

## PEER REVIEW

By **Dr. Habil. Vera Tervel Marovska,**

**Professor at the Department of Bulgarian Language**

of the materials submitted in application for the open position of

**Professor at The Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

**in the Sphere of HE 2. Humanities;**

**Area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology**

**Scientific Specialty: Bulgarian Language (Modern Bulgarian Language – Lexicology)**

**Code: 05.04.17**

The applicant for the open position of Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 57 from 25/06/2020 and on the webpage of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, is Vanya Ivanova Zidarova from the aforementioned department.

### **1. General overview of the submitted materials**

Following Order № P 33-4140 from 25/08/2020 of the Rector of Plovdiv University *Paisii Hilendarski* I have been appointed a member of the Academic Review Board for the academic position of **Professor at PU** in the sphere of Higher education 2. Humanities, area of professional qualification 2.1. *Philology*, Scientific Specialty: Bulgarian Language (Modern Bulgarian Language – Lexicology); code: 05.04.17; which was opened for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

The **single** applicant for the open position, announced in the *State Gazette*, issue 57 from 25/06/2020 and on the webpage of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski, is **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Habil. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova**, from the Department of Bulgarian Language at the University of Plovdiv.

The application documents submitted by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Habil. Vanya Zidarova** on paper are in compliance with the Rulebook for the Development of Academic Staff at PU. They include the following:

1. An Application to the Rector;
2. A CV in EU format;
3. A Master's Degree Diploma;
4. A PhD Diploma;
5. An Associate Professor Diploma;

6. A Dr. Habil. Diploma;
7. A list of the scholarly works;
8. Information on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements and the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology at PU;
9. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the presented documents;
10. Abstracts of publications and statement about research contribution in accordance with Art. 76 from the Rulebook for the Development of Academic Staff at PU;
11. A Length of Service Document (Certificate);
12. Documentation of teaching activities;
13. Documentation of scholarly activities;
14. 4 sets containing documents 1 – 13 on paper;
15. 8 sets containing documents 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 <possibly some other documents from those in items 7 – 13> on a digital source.

The applicant Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Iv. Zidarova has enclosed a total of 87 scholarly works – 2 dissertation abstracts, 2 monographs, 78 scholarly papers, 2 course books and 3 textbooks. The review covers 57 scholarly works which are not part of the Dr. Habil. dissertation (awarded in 2018).

## **2. Short biographical data of the applicant(s)**

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Iv. Zidarova was born on 20/01/1959. She majored in Bulgarian Studies at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski. In 1983 – 1986 she worked as a part-time and as a regular assistant professor at PU; in 1986 she became a senior assistant professor and in 1994 – a chief assistant professor. In 2000 she was habilitated as an associate professor and in 2018 she defended her Dr. Habil. thesis.

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova has taught Bulgarian phonetics and lexicology lecture classes and general courses in Contemporary Bulgarian language. She has also taught the seminars in these subjects. She has carried out research work, incl. as a research leader, in the field of Bulgarian lexicology and grammar. She has been a peer-reviewer and editor of scientific papers.

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova specialised at Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski* in September 1985 and at the University of Warsaw in October – December 1992. She was a Bulgarian language lecturer at the *Adam Mickiewicz* University in Poznań in 1990 – 1992 and in 1995. Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova taught lecture classes at the Charles University in Prague in May 2004 and was a guest lecturer at the Budapest University ELTE, Budapest in September 2012.

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova took part in the Erasmus programme and taught classes in Universita Comeniana, Bratislava, Slovac (2005), Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland (2006, 2014), Universita di Firenze, Florence, Italy (2007), Centre de Formation Pedagogique d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France (2008), Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (2009), Ghent University, Belgium (2010), Goettingen University, Germany (2012), Masaric University, Brno, Czech Republic (2015), Pardubice University, Czech Republic (2016).

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova is a member of the Commission on International Collaboration at the Faculty of Philology; she is a person in charge of the accreditation of the teaching majors at the Faculty and is part of the Attestation Committee. She has presided and marked papers in the campaigns recruiting students at the University of Plovdiv *Paisii Hilendarski*.

Associate Professor V. Zidarova is an Erasmus Coordinator at the Department of Bulgarian Language. She is also a member of a number of scientific juries. She has experience in the organisation of national and international scientific forums.

