

REVIEW

by Anna Metodieva Choleva-Dimitrova, ScD, professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lubomir Andreychin”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on the application materials presented for the academic position associate professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in sector 2.1. Philology, Slavic languages, contemporary Czech.

Issue number 57 of the State gazette from June 26th 2020, as well as Plovdiv University’s website, announces the opening of recruitment for a position at the Slavic department in the Philology faculty. Senior assistant Ginka Alexandrova Bakardzhieva, PhD from PU "Paisii Hilendarski", is the sole candidate.

With directive № P33-4138 from August 25th 2020, by the Dean of PU "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been designated as a member of the scientific jury appraising candidacies for the academic position associate professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in sector 2.1. Philology, Slavic languages, contemporary Czech.

Dr. Bakardzhieva was born in Plovdiv in 1963. She completed her undergraduate studies at SU “Kliment Ohridski” and majored in Slavic philology. She earned a Master’s degree in Czech language and literature and Bulgarian language and literature in 1989. Her professional path began as a translator of Czech and Slovak films at Bulgarian National Television. From 1992 onward, she dedicated her career to education: first as a teacher of Bulgarian as a second language in different universities in Plovdiv, after defending her dissertation, she supervised many Bulgarian language lecturers for different European universities – the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Her dissertation was titled “Varieties of dialogue discourse”.

Over the years, she has earned a reputation as an excellent translator. She is the recipient of three translation prizes: twice in Plovdiv for literary translations (2009 and 2019), and a Silver plaque from the Charles University in Prague that recognizes her considerable contribution to the development of Czech and Bulgarian literary translation and cultural ties. She simultaneously publishes research articles in Bulgarian and international journals, and participates in scientific projects. She has excellent command of Czech and Slovak, and also

speaks Russian, Polish and English. Dr. Bakardzhieva has outstanding organizational skills, and she was the initiator of a number of cultural and scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad.

The candidate is an eminently prepared Czech and Slovak language instructor. The Czech language summer sessions at Masaryk University, Brno and Charles University in Prague she attended in 1986, 1987, 1988 are a testament to her dedication. Her two term stay as a Bulgarian language lecturer in the Czech capital further solidified her fluency in the Czech language. She has developed a number of study courses, such as Contemporary Czech Phonetics, Contemporary Czech Morphology, Translation studies, Czech phraseology, Introduction to onomastics, etc.; she completed the MA program Slavic onomastics and contemporary Bulgarian morphology. She has also taught conversational Czech language, as well as Bulgarian as a foreign language courses.

Her exceptionally active teaching career was enriched by her participation in the Erasmus program on three occasions: twice at the Charles University Prague under CEEPUS. Dr. Bakardzhieva has supervised thirteen graduate students, who all successfully defended their dissertations.

Dr. Ginka Bakardzhieva has scientific qualifications and a professional interest in several linguistic disciplines: comparative linguistics (morphology, word formation, lexicology, etc.), discourse analysis, Slavic onomastics (functional, cultural and sociolinguistic aspects), theory and practice of translation, and foreign language education.

The application materials supplied by Dr. Ginka Bakardzhieva comply with the requirements set out in PU's Academic staff regulations and number twenty documents. Her scientific output includes: 2 monographs, 1 study, 17 articles (including published reports from scientific forums), and 3 scientific research projects. The documents certifying her participation in the projects have also been attached. In addition to the works the candidate has presented with her application, she has also published 42 articles on literature, text linguistics, pragmatics, cross cultural communication, etc. It must be noted that Dr. Bakardzhieva also coauthored the first Bulgarian as a second language multimedia textbook, used in Bulgaria and abroad.

The author has presented two monographs. The work titled *Proprietorial nomination characteristics* (2020, 260 p., also presented as a dissertation) should be examined separately. The book includes an introduction, two chapters and a conclusion.

