

OPINION

by **Lachezar Lubenov Percheklijski , PhD and**

Associate Professor at the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” (Blagoevgrad),

Regarding: the materials submitted for the competition for the occupation of the academic position

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”,

in the field of higher education 2. *Humanities*, professional field 2.1. *Philology*,
scientific specialty *Slavic Languages – Historical Linguistics*

The competition for “Associate Professor” was announced in the State Gazette, issue 57 from 26. 06. 2020 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Russian Philology at the Faculty of Philology. The scientific jury was determined by Order No P33-4137 from 25.08.2020 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU).

The only participant in this contest is Chief Assistant-Professor Atanaska Slavcheva Tosheva, PhD from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The electronic material set presented by the applicant is in accordance with the *Academic Staff Development Regulations (ASDR)* of the Plovdiv University and includes the following documents:

1) An Order of the Rector of the PU for determining the composition of the scientific jury; 2) a certification of compliance with the minimum national requirements; 3) a professional CV; 4) an annotation of the materials under Art. 65 of ASDR of the University of Plovdiv, including self-assessment of contributions (in Bulgarian and Russian); 5) a reference for the scientific work and 6) a list of scientific papers.

To the above documents Chief Assistant-Professor Atanaska Slavcheva Tosheva, PhD has applied in an electronic form a total of 19 scientific papers, related to the contest, of which two monographs (a habilitation work and a monograph based on the PhD dissertation), 1 dictionary-index, 1 study and 15 articles (8 in Bulgarian and 7 – in Russian). All studies are published in Bulgaria. Off the topic of the contest A. Tosheva has published articles related to the problems of phraseology, comparative lexicography, business communication, etc.

Atanaska Tosheva's long teaching experience makes a strong impression. The candidate has given classes at the PU as a Part-time Assistant- Professor since 1983. After that she consistently held the positions of Teacher (1988 – 1989), Assistant-Professor (1989 – 1994), Senior Assistant-Professor (1994 – 1997), and Chief Assistant-Professor ever since 1997.

In 2007 Tosheva defended her doctoral dissertation before the Specialized Scientific Council and the Higher Attestation Commission awarded her with the educational scientific degree “PhD” in scientific specialty 05.04.18 “Slavic Languages”. The topic of the dissertation is “Езикът на

История во кратце о болгарском народе славенском на йеросхимонах Спиридон (1792) (В контекста на езиковата ситуация в България през втората половина на XVIII в.)”. The study was published in 2009.

The reference to the study work shows that so far At. Tosheva, PhD has lectured in Historical Grammar in the Russian Language, History of the Russian Literary Language, Phonetics of the Modern Russian Language, Problems of Comparative-Historical Linguistics, Old-Bulgarian Language, etc. She has been the scientific supervisor of 13 successfully defended graduates, she has participated in three national projects. There are other activities related to the study work.

The habilitation work with which A. Tosheva participates in the contest is the monograph “Рилската преправка (1825 г.) и преписите от Рилската редакция на „История славянобългарска“ (Текстология и език)“ (Пловдив: УИ „Паисий Хилендарски“, 2020, 622 с. ISBN 978-619-202-546-5). In it the author makes a comprehensive study of the textual and linguistic features, both the Rila Version of 1825 and the later manuscripts, which are in direct genealogical connection with it and in this way they differentiate the group of the so-called Rila Recension of “Istoriya slavyanobalgarska” – Priest John's Copy (from 1830), First Hariton's Copy (1831), Second Hariton's Copy (1831) and Gerov's Copy (from the middle of the 19th century). The continuity in the content and language of the Rila Version from the two main sources has been studied – Paisii's History and Spiridon's History. The textual, orthographic and linguistic characteristics of the copies from the Rila Recension are studied in the work; the discrepancies in the different manuscripts are analyzed, thus determining their genealogy; it is proved that despite the presence of vernacular elements in the text, (predominantly) the language in these manuscripts, forming the historiographical style from the end of the 18th and the first half of the 19th century, is Slavo-Bulgarian.

The monograph also contains a critical edition of the Rila Version with discrepancies from the copies that make up the Rila Recension of "Istoriya Slavyanobalgarska " thus upgrading the contribution of B. Angelov, who published the manuscript for the first time.

In methodological terms, the textual analysis follows the basic principles developed in the works of the Russian scientist D. S. Lihachov, and the linguistic features in the manuscripts are considered in the context of the literary-linguistic situation in Bulgaria in the period from the end of 18th to the first half of 19th century.

The general assessment of Atanaska Tosheva's habilitation work is more than positive. The author has coped with the difficult but interesting task of presenting in an exemplary way the text and language of one of the most significant manuscripts of Bulgarian historiography during the Revival – the Rila Version of 1825, and the genealogically related manuscripts from the Rila Recension. This

problem is important both for Paisiology and for the History of the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language. The conclusions (p. 422-425) are accurate and fully reflect the descriptions and analyzes in the work. All this “helps to clarify the complex picture of the connections and continuity of the Revival copies and revised versions of Paisii's History.” (p. 425). The list of literature includes about 180 titles of Slavic-speaking authors who have some close or more distant connection with the topic.

One more dictionary is connected with the contest (“Индекс на личните имена, топонимите и етнонимите “) and 1 study (“Рилската преправка на *История славянобългарска* на Паисий Николаевич Рилски”), which are included in the facsimile edition of the Rila Recension from 1825 (ИК „Жанет 45“, Пловдив, 2018), as well as 15 articles, some of which are related to the habilitation work, and others consider the process of formation of the Bulgarian literary language of a new type during the Revival.

Atanaska Tosheva's research papers are characterized by analyticalness and precision in presenting linguistic facts. The author skillfully uses the stylistic features of the Bulgarian literary language. The terminology is accurate and clear, and the citations are correct. No foreign ideas and theses that Tosheva could have presented as her own were noticed. The importance of the issues discussed in the scientific publications is confirmed by the attached author's reference for the observed citations (11 citations in total: 2 – in monographs, 9 – in non refereed journals with scientific reviews).

Along with everything positive that has been said so far, I will make a remark. This is a terminological inaccuracy in the description of word-forming features in the language of different manuscripts. On pages 338 and 409 the author uses the terminological collocations “word-forming model“ and “word-forming type“ as synonymous but they are not interchangeable. What the author does in the research is a short presentation of the lexemes by suffixes, ie. by word-formation models. The word-forming type is a central classification unit in the structural-functional word-formation analysis, whose methodological formulations have been developed by the Czech linguist M. Dokulil. The type is formed by the unity of three criteria: 1) unity of the relations between the onomasiological base (the concepts that are named) and onomasiological mark (used for naming); and 3) unity of the word-forming formant (affix).

The documents and materials presented by Atanaska Tosheva meet all the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of educational scientific degree “PhD”. In the works of the candidate, there are original contributions that have received scientific recognition.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and analysing their significance and scientific contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for selection of Atanaska Tosheva, PhD to the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” in professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Languages – Historical Linguistics).

20.10.2020 г.

Blagoevgrad

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. L. Perchekliyski, PhD/