### **3. General characteristics of the applicant's/applicants' professional activities**

It could be seen in the applicant's short biography and in the scholarly specification of the open position of Professor, as well as in the documents attached in connection with the application that Associate Professor V. Zidarova's activities have been extremely diverse and they ensure that the applicant has the required prestige and competence to hold a professorship. Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Zidarova has been working as a lecturer and scholar at the University of Plovdiv for 35 years, she has been actively involved in all types of academic activities during this time and has slowly but steadily advanced in the academic hierarchy. Her application for the open position of *professor* could be considered not only as a timely undertaking but also as a declaration of the high-grade professional qualities that have been acquired by her during all these years.

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova is a competent lecturer who is clear as to the administrative and managerial, the scientific-organizational and creative structure of the university system in our country, as to the competencies as far as the scholarly and teaching processes are concerned and as to the international needs (in addition to her scholarly and organizational positions at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Plovdiv, she has also held the position of a reviewer at the National Science Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science; an external reviewer of the *Slavia Meridionalis* journal of the Polish Academy of Sciences; a team member in the *Market-oriented modules in the sphere of humanities* project co-financed by the European Social Fund under the operational program *Human Resources Development*). Associate Professor V. Zidarova actively participates in the provision of management and documentation to secondary school educa-

tion and higher education (she has been an evaluator in the State Textbook Commission for evaluation of textbooks for 1st – 5th grade and is the author of many course books and textbooks in contemporary Bulgarian language and lexicology for university students; as well as course books and textbooks in practical grammar and linguistic competence for high-school students – they are clearly highlighted in the applicant’s list of publications). Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Zidarova has supervised graduate and doctoral students at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Plovdiv and has had undeniable success and dedication – both merited in every modern lecturer.

Her biographical data treat in more detail her specializations in Bulgarian and international institutions as well as the lectures that she has read to an audience abroad – all of them prove Associate Professor V. Zidarova’s professionalism and prestige (see section 2).

Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova’s scholarly interests are mainly in the field of modern Bulgarian language (in a narrow sense), and in a wider sense they are linked to the history of the Bulgarian language as well as to the rest of the Slavic languages, to the structure of their grammatical systems mainly in synchronous terms, but also in the context of language development and the changes that have taken place in it; to the dynamic processes in vocabulary formation in the contemporary European languages including in a theoretical aspect.

In Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova’s scholarly works we can outline the following thematic fields:

1. The field connected to the grammatical features *definiteness : indefiniteness* and the place of the category they form in a general theoretical context and in a comparative one; the referential function of the relevant grammatical forms; the determiner *one* (in a historical, formal-semantic and functional-stylistic aspect) (this is the author’s habilitation dissertation and the scholarly works 1, 7, 39, 40, 41, 44, 48, 49, 50, 52, 55, and 56 on the list of those published after 2000);

2. Theoretical works and works with practical application concerning the lexical level of the Bulgarian language (*Semantic Changes in Some Words in Bulgarian* – 2001; *Vocabulary and Grammar* – 2002; *Diminutives and Lexical Nomination* – 2004; *Prefix Modifiers Expressing Antonymy in the Modern Bulgarian language* – 2004; *Lexicalization of Diminutives in Modern Bulgarian* – 2005; *Dynamics and Current Trends in the Modern Bulgarian Lexical System* – 2006; *Manifestations of Lexical Economy in the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language* – 2008; *Essence and Structure of Collocations in the Bulgarian language* – 2012; *The Bulgarian Lexical System and Speech Practice at the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> c.* – 2016; *On the Life of Turkish Words in the Bulgarian Lexical Context* – 2016; *Ellipsis as a Mechanism for Linguistic Economy in Bulgarian Speech* – 2016; *The Latin Script and Contemporary Bulgarian Written Practice* – 2016; *Processes of Terminologisation and Determinologisation in the Bulgarian Lexical System* – 2018);

