

PEER REVIEW

by Dr. Milena Yordanova,

Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position “Associate Professor”

at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

in the area of higher education: 2. Humanities

professional field: 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish Language)

Dr. Harun Harun Bekir, currently holding the position “Chief Assistant Professor” in the Department of General Linguistics and the History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, is participating as a candidate in the competition for “Associate Professor” announced in the State Gazette, issue 92 of 18.11.2022, and on the website of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the above department.

1. Overall presentation of the received materials

By order No. ПД-21-53 dated 16.01.2023 and amending order No. ПД-21-446 dated 28.02.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee for the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” at Plovdiv University in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish Language), announced for the needs of the Department of General Linguistics and the History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Ch. Assistant Prof. Dr. Harun Harun Bekir from the Faculty of Philology at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The set of paper materials presented by Dr. Harun Harun Bekir is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University

“Paisii Hilendarski” and includes the following documents: application form to the Rector for admission to the competition; a Europass CV; a copy of a higher education diploma with an acquired educational and qualification degree “Master” with its supplement; a copy of a diploma for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”; a list of the academic works presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”; a list of academic works and publications; academic works (copies of publications); a list of citations; a certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements under Art. 65 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (RDASPU), including a self-assessment of contributions in Bulgarian; annotations of the materials under Art. 65 of RDASPU, including a self-assessment of contributions in English; a declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; certificate of work experience; documents on teaching work – a certificate for any additional indicators under Art. 57a, para. 2 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB); a certificate for any research work; a certificate for participation in any scientific research projects; a letter of notification; an order of the Minister of Education and Science.

The candidate Dr. Harun Harun Bekir has submitted a total of 36 scientific works, which include 1 monograph, 1 book, 6 studies, 26 articles, 2 volumes of a dictionary. 27 scientific works which are not a part of the dissertation have been accepted for review (a separate list of publications presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” has been attached), and 8 scientific research projects have been considered in the final evaluation. 5 scientific works on the topic of the dissertation have not been reviewed. The distribution of scientific works by relevant headings in the country and abroad is as follows: 3 of the 5 studies submitted for participation in the competition were published abroad, as well as 10 of the 22 articles reviewed. Documents (in the form of certificates) for participation in 8 projects, of which one is with European funding, one national, one abroad and 5 intra-university projects, have also been submitted.

The documents and materials are well put together and organised and provide an opportunity for an objective and complete evaluation in accordance with the requirements of LDASRB, the Rules for its implementation and RDASPU.

2. Brief biographical data (of the candidate)

Harun Bekir graduated from the “Turkology” specialty at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (1998) with professional qualification “Turkologist” and “Teacher of Turkish language and literature”, with an additional qualification in translation. After graduation, he worked entirely in the field of education – initially as a Turkish language teacher and at the same time as a part-time teacher of Modern Turkish at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, and subsequently as a senior expert in mother tongue and foreign language learning at the Regional Inspectorate of Education in the city of Kardzhali. Between 2010 and 2012, Mr. Bekir held the position of Assistant Director at the United Children’s Complex (UDC) in Kardzhali. Quite naturally, Harun Bekir’s career developed in an academic direction after he won a competition for Assistant Professor (2012) at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”. In 2015, he acquired the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” in the professional field 2.1.Philology, a doctoral programme in General and Comparative Linguistics (Sociolinguistics) at the University of Plovdiv, having defended a dissertation entitled “The Turkish language and culture in Bulgaria in the light of Bulgarian legislation – traditions and present-day situation” [„Турският език и култура в България в светлината на българското законодателство – традиции и съвременно състояние“]. Since 2016, Dr. Harun Bekir has been appointed to the academic position of “Chief Assistant Professor”.

3. General characteristics of the applicant’s activities

The candidate demonstrates a very wide range of activities related to his teaching work. Ch. Assistant Prof. Harun Bekir reads lectures and conducts exercises in Turkish in a number of linguistic, literary and methodological disciplines such as Modern Turkish Phonetics, Modern Turkish Lexicology, Modern Turkish Morphology, Modern Turkish Syntax, Turkish literature (three parts), Methodology of Turkish

language teaching; alongside the theoretical disciplines, our colleague continues to actively teach the practical Turkish language course (in four parts), leading several optional courses (Turkish language/written exercises/, Turkish language/oral exercises/, Functional and communicative Turkish grammar) in various bachelor's programmes in Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". Colleague Harun Bekir has drawn up the curricula for a significant number of linguistic, literary and methodological disciplines, as well as a model curriculum for the bachelor's programme "Bulgarian and Turkish". In his certificate, Dr. Bekir emphasises that, despite his large lecture workload, he makes an effort to regularly update the teaching content of the disciplines he reads, taking into account modern teaching and assessment methods and using information and communication technologies in Turkish language teaching. At the same time, during the period 2017–2021, Harun Bekir has supervised a total of 8 graduates who have successfully defended their theses. The large number of main lecture courses read by the candidate and the training of graduates are proof of Dr. H. Bekir's high level of activity in his teaching work.