The introduction presents the candidate's main theses in the context of a contemporary 21st century onomastic study. The aim is clearly stated: "to delineate the characteristics of proprietorial nominations, when viewed as a process and a result of linguistic activity, according to functional onomasiology". Dr. Bakardzhieva takes on the task of uncovering the dynamics between appellative and proprietary spheres, and the processes linked to this dynamic: *propertization, transonymization, appellation* (p.8). Throughout her work, the author has used internationally established terms, which is a constructive approach based on the pursuit of a unified onomastic glossary, initiated by onomastic scholars in the 1970s and 80s.

The first chapter is devoted to several notions that establish the work's theoretical framework. The author considers as fundamental the concepts of the prominent Czech onomast Rudolf Shramek (who has significantly contributed to the study of given names) regarding the paradigm of functional onomastics (p.9), in which the following characteristics stand out: process - a sequence of operations: dynamism; compactness, cohesivity, and reproductivity. The author quotes several Bulgarian and international scientists in connection to the question of definiteness, which is also essential to names. It must be noted that Dr. Bakardzhieva has constructed a very sound theoretical framework for this study.

The work's second chapter examines the results of the nominative processes *propertization, transonymization and appellation*. It analyzes varied data excerpted from different sources: dictionaries, encyclopedias, corpora, web resources, etc. This is the study's fundamental contribution, since it contains concrete material regarding the Bulgarian linguistic realm, as well as comparative analysis of Czech and Bulgarian names. The theoretical concepts outlined in the introduction are deployed and backed by different types of data.

The chapter begins with a detailed analysis of names from the Bulgarian research base on Antarctica. The processes of propertization and transonymization are investigated in the context of naming. The analysis is based on toponyms from The

glossary of Bulgarian geographical names in Antarctica (2018), and the author examines their emergence. The newly created toponyms are essentially of administrative origin. Frequently, in classic toponymy the difference between naturally formed and administratively imposed names is too great. In practice, they are reviewed separately.

The author uses terms that have not been used in Bulgaria and others that have seldom been used. It would be recommendable that future editions include a glossary of these terms, since they are prevalent in the text.

The term *detonym* is used regularly, but it is actually the result of transonymization from one to another geographic subject and the result is a new toponym. Until now, the term *transonymous toponym* or *detonym* (e.g. hydronym) was used, and these names were regarded as secondary. I regard the usage of *deanthronym* as insufficient, compare with the term used in Bulgaria: *anthronym-based toponym*. When it comes to transonymization cases especially, terms such as *transonymous toponym*, *transonymous hydronym*, and *anthronym-based toponym* for the formative base should be used. I consider it logical that such terms should be defined precisely, since this part of the work examines only toponyms, and Dr. Bakardzhieva mentions that for the transonymization cases, onomastic classifications were assigned according to subject type (p. 92-93). This should rather comprise the different type of geographic object: peak, ridge, hill, glacier, nunatak, etc. I fully recognize that the author has the right to use the terminology she finds appropriate, without taking other opinions into consideration.

The study thoroughly analyses the different types of motivated bases. Dr. Bakardzhieva has included tables with the quantitative indicators of newly created names in the context of MLU (Motivated Lexical Unit) for improved visual clarity. The conclusions at the end of each part of this chapter are appropriate and beneficial.

Following the presentation of transonymization, the appellation of anthronyms and toponyms is considered in the context of its cultural and linguistic aspects. Pragmatonyms are given special attention. The author correctly points out that they have not been the object of much interest from Bulgarian researchers. In today's global and predominantly material world, these names are of increasing

importance. It must be noted that, albeit less numerous, there have been such studies in Bulgaria. In the last few years, the lack of research by Bulgarian scientists has been to an extent compensated by the interest international scholars have in contemporary Bulgarian. Dr. Bakardzhieva expands on the nominative techniques applied to the two products *bread* and *wine*. The author examines the word formation, the factors that influence product naming, as well as the tendencies involved.