3. Theoretical works and works with practical application concerning the processes of word formation in the contemporary language (*Lexical and Derivational Characterization of Nomina Attributa in the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language* – 2005; *Lexical and Derivational Tendencies in Neologisms in the Modern Bulgarian Language* – 2006; *A Semantic-Derivative Type of Verbs in the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language (Verbs with the Prefix **po-**)* – 2008; *On Some Manifestations Of Semantic Derivation in the New Bulgarian Vocabulary* – 2012; *Abbreviation and Lexicalization of Abbreviations in Contemporary Bulgarian Vocabulary* – 2015; *Manifestations of Univerbation in Modern Lexical Practice* – 2015; *Word-formation Techniques in Occasionalisms in the Bulgarian Press* – 2015; *Authors' Neologisms in the Contemporary Bulgarian Press* – 2015; *On the Word-forming Particles **se** / **si** in the Verb Position* – 2017);

4. A look at the history of language and the continuity in Bulgarian Linguistics (*Prof. L. Andreychin's Contribution to the Study of the Nominal Morphological System* – 2001; *The Structure of the Dictionary Entries in Naiden Gerov's Dictionary (in Comparison with Modern Lexicographic Practices)* – 2002; *Peculiarities of the Modern Bulgarian Language Compared to the Other Slavic Languages* – 2007);

5. On the parts of speech (*Particles as One of the Parts of Speech* – 2003; *Particles and / or Morphemes* – 2006);

6. Study of certain social-communicative subsystems of contemporary speech. Sociolinguistic observations (*Structural and Linguistic Features of Radio Advertisements* – 2007; *The Nominal System in Bulgarian Youth Slang (Substantive Vocabulary)* – 2009; *Communicative Strategies and Speech Practices in the Contemporary Bulgarian Press* – 2013; *On Some Specific Cases of Use of the Quasi-Pronoun “to [it]” in Bulgarian Speech* – 2016; *The Conceptual Opposition **Rich** – **Poor** in the Linguistic Consciousness of the Bulgarians* – 2019; *The Concept of “Family” from a Linguistic and Linguistic-Cultural Perspective* – 2019; *Lexical Archaisation and Lexical Competence (Observations on the Semantic Perception of Some Archaisms and Historicisms)* – 2020);

7. Headlines and their linguistic structure (*A Grammar of Headlines* – 2010; *Lexical and Grammatical Peculiarities of the Headlines in Modern Bulgarian Press* – 2011; *A Review of the Titrological Practices in the New Bulgarian Press* – 2011; *Characteristics of the Expressive Means in Modern Public Speech (Press, Radio, Television)* – 2012; *Syntax of Headlines in Modern Bulgarian Press* – 2013; *Nominative Chains for Designating Public Figures (Based on Materials from the Modern Bulgarian Press)* – 2014);

8. Comparative research (*Mono-affixal Antonyms in Bulgarian and Polish* – 2002; *On Foreign Words in Bulgarian Once More* – 2007; *Attenuative Verbs in Bulgarian and their Slavic Counterparts (Based on Russian and Polish Materials)* – 2010; *Nouns of the Type Nomina Attributiva in*

*Bulgarian and Polish – 2011; Observations on the New English Borrowings and their Adaptation to the System of the Bulgarian Literary Language – 2011; Suffixal Paronyms in the Bulgarian Language and Their Polish Counterparts – 2014).*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova's doctoral thesis is dedicated to the semantics and pragmatics of determination. This work is in actuality a generalization of the author's extensive work in this field as more than 15 of her scholarly papers written before and during the time of her defence (7 papers) deal with this topic. All of them, including her doctoral thesis, are original interpretations of specific linguistic phenomena (related to *definiteness* in particular and to the phenomena functionally similar to it) from an innovative perspective – semantic and pragmatic. The semantic and pragmatic methods, which have been extremely relevant in the past 30 years or so, can still be qualified as a widely discussed issue with a definitely controversial character. A lot has been written about the semantics and pragmatics of *definiteness* but it seems that so far there is no one qualification and a clear research bias even towards a limited number of interpretations. In this respect, I would like to note part of the contribution of the author's works, which are based on a specific theoretical concept; they competently and critically sift through the meaningful interpretations of the pseudo-scholarly and didactically oriented ones and summarize them in a reliable scholarly theory.

In the opinion of the philological body whose major interest is the issue of determination, Vanya Iv. Zidarova is one of the best experts in theories related to *definiteness* and its semantic-pragmatic reading. She has been developing her competence on this topic for decades. Her works dedicated to it are a model for optimal knowledge of an analysed theoretical material, which is dealt with in a thorough and analytical manner and with the necessary critical interpretation.

