

RECENSION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miyryam Nedzhib Salim-Ahmed

lecturer at Konstantin Preslavski Shumen University
of the materials presented for participation in a competition
for the academic position of Associate Professor
at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv
of: field of higher education
2. Humanities professional field
2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish)

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, as a candidate participated Chief Assistant Dr. Harun Harun Bekir from Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

1. General presentation of the materials obtained

By Order No RD-21-53 of 16.01.2023 and Order No RD-21-446 of 28.02.2023 of the Rector of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (University of Plovdiv) I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of '**Associate Professor**' at the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish), declared for the needs of the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology. I was chosen as a reviewer under the procedure of the first meeting of the scientific jury.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", as the only candidate has submitted documents Chief Assistant Dr. Harun Harun Bekir from Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The set of materials presented by the applicant is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv and includes the following documents:

Application for admission to the competition

Professional CV

Copy of a higher education diploma with a Master's degree

Copy for educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

List of scientific papers submitted at the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

List of scientific works and publications

Publications

List of citations

Reference to minimum national requirements

Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents

Certificate of work experience

Reference for additional indicators under art. 57a, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

Reference for research work

Official note for participation in research projects

According to the attached reference to meet the minimum national requirements under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the transcript from NACID, I confirm that Dr. Harun Bekir meets the minimum national requirements in all indicators.

2. Short biographical data of the applicant

Harun Bekir graduated from St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, specialty "Turkology" with professional qualification *Turkologist, teacher of Turkish language and literature* translation specialization in 1998. After graduation, he started working as a part-time assistant in Modern Turkish at Lyuben Karavelov Branch of the University of Plovdiv in Kardzhali, where he taught Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax of the Modern Turkish Language, Practical Turkish in the specialty "Bulgarian and Turkish Language ". After successfully winning a competition in 2012, Harun Bekir was appointed as Assistant Professor of Modern Turkish at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. In 2015 he defended a dissertation on "Turkish Language and Culture in Bulgaria in the Light of Bulgarian Legislation – Traditions and Contemporary Status".

His professional and teaching activity is closely related to his research interests, which generally fit into the field of contemporary Turkish linguistics and cultural studies.

3. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

After acquiring the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in 2015, Assistant Professor Dr. Harun Bekir leads theoretical courses in *Methodology of Turkish Language Education, lectures and*

seminars in Lexicology, Phonetics, Morphology of the Modern Turkish Language, as well as lectures on *Turkish Literature* to students from the specialties Bulgarian Language and Turkish, Applied Linguistics (English and Turkish), Linguistics with business administration (English and Turkish). In the same specialties, Dr. Bekir also teaches the practical course in Turkish. It is important to note that all disciplines are taught in Turkish according to teaching conditions and curricula of new courses developed by the teacher.

With regard to the teaching and professional experience of H. Bekir, it is no doubt necessary to emphasize his teaching activity, the leadership of graduates, as well as his administrative duties at the university. Dr. Bekir has eight scientific guides of successfully defended diploma theses. He is a member of the Committee on Scientific Work and Projects and the Committee on International Cooperation at the Faculty of Philology.

Evaluation of the scientific and applied activities of the applicant

Assistant Professor Dr. Harun Bekir participated in this competition with works published after acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 2015. The list of works for participation in the competition and for peer review includes a total of 30 scientific papers, 1 monograph, 1 published book, based on a defended dissertation for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor", 22 articles, 5 studies, 1 participation in the collective compilation of a four-language dictionary. The scientific works of the candidate are written in Bulgarian and Turkish. All works of Dr. Harun Bekir are logically structured, with well-grounded topics and questions. The applicant has 8 participations in international, national and university cultural, linguistic and educational projects.

The active participation of Dr. Bekir in scientific life is expressed not only through publications, reports in numerous national and scientific forums (23), but also in the organization and scientific committees of themselves. The expert activity of Dr. H. Bekir as a member of the editorial boards of 5 refereed scientific journals abroad is highly appreciated.

Within the scope of the candidate's research interests are the *lexicology and grammar of the modern Turkish language, dialectology and linguo-cultural studies*. Within these subject areas, Dr. Bekir presents many studies in which he shows serious theoretical background and linguistic flair. Leading role in the list of presented publications has the monographic study "Lexical-semantic couples in the Turkish language", which the candidate deposits as a habilitation work under the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". The work is presented in a volume of 205 pages, with an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, bibliography and glossary. The monographic work is devoted to lexical-semantic pairs in the Turkish language and is the result

of many years of research by Harun Bekir in this field. The work is characterized by a well-done composition, in-depth linguistic competence in Turkish and scientific awareness of the problems in the study area. It can be seen that the researcher is well aware of the state of the problem and the existing literature on this subject. An adequate scientific style was used, appropriate and well-defined terminology was used.

Lexical-semantic pairs are widely represented in Turkish, both in the modern language and in all its historical periods. Duplication, reduplications as a linguistic phenomenon are found in the earliest written monuments in Turkish. By their structure, semantics and syntactic features, these linguistic units represent one of the most important features of the Turkish language and the Turkic languages in general. From the very beginning, Dr. H. Bekir drew attention to the terms for naming structural-semantic unities, including two graphic words with an overall semantics, which would be useful for future studies in this field. The author presents definitions from different dictionaries of linguistic terms, grammars of the Turkish language and separate studies on the topic.

The individual chapters of the scientific paper contain a detailed presentation of the essence, composition and structure of the considered linguistic units, formed by duplication, and each theoretical exposition is saturated with many examples, correctly translated into Bulgarian. The author's approach in defining and analyzing the typology of meanings of the units in question, allows him to build a model with basic criteria: grammatical, nominative, communicative, as well as lexical, syntactic, word-forming and phraseological conditioned.