The monograph "Lexico-semantic pairs in the Turkish language" [„Лексикално-семантичните двойки в турския език“] (2022) has been submitted as a habilitation thesis. In the first chapter of the study, the possible options for motivating bases in lexico-semantic pairs are examined step by step, and the author comes to the conclusion that the function of motivating bases (with the exception of the interjection) can only be taken up by content words – inflectable or uninflectable. According to the corpus compiled for the purposes of the study, it was found that the most productive ones are those motivated by substantive, adjectival and adverbial bases. In the second chapter of the monograph, Dr. Harun Bekir focuses his attention on the possible variants of lexico-semantic pairs in terms of their constituent elements. The various types of combinations characteristic of full and partial reduplication are examined in detail, and the examples of "lexico-semantic pairs formed by words or lexemes with a completely different phonemic composition" are of particular interest. In a separate (third) chapter of the study, lexico-semantic pairs formed by onomatopoeia are

examined. The author demonstrates the precision and experience of a long-term researcher by presenting the phonetic, structural and functional-semantic features of the onomatopoeic vocabulary in the Turkish language in relation to the lexico-semantic pairs of which they are a part. The last (fourth) chapter of the work is devoted to some semantic peculiarities of the lexico-semantic pairs. Colleague Harun Bekir draws up a detailed classification of the semantic features found by him, indicating 17 variants. The alphabetical glossary included at the end of the book with the lexico-semantic pairs excerpted for the purposes of the study is of high practical value. The accompanying bibliography, which mentions scientific publications in four languages, also testifies to the seriousness of Ch. Assistant Prof. H. Bekir's work. Considering all of the above, it can be concluded that the monograph is a theoretical and applied study which emerges as a reliable starting point for all future studies on the issue of full and partial reduplication in the Turkish language.

The book "The Turkish language and culture in Bulgaria in the light of Bulgarian legislation – traditions and present-day situation" (2022) is based on the defended dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and has therefore been discussed and evaluated in relation to the relevant procedure.

I would specifically like to point out that judging by the publications submitted for the competition, Harun Bekir's academic interests extend to a wide range of aspects in the field of linguistics: morphology, lexicology and lexicography, phraseology, syntax, dialectology, and an interest in Turkish language studies is also evident. The publication activity of our colleague is realised in Bulgarian and Turkish in various well-established periodicals and scholarly collections, a significant number of which abroad. Excluding co-authorship in one study and the two volumes of the multilingual dictionary, Dr. Harun Bekir appears as the sole author of the submitted publications. Due to the lack of a split protocol for co-authored publications, for the purposes of this review it will be assumed that the contribution should be split equally between all co-authors.

The seriousness and thoroughness of Ch. Assistant Prof. Dr. Harun Bekir's research are evidenced by his numerous citations, as indicated in the certificate for

minimum national requirements (22 in total); in fact, their number exceeds the minimum required parameters for holding the academic position “Associate Professor”. One of the citations is from a refereed and indexed journal in world-renowned databases of scientific information. The other citations are in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes or in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

Ch. Assistant Prof. Dr. Harun Bekir’s authority is evidenced by the fact that he has been elected as a member of the Management Board of the Centre for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities and as a foreign correspondent member of the Turkish Language Society (Ankara). At the same time, our colleague is a member of five editorial boards of Turkish refereed scientific journals, and has also been a member of organisational and scientific committees at a total of 14 international conferences, symposia and colloquiums. It should also be noted that he is the author of the collection of reports from the Third Bulgarian-Turkish Colloquium “Bulgaria and Turkey at the Intercultural Crossroads: Language, History, Literature” [„България и Турция на межкултурния кръстопът: език, история, литература“] (2013).

4. Evaluation of the candidate’s personal contribution

The works with which Dr. Harun Bekir participates in the competition for “Associate Professor” are his personal contribution to the theoretical study of the Turkish language, as well as to the practical aspect of its teaching. There is no doubt that the originality of the ideas, theses and summaries in the publication work belongs to their author. As a member of the Scientific Committee, at the time of submitting the review, no information about any presence of plagiarism on the part of the candidate has reached me.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

The scientific works of Ch. Assistant Prof. Dr. Harun Bekir outline the candidate’s in-depth scientific interests in the field of the competition and demonstrate his professional competence. His theoretical treatments undoubtedly represent original scientific and applied contributions. I have no critical remarks or recommendations to

the scientific production and its presentation in the documents of the candidate in the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”. The fact that they have been repeatedly cited in specialised publications in the country and abroad is a testimony to their high scientific and applied value.

6. Personal impressions

I should note that I have known Dr. Harun Bekir for years as a diligent and thorough colleague. He has worked throughout his academic career on topics related to the theoretical aspects of the Turkish language and the problems of its teaching and systematic study. His interest in the mentioned fields is evident from the list of publications submitted for participation in this competition. By coincidence, I had the opportunity to attend some of the scientific forums where our colleague presented some of the publications included for review in this competition. In this regard, I would like to emphasise that we have had the opportunity to discuss at scientific conferences our views on various studies and projects in the field of Turkology that we have worked on over the years, and Dr. Bekir has left on me the impression of a colleague who is familiar with the latest developments in the relevant scientific field.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Harun Harun Bekir meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for the implementation of the LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used for the defence of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. The candidate’s works offer original scientific and applied contributions which have received due recognition, and a representative part of them has been published in journals and scientific collections published by international academic publishing houses. His theoretical treatments have practical applicability,

with some of them directly oriented to teaching work. Dr. Harun Bekir's scientific and teaching qualifications are beyond doubt.

The results achieved by Dr. Harun Bekir in his educational and research activities fully meet the minimum national requirements according to the Rules of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the application of LDASRB.

After acquainting myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Committee to draw up a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology to elect Dr. Harun Harun Bekir for the academic position "Associate Professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the area of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish Language).

20.03.2023

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Milena Yordanova