудио/art studio*, *интернет доставчик/internet service provider*).

Interesting conclusions are made regarding the topicality and productivity of separate word-formation models and quantitative ratio of speech parts with neologisms. Abbreviation, as an approach for neologism formation, is common mainly in denotation of parties and public institutions.

Borrowing of foreign words (also lexical neologisms) in Bulgarian vocabulary is described in a separate part of the monograph, traced in historical aspect but with the greatest emphasis placed on the present time, because of the extremely enhanced process: “after 1990, Bulgarian lexis was shaken by foreign influences with unknown power by now”, V. Zidarova has written (175), as she has specified that the problem regarding foreign words is not their great number “but the fact that they are not always used in relevant way and appropriate context” (176), for instance: *юзър/user*, *лузър/loser*, *ивент/event*, *шопинг/shopping*, *килър/killer*, *тишърт/T-shirt*, *френдли/friendly* (182).

This part is written with substantiation and with very vivid position. It contains a review of the words borrowed from English according to the thematic spheres of borrowing, as well as an analysis of “the latest”, up-to-date information regarding the grade of adaptation to Bulgarian phonetics (through transcription/transliteration) and grammar: the high grade of derivation of these words which become a source of secondary derivatives with Bulgarian or foreign components is noted: *топновина/top news*, *топмодел/top model*, *топжурналист/top journalist*, *топполицай/top policeman*, affixation productivity is noted: *айдълка/female idol*, *братърка/Big Brother female participant*, *фенка/female fan*, formation of verb forms (*адвам/add*, *поствам/post*, *сейфвам/save*, *шервам/share*), attempts for calque formation (*разприяателявам/unfriend*, from social networks), removing the foreign suffix and replacing it with Bulgarian one: (*гигабайтов/(of) gigabyte*, *интерфейсен/(of) interface*, *хипхопърски/(of) hip hop*), insignificant tendency to adaptation of English verb -ing forms



(*бодибилдинг/bodybuilding*, *лифтинг/lifting*, *пърсинг/piercing*, *бодидрагинг/body dragging*), page 187, forming of verb pairs of specific type (mainly by suffixation *адна-адвам/add*, *постна-поствам/post*, *копна копвам/copy*), page 189.

Commenting on the increased tendency to lexical innovations in Bulgarian linguistic situation these days, the author expresses her certainty that Bulgarian as a self-regulating system will manage to keep those of them which enrich its nominative abilities and means of expression and will get rid of the one-day words and irrelevant borrowed words appeared as a result of trendy enthusiasm and misconceptions of intelligence or eccentricity. The author rightfully think that it is not possible for the development and usage of language to be regulated by law, as suggested by public opinion. V. Zidarova has written that the possible thing is each person to have attitude towards the means of expression provided to them, to have necessary general knowledge and linguistic culture which can regulate language and speech from the earliest age, page 189.

Linguistic liberalism, shortening the distance of communication, familiarity, high grade of expressiveness, colloquialization of language, establishing of neologisms, occasionalisms and new phraseology, new titological practice: these are characteristics of media language after 1989 which the author review in the last part of the monograph: *Tendencies and Innovations in Lexical Practice* (189–215). The important issue for usage of Latin script in writing various names is raised (211). Tendencies in personal name system are shortly described.

A short summary in which V. Zidarova evaluates the changes in Bulgarian lexical system, defining them as revolutionary, follows, page 213.

The rich bibliography of the monograph is valuable, containing more than 150 scientific publications mainly from the last decade.

I would not forget to note that irrespectively of the scientific character of the reviewed paper and academic language up to standard, the style of presentation of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova is very intelligible, readable and absorbing.

I think that the significance of reviewed paper is enhanced even more when being reviewed in a set with the three published textbooks in Lexicology: *Bulgarian. Theoretical Course with Practicum for Students Not Studying Bulgarian Studies*, 2007, page 303; *Modern Bulgarian Lexicology. Textbook for Students*, 2009, page 301; *Bulgarian Lexicology. Workbook with Exercises for Students*, 2009, page 95) because through them, the theoretical and applied contributions achieved in the scientific research reach students in the process of study, increasing their theoretical and practical training and competence of specialists.

- The main theses of reviewed paper are reported to scientific forums in our country and abroad (Poland, Hungary , Czech Republic): publications [2], [8], [10], [13], [14], [17], [19], [21], [23], [23], [25], [26], [27], [29], [30], [31], [34], [35], [36,] [37], [42], [43], [45], [46], [51], [57], two publications concerning lexical-semantic relations between words (paronymy, antonymy, derivation) are built in terms of comparison with Polish [15], [33].

We find significant contributions also in publications [53] and [54], devoted to the concepts of *богат-беден/rich-poor* and *семејство/family*, because studying them, not only the linguistic (semantic) analysis sets in motion but evaluation point of view is studied (by

commenting on phraseologisms, sustainable comparisons, paremiological units), which is interesting in culturological respect.

Research production of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova, DSc contains undoubted research and applied research contributions, as the most significant of them are the following:

- Whole concept of analysis of lexical system of modern Bulgarian is built, which enables lexical dynamics to be found as a part of the general dynamics of Bulgarian in the newest period of its development;
- Rich empiric material from the newest period of Bulgarian language development and from most various sources is analysed and the main processes setting the quantitative and qualitative dynamics in the lexical system in motion are explained: archaization, neologization, lexical and semantic derivation, abbreviation, terminologization, lexicalization, systematizations are made;
- Findings are formulated with respect to lexicographic description of new words and meanings in dictionaries of various periods of Bulgarian language development;
- Scientific and social polemics are presented, terminological apparatus of analysis is precisely specified;
- Observations on lexical competence of young people are made with respect to lexis from the mid-20th century;
- Observations on contemporary media situation and used communicative strategies in it are made;
- Comparative researches with Polish and Russian are made in connection with lexical-semantic relations between words;
- The concepts *богат – беден*/rich – poor and *семејство*/family;
- Scientific research is engaged with the process of teaching students – philologists and non-philologists: 3 textbooks are published;
- Rich bibliographic resource is drawn up which would help next scientific researches.

#### **4. Evaluation of Applicant's/s' Personal Contribution**

Applicant's personal participation and contributions are indisputable. I can state for sure that formulated contributions and achieved results are completely of the personal credit of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova.

#### **5. Critical Remarks and Recommendations**

I do not have any critical remarks about Applicant's research papers and activity.

### **CONCLUSION**

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc is a scholar with remarkable research production and academic career, having affinity to the most up-to-date and most polemic issues in Bulgarian linguistics, applying her own style when studying them.

In this competition, she presents research papers with indisputable theoretical and applied contributions in the area of Bulgarian lexicology.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc in academic and scientific-research activity completely comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Rules of Plovdiv University for application of Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

All of the above gives me reason to express *my positive assessment* and confidently to suggest to the members of respected scientific jury to vote in favour of the application of **Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, DSc** for holding the academic position of “**Professor**” in professional area 2.1 Philology, Major: Modern Bulgarian (Lexicology) at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Reviewer: .....  
(Prof. Nelya Stefanova Ivanova)

November, 11,  
2020