In the first chapter, the types of *lexical-semantic pairs* are presented, according to their constituent components and their belonging to a particular part of speech. It is established that in Turkish they can be formed from different types of lexemes, but the most productive are those motivated by nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verboids and less often by pronouns and numerals. A second chapter, entitled as "Typology of lexical-semantic pairs depending on their constituent constituents" presents the main problems of the typology of lexical-semantic pairs depending on their constituent elements with a view to deriving a system of signs, markers and criteria for their recognition, description and typologization. The focus here is on reduplication, as the most striking structural sign of lexical-semantic pairs, species according to the origin of their constituent components, as well as their structural-positional organization. It deserves attention and high appreciation the representation of the semantic characteristics of lexical-semantic pairs in the Turkish language according to certain criteria. In the third chapter of the study, lexical-semantic pairs formed by onomatopoeic words are discussed and the main problems of structure, semantics and functional characteristics of the *onomatopoeic vocabulary* in the Turkish language are discussed. In the fourth chapter of the paper the

author makes a summary of the semantic features of lexical-semantic pairs. Taking into account the specifics of lexical-semantic pairs in view of the established semantic characteristics is a serious contribution both in theoretical and applied terms. The conclusion is exhaustive and summarizes all the main conclusions of the study. The study is also representative with the attached "Dictionary" of lexical-semantic pairs, which contributes to the presentation and updating of these linguistic units, conveying their meaning in Bulgarian.

The rich specialized bibliographic list, consisting of over 100 titles, convincingly of the scientific value of the work and the author's awareness of the issues.

The monographic work is of interest both to the scientific community, whose interest will attract the analysis and comprehensive information on the various aspects of the linguistic units in question, and to the general public, which can get acquainted with the overall development and examples, precisely presented in Bulgarian.

The presented habilitation work fully corresponds to the genres of scientific development with indisputable contributions and significance in the enrichment and generalization of existing research and knowledge in various aspects of Turkish linguistics. The monograph is the first comprehensive study on the topic, which fills a gap in Turkish linguistics and occupies an important place among the Turkological studies in Bulgaria. Along with its substantial scientific contributions, the research also has applied value in the field of teaching or in the development of other publications, as well as in comparative research. The contribution points on the developed topic can also be found in some of the presented articles, in which Dr. Bekir focuses on individual aspects of the problem area (compare No. 7, 10, 13, 19 of the list of publications).

Among the publications with which Chief Assistant Dr. Harun Bekir participated in the competition are the articles dealing with problems of lexicology and grammar of the modern Turkish language (articles III 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 21, 29). With a serious approach and precision of analysis are distinguished also the research on Turkish dialects and dialects, the developments with a comprehensive presentation of the phonetic characteristics of the Kardzhali Turkish dialect in Bulgaria (articles II 4, III 2, 3, 14, 16, 20), as well as the first field study of the traditions, customs and folk beliefs of the Turkish community in the region of the town of Gotse Delchev (Nevrokop). The interesting and in-depth studies undoubtedly emphasize the contributions and achievements of his scientific production in this field of Turkish linguistics.

In H. Bekir's scientific works, linguistic issues are intertwined with the specifics of the linguistic situation of the Turkish community in Bulgaria. Some of the publications concern the study

and teaching of the Turkish language at school. The author focuses on the language policies towards Turkish as a mother tongue in Bulgaria in the context of language policy theories and language planning approaches. Consider issues related to the state and trends in the development of language policy in the Bulgarian educational system (II 1, 2, 3, III 4, 5, 6, 17, 18).

For the contribution nature and scientific influence of the publications of Dr. Harun Bekir, the number of citations noticed, which so far is 22, is indicative. His works are cited in studies of Bulgarian and foreign authors, in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific editions.

The overall review of the publications characterizes Harun Bekir as a researcher with significant achievements in the field of contemporary Bulgarian Turkology and Turko-Gypsy linguistics in general. The quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" are met. The reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements shows that Dr. Harun Bekir has 692 points, which exceeds the required minimum of 400 points.

4. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The scientific works of Dr. Bekir have been prepared with a methodology suitable for the purpose of the research. The works represent a new discovery in the relevant fields of knowledge and have theoretical and practical contributions.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no remarks on the scientific papers and documentation of Dr. H. Bekir. Highly appreciating his research and teaching activities, I recommend and wish that he continue to work in depth and expand the areas of his scientific interests.

6. Personal impressions

Everything so far gives me reason to summarize that the scientific production of Dr. Harun Bekir testifies to a very good preparation in the scientific specialty. I have no comments on the course of viewing the publications, I have not noticed significant omissions and imperfections. My personal impressions of my colleague Harun Bekir are very good. For several years I have had the pleasure of working with Harun Bekir in a department. He is responsible in his work, an excellent lecturer, loved by his students and respected by his colleagues, fully devoted to teaching the Turkish language in Bulgaria. The documents presented show that the candidate has already proven his teamwork capabilities.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assistant Professor Dr. Harun Harun Bekir **meet all the requirements** of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Rules of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the Register of Academic Positions and Dissertations "Doctor". In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific collections issued by international academic publishers. His theoretical works have practical applicability, some of which are directly oriented towards academic work in Turcological and Linguistic specialties. The scientific and teaching qualification of Chief Assistant Dr. Harun Bekir is undoubted.

The results achieved by Assistant Professor Dr. Harun Bekir in academic and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements with the Rules of Plovdiv University for application of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied and applied contributions contained therein, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Philological Faculty for the work of Chief Assistant Dr. Harun Harun Bekir at the academic position of Associate Professor at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" on: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish).

14.03.2023

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miyryam Salim-Ahmed)