

OPINION

from Kalina Grozeva Lukova, DSn – Professor at Burgas Free University

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position ‘**Associate Professor**’
at ‘**Paisii Hilendarski**’ Plovdiv University

higher education field 2. The Humanities

specific purposes 2.1. Philology

Antique and Western European Literature: comparative linguistics, at the Department of History of Literature and Comparative Linguistics at the Faculty of Philology.

A candidate in the competition for ‘Associate Professor’ position announced in State Gazette, #57 dated 26.06.2020 and on the webpage of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University for the need of the Department of History of Literature and Comparative Linguistics at the Faculty of Philology, is **Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki, PhD from ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University**.

1. General presentation of procedure and candidate

By Order No. R33-4139 dated 25.08.2020 of the Rector of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for a competition for the academic position ‘Associate Professor’ at PU in the higher education field 2. The Humanities, specific purposes 2.1. Philology, Antique and Western European Literature, announced for the needs of the Department of History of Literature and Comparative Linguistics at the Faculty of Philology.

Documents have been filed for participation in the announced competition by the sole candidate: Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki from ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University.

The set of materials on paper submitted by Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki, PhD, is in conformity with the Regulations on academic membership development of PU and includes the following documents: Application; CV; Diploma – Master; Diploma – Doctor; List of scientific works; Reference – minimum requirements; Annotation under art. 65; Declaration; Length of service; Documents – teaching work; Documents – scientific-research work; Other documents.

The candidate, Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki, PhD, has attached 11 scientific work; 2 studies, 2 monographs printed out as books, 7 articles, 1 textbook. Accepted for review are 10 scientific works, which are beyond the dissertation and are accounted for in the final assessment; 1 textbook. Not reviewed are 5 scientific works related to the dissertation and 1 scientific research project beyond the competition’s terms of reference. Scientific works distribution is: 2 publications abroad and 9 in Bulgaria.

The professional and scientific biography of Sen. Asst. Mladen Vlashki, PhD is entirely linked to 'Paisii Hilendarski' Plovdiv University. Since his graduation in 1984 until 1986, he was a honorary assistant at PU and after that on full mandate at the same university. In 2015, he defended his doctor's dissertation on thesis "Literary and Theatrical Projections of the 'Young Vienna' dramaturgy in Bulgaria until 1944". He is working over 25 years yet as a senior assistant in Antique and Western European Literature at PU, which is a serious professional experience in relation to the announced competition.

2. General characteristics of candidate's activity

The teaching carrier of Sen. Asst. Mladen Vlashki is rich, long and deserving high assessment. It encompasses exercises and lecture courses in Antique and Western European Literature on various subjects. In 2003, Sen. Asst. Mladen Vlashki participated in the establishment of the new major "Acting for Drama Theatre" at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the university by developing a lecture course in Antique and Western European Literature. In the master's programmes of Plovdiv University, he is teaching the courses in 'Literary Criticism' and 'Media and Regulations'.

He was a lecturer also in other higher education establishments: 'Episcope Konstantin Preslavski' Shumen University; New Bulgarian University, Plovdiv; Academy of Musical, Dance and Fine Arts', Plovdiv. He was a guest lecturer under the Erasmus Program at the universities in Dresden, Koblenz, the Humboldt University in Berlin, Vienna, Valladolid, Bucharest.

The attached documents certify correctly the various educational courses.

For the announced competition, Sen. Asst. Mladen Vlashki has submitted for reviewing the following scientific works: 2 monographs, 1 study, 7 articles, 1 textbook.

I. Monographs

1. The monograph "**Reception of Kafka in Bulgaria until 1989**" (2020, Pl., p. 224) is contributive scientific research in the building of a receptive model of Kafka in the Bulgarian context, due especially to the fact that such a research on the theme was missing until now. Observing in detail the processes in modern transferology and translatology, the author is methodologically orientating himself towards the Niklas Luhmann's social system theory and Pierre Bourdieu's field theory, using also the relevant analytic toolbox. The chosen methodological perspective is highly productive for researches of the reception of Kafka's work in Bulgaria in all three observed phases of transfer process selection – transfer – integration and via the presumed mechanism of intermediation in the literary field. The author reasonably points out that the chosen approach accentuates on the intermediary instances in a certain historical period, which differs it from the intertextual studies and

in general from the comparative linguistics methods. In such research optics, the systematic reconstruction of historical and sociocultural peculiarities of the literary field is successfully applied.

Cultural transfer is personalized via the active figures of translators, propagandists and critics, and the etude for Minko Nikolov has its own scientific significance. In this regard, I have to mention the serious research work of the author, which is proven by the attached rich bibliography and archive materials used. He has fully achieved his scientific-research goal to activate “forgotten layers in our cultural memory” and their practical application in teaching.

2. The monograph **“Young Vienna” and young Bulgaria**” (Hermes, 2017, p/ 366) includes the reworked and supplemented text of Mladen Vlashki’s dissertation. Material and contributive achievements of the author are: the presentation of the sociocultural context of end-of-the-century Vienna and the relationships between Bulgaria and Austria in the context of modernity from the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, as insufficiently studied problematics; the receptive images of “Young Vienna” group (drama works of Hermann Bahr, Arthur Schnitzler and Hugo von Hofmannsthal in view of their reception in Bulgaria); productive reconstructions of translation, theatrical and literary elements in the building of the Bulgarian receptive framework, as well as the individual receptions (Teodor Trayanov); very serious research work.

The successfully used methods and receptive techniques (cultural transfer, intermediaries, acceptance and rejection) prepare and ascertain the scientific-research approaches in the monograph “Young Vienna” and young Bulgaria”.

II. Studies and articles

The study ‘The long way of Kafka to Bulgaria. Observation on the contexts’ and 4 more articles are connected with the monography and its creation and the remaining 2 articles are of other problematics, but united by the author’s receptive research field. The texts were published in scientific magazines, scientific works, collections and in electronic format (2 articles were published in Vienna) and they have high scientific-theoretical and teaching-applied value.

III. Textbooks

Submitted is the textbook “Western European Literature. Analyses and materials for 10th grade”. IK “Anubis”, Sofia, 2000. It includes artistic and critical texts and has pragmatic significance.

The self-assessment of the contributive moments is correct and it outlines the material scientific-research place of Mladen Vlashki in the study of the receptive processes, insufficiently known in the Bulgarian literary studies.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki **fully meet all** requirements of the Law of Academic Membership Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Application of said law and the relevant Rules of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University.

The candidate for the competition has submitted **sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used for the defense of scientific degree ‘Doctor’. The works are of scientific-theoretical and teaching-applied value. His scientific contributions are indisputable upon the use of the contemporary methodology of building receptive models in the Bulgarian context and reconstruction of historical, literary and sociocultural phenomena, and their bibliographical identification.

Part of the articles were published in foreign editions. The scientific and lecturing qualification of Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki is **unquestionable**.

The results achieved by Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki in the scientific-research activity **fully** correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology adopted pursuant to the Rules of PU for the application of the Law of Academic Membership Development in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After familiarization with the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, analysis of their significance and the contained therein scientific and applied contributions, I find it grounded to give my **positive** assessment and **to** recommend to the scientific Jury to draft a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Sen. Asst. Mladen Tsvetanov Vlashki on the academic position ‘Associate Professor’ at ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ Plovdiv University, specific purposes 2.1. Philology, Antique and Western European Literature: comparative linguistics.

10.10.2020

Opinion prepared by: Prof. Kalina Grozeva Lukova, DSn

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