The semantic and pragmatic analysing methods of the functionality of determination in contemporary Bulgarian, methods chosen as the methodology of these research papers, allow for the obtaining of adequate answers to many questions: what is the structure of the category and its sub-categorial elements; what are its relevant semantic principles and the oppositions that come from them; what are the typology of the category and its grammatical devices (or its formal markers); is there an indefinite article in Bulgarian; what does the use of either the definite forms or indefinite forms depend on, etc.

All categories have manifestations at all levels: that of their formal markers – i.e. in the case of *definiteness* – the morphological, and all the ensuing and already related to the sentence, the utterance and its referential-pragmatic character ones. That is why the aspects in the study of phenomena linked to determination are so numerous – morphological, syntactic, pragmatic, communicative, as well as logical-philosophical and many more, as is evident from the peer-reviewed scholarly articles.

An important question is the unsettled one about the name of the morphological category as it (the name) has to be based on the formal-semantic oppositions and the category's functional specificity.

In fact, in these texts the leading tendency of description is the pragmatic one; the main terms under consideration are utterance, speech act, reference, communicative intention, communicative situation, discourse, context, communicators (addresser and addressee).

Based on her analyses, V. Zidarova renders concrete her concept for the qualification of determination by means of a set of differential principles: "...the principles [ $\pm$ singularity], [ $\pm$ referentiality], [ $\pm$ identifiability], [ $\pm$ identifiedness] necessary for the description of the semantics of determination." The [ $\pm$ referentiality] principle is fundamental, [ $\pm$ singularity] is cognitive and the other two are pragmatic (p. 134, Dr. Habil. thesis).

Many of the peer-reviewed research papers are either explicitly or implicitly dedicated to the so-called determiners (the definite article, proper names, the zero indefinite article and the determiner one): *Semantics, Pragmatics and Typology of Determination in the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language* – 2004; *Origin and Typology of the Definite Article in Bulgarian* – 2016; *Proper Names as Nominatives and as Determiners in Bulgarian* – 2016; *The Indefinite Pronoun "Edin [One]" as an Intensifier* – 2016; *On the Pragmatic Denotation "Identifiedness" in the Semantics of Determination* – 2016; *Determinators in the Bulgarian Literary Language* – 2017; *Is There an Indefinite Article in the Bulgarian Language (in favour and against)* – 2018; *Nominal Determination – Morphological Tradition and Modern Interpretation* – 2020; *The Theory of reference and its application* – 2020.

An object of analysis is also the expression of genericity in the linguistic message (*Genericity and generic use of the zero article* – 2019). The generic uses are treated as figurative uses of the determiners realised in a non-current statement. In a linguistic respect the cases of generic use are considered to be a manifestation of neutralisation, whereby in the given context the oppositions based on semantic principles accepted as relevant are neutralised.

V. Zidarova's scholarly articles and dissertation dedicated to the aforementioned topics are among the most modern, logically sound and reliable ones.

And although the analysed works are among the contributions of Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova, they are a relatively small part of her texts – no more than one-fifth. Her major scholarly activities are concerned with the analysis of language development trends at the present stage, to the dynamics of change and semantic redirection of lexical layers related to the specifics of the Bulgarian language system and the socio-political processes that have an influence on them. Among them are the issues of foreign linguistic influences in lexical terms, the processes of economy, terminologising and de-

terminologising, diminutives, antonyms, archaisms and historicisms and many more lexical variants. V. Zidarova's interest in the "grammar" of headlines, the subject of many of her studies, is special.

The author has shared precise observations on modern word-formation processes: affixation, the creation of neologisms and occasionalisms (in particular), the lexicalisation of abbreviations, universality, etc. in her texts. The controversial issues around phraseologisms – the volume of the concept and their variants – are also commented.

Contemporary speech is another interest of V. Zidarova's and this is evident in her publications about media speech; youth slang; computer communication and the relationships Cyrillic Script : Latin Script; high speech register : low speech register; the specifics of radio advertising and communication through radio, press and television.