Dr. Bakardzhieva has also examined idioms in her study, offering a comparative analysis of phraseologisms with a given name component, in the context of appellation and proprietorial processes. The work also explores the principles behind the transliteration and transcription of personal names. The problems are global, they affect the entire world, and it is no accident that the UN has designated a commission. The challenge of transcribing personal names in translated literature is posed as well. The good news is that there already are approved dissertations on these subjects in Bulgaria. The inclusion of names in foreign language instruction is an integral part of their acceptance and understanding.

I believe that Dr. Bakardzhieva's work has made the following contributions:

1. The author proves that names are linked in varying ways to the extra-linguistic environment and the objects they name. The choice of names is affected by a complex system of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, such as word formation, motivating characteristic, type of object, etc.
2. The functions that given names perform in different spheres of communication.
3. The study is innovative and it poses questions in the realm of socio-onomastics that are seldom asked in Bulgarian research. The work will influence the development of this scientific discipline and contribute to future comparative studies, but it will also have significance in terms of broadening cross cultural communication, and will uncover perspectives for the realization of even more voluminous interdisciplinary projects.

The thesis and a total of 18 publications are related to onomastic research. I consider this to be more than sufficient, and it attests to a high level of scientific expertise: „Апелативизирани антропоними в българския и чешкия

език“[Apelativizirani antroponimi v balgarskiya i cheshkiya ezik]; „Образуване на съществителни нарицателни имена от топоними“ [Obrazuvane na sashtestvitelni naritsatelni imena ot toponimi]; „Търговската марка – правни норми и речева употреба [Targovskata marka – pravni normi i recheva upotreba] (based on Bulgarian language material)“; „Фразеологизми със собствени имена в българския и чешкия език“ [Frazеologizmi sas sobstveni imena v balgarskiya i cheshkiya ezik]; „Търговските наименования на хляба“ [Targovskite naimenovaniya na hlyaba], etc. All the articles examine in detail aspects of onomastics that have so far received little attention in Bulgaria, and can be perceived as having contributed to the science. The presented publications are the product of the author’s own research.

One of the eighteen articles was published in a journal indexed in the SCOPUS database, while the rest were published in non-indexed journals with peer review or redacted collective volumes; four of them were presented as reports at international scientific conferences; three were presented in Czech, six of the them were published internationally.

The author’s works have been subject to two reviews. She has been quoted on 14 occasions: 11 times in monographs or collective volumes with peer review; 3 in non-indexed journals with peer review; 5 in international publications.

Dr. Bakardzhieva is an established Czech to Bulgarian translator. She has translated 7 literary fiction books, 3 reference volumes, and 9 films for Bulgarian National TV.

I have met Dr. Bakardzhieva during her participation in scientific conferences. She gives the impression of an excellently prepared specialist that eloquently presents her theses and backs them with sound arguments.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Ginka Aleksandrova Bakardzhieva **meet all the requirements** of the relevant Bulgarian law for the selection of academic personnel (ЗРАСПБ), as well as the corresponding requirements of PU “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The candidate has provided a **sufficient** number of scientific works published following the defense of her doctorate. The candidate’s works offer several

original and innovative contributions that have received international approval, while a representative part of them was published by international academic journals. The theoretical frameworks have practical applications and several of them directly deal with teaching. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Gnika Bakardzhieva are **indisputable**.

Dr. Bakardzhieva's scientific and academic achievements fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Philology department and the corresponding PU guidelines for the application of (ЗРАСПБ/ЗРАСРБ).

After examining the materials and scientific works presented, analyzing their significance and scientific and practical contributions, I find it fitting to give a positive evaluation, and recommend that the Scientific jury notify the Faculty council of the Philology department of their decision to nominate **Dr. Ginka Aleksandrova Bakardzhieva** for the academic position **associate professor** at PU "Paisii Hilendarski", in sector 2.1. Philology, Slavic languages, contemporary Czech.

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/Prof. Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, DSc/