All these observations naturally form the basis of her generalising work, presented in this procedure *Dynamics and Innovations in the Lexical System of the Bulgarian Language* (published in 2019). The work explains and comments in detail on the prerequisites for speech dynamics and changes in vocabulary after 1989. Among the main topics are: structure and systematics of vocabulary, quantitative and qualitative dynamics of lexical make-up, archaisation and reanimation of lexemes, changes in lexical semantics and polysemy, neologisation, semantic and lexical derivation, internationalisation, intellectualisation, borrowing of foreign vocabulary. Of interest are the semantic and lexical derivation of recent decades, which are considered in detail and presented in the monograph with a huge number of examples that testify to the author's attention, interest and linguistic insight into the living spoken modern speech. It is its active observation and scholarly qualification that create in the readers the idea of the "living" of the language and of tracing and description of its dynamic development.

These scholarly qualities – more precisely the theoretical mind-set and the appropriate competence that accompany the scholarly analysis of linguistic phenomena on the one hand and the scholarly curiosity about the modern speech process and the reflection of its dynamics on the other are rarely combined in one and the same person. Assoc. Prof. V. Zidarova must be congratulated on her ability to combine these characteristics in her works.

#### **4. Assessment of the applicant's pedagogical activities**

Associated Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova is highly respected not only because of her indisputable scholarly talents but also because of her qualities as a lecturer in Contemporary Bulgarian Language and in particular in modern phonetics and lexicology. Her pedagogical practice and the needs of the students are the prerequisites for the creation of widely used and sought-after course-books (*An Essay on Bulgarian Lexicology* – 1998; *Lexicology of Modern Bulgarian Language*

– 2009) and textbooks (*Bulgarian Lexicology* – 2009; *Bulgarian language. A Theoretical Course with Practice* – 2002; *Phonology of the Modern Bulgarian language* – 2012). We can define these course-books and textbooks as attempts to adapt the new linguistic interpretations of the Bulgarian grammatical system (interpretations typical to the last decades) to the traditional school language competence of the students. In actuality they fulfil this very role – they act as a transition to a higher theoretical treatment of the language system and modern speech practices as one cannot always rely on the prior knowledge of the students.

### **5. Assessment of the applicant's theoretical and scholarly work**

The significance of Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Zidarova's contributions shows in her prestige and recognition as a scholar and lecturer among the philological body in Bulgaria and abroad. An indirect formal expression of this recognition is given in the numerous citations of her scholarly works and their application in popular science descriptions (the candidate has presented in her documents more than the citations required for the academic position of *professor*).

### **6. Assessment of the applicant's contributions**

The publications, dissertations and habilitation works listed in Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova's documents are entirely hers – no co-authored works have been submitted.

### **7. Personal impressions**

Associate Professor, Dr. Habil. Vanya Zidarova and I have been working together at the Department of Bulgarian Language since the very beginning of our academic careers. I know her career path in detail and I can vouch for her high qualities in the spheres of pedagogy and scholarly research, for her etiquette and her solidarity as if they were my own. I would like to congratulate her on her worthy application for the professorship and to wish her to be healthy and successful in her scholarly work in the future as well.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and accompanying materials submitted by Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova **meet all** the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff at the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rulebook for the Application of LDASRB and the corresponding Rulebook of Plovdiv University *Paisii Hilendarski*.

The applicant has submitted a **significant** number of scholarly works published after the materials used in previous procedures, such as the Dr. Habil. defence and the application for the position

of associate professor. They all contain original scholarly and applied contributions which have been met with international approbation whereby some have appeared in journals and academic volumes published by international academic outlets. The theoretical discussions of the applicant possess practical application; some of them are directly geared towards the academic study process.

The results achieved by Associate Professor Dr. Habil. V. Zidarova in the pedagogical sphere and the sphere of scholarly research fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in accordance with the Rulebook of PU for the application of LDASRB.

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scholarly publications submitted for the purposes of this position, having analysed their significance and the contributions entailed in them with regard to their theoretical, scholarly, and pedagogical merits, I find it expedient to **confirm my entirely positive assessment**, as expressed above, and **to recommend** to the Scholarly board to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the selection of Associate Professor Dr. Habil. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova for the academic position of Professor at Plovdiv University *Paisii Hilendarski* in the area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology; Scientific Specialty: Bulgarian Language (Modern Bulgarian Language – Lexicology); Code: 05.04.17.

9.11.2020

Reviewer: .....

(Professor Dr. Habil. Vera Marovska)