

## OPINION

by **Professor Dr. Habil. Hristina Mileva Toncheva-Todorova,**  
**Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

on the materials submitted in application for the open position of **Associate professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv** in the Sphere of HE 2. Humanities; Area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish)

Following Order No. ПД-21-53 from 16.01.2023 and Order No. ПД-21-446 from 28.02.2023 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv I have been appointed a member of the Academic Review Board for the academic position of **Associate professor at PU** in the sphere of Higher education 2. Humanities, area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish), which was announced in the State Gazette, issue 92 from 18.11.2022 and on the web-page of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of General Linguistics and History of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

The single applicant for the open position is Senior Lecturer Harun Harun Bekir, PhD, from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The application documents submitted by Dr. Harun Bekir as hard copies **are** in compliance with the Rulebook for Academic Staff Development at PU. They include the following:

1. Application as per requirements to the Rector of PU, stating the applicant's intention to take part in the competition for the open position;
2. European format CV;
3. Diploma certificate for his completed Master's Degree - an original with all appendices or a notary verified copy;
4. Diploma certificate for his completed PhD Degree - an original with all appendices or a notary verified copy;
5. List of scholarly papers and publications, submitted for acquiring the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor';
6. List of scholarly papers and publications;
7. Scholarly papers (copies of publications);
8. List of citations;
9. Official note on meeting the minimal national requirements;
10. Annotations of the submitted materials in accordance with Article 65 of the Rulebook for Academic Staff Development at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, including self-assessment of their scholarly contributions in Bulgarian;
11. Annotations of the submitted materials in accordance with Article 65 of the Rulebook for Academic Staff Development at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, including self-assessment of their scholarly contributions in English;
12. Declaration to the originality and veracity of the submitted documents;
13. Certificate of labour/work experience record;
14. Documents pertaining to his teaching record – official note on the additional criteria in accordance with Article 57a, Para. 2 of the Rulebook for the Application of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA).
15. Official note on his scholarly record;

16. Certificate of participation in scholarly projects;

17. Other documents.

Dr. Harun Bekir has been employed by Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv since 2012 following his successful passing of an assistantship exam in Modern Turkish. Since then he has been conducting seminars in Turkish Language Practice for students in Bulgarian and Turkish majors.

In 2015 he successfully defended his PhD thesis for acquiring the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' in the sphere of Higher education 2. Humanities, area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology, doctoral programme in General and Comparative Linguistics (Sociolinguistics) on the topic of 'Turkish Language and Culture in Bulgaria in the Light of the Bulgarian Legislation – Traditions and Modern State'.

Dr. Harun Bekir has submitted 30 works in total: 1 habilitation work, 5 studies, 22 papers, 2 participations in preparing dictionaries. 14 of these are in Turkish, some have been published in international journals. He has participated in a total of 8 national and international scholarly projects. All these materials are considered to be reviewing, since they are not connected with the problems addressed in his dissertation work. The applicant has appropriately enclosed a separate list of publications which are on the topic of his dissertation and which were submitted for the previous procedure of acquiring the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'.

The monograph *Reduplication in the Turkish language*, submitted for the competition, is a study of two-part constructions belonging to the same part of speech, which are united by intralinguistic connections, based on interdependent and interconnected elements of meaning, performing a single syntactic function and representing part of the vocabulary of the Turkish language.

Due to the heterogeneous terminology found in similar research, the author has specified and defined the term 'reduplication' to name the studied phenomena in the Bulgarian language.

The second chapter of the habilitation work is of particular interest to me; in it the main issues in the typology of reduplication are discussed; the characteristics and criteria for its classification are accurately described.

In the end of the habilitation work, as an appendix is presented a Dictionary of reduplication examples, taken from the most up-to-date and complete Dictionary of the Turkish language from 2011, which is an invaluable lexicographic source, showing the richness of the Turkish language. In his other numerous publications, Dr. Harun Bekir has demonstrated his scientific interest in studying language situations in order to establish patterns and tendencies in the development of the complex processes in the language life of the modern community. His research is directed towards the specific features of the Turkish community language situation in Bulgaria and its forms of existence in various communication media.

Dr. Bekir has always been intrigued by the problems of the educational system in the Republic of Bulgaria, which is connected with his teaching experience. Many publications are dedicated to the problems surrounding the types of training at the level of preschool, school and higher education, personnel training, the teacher qualification system, etc. Another round of publications describe Turkish periodicals in the city of Plovdiv; the traditions, customs and beliefs of Turkish communities living in the Republic of Bulgaria; the features of the Kardzhali dialect as compared to the rest of the Balkan Turkish dialects.

The documents and accompanying materials submitted by Senior Lecturer Harun Bekir, PhD meet all the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rulebook for the Application of DASRBA and the corresponding Rulebook of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. They meet the quantitative indicators of the criteria for the position of Associate professor at the Faculty of Philology.

The applicant has submitted a sufficient number of scholarly works, containing original scholarly contributions whereby a significant number have appeared in journals and academic volumes published by national and international academic outlets. I have not discovered data about plagiarism in the above mentioned works.

In my capacity of Head of the Department of General Linguistics and History of Bulgarian Language I have had the opportunity to observe Dr. Bekir both as a lecturer and as a scholar, his active participation in a number of national and international projects, as well as in the administrative life of the Faculty of Philology, his responsibility when accepting day-to-day tasks and extracurricular activities as well as his precision in completing said tasks. I would also like to note my colleague's ability to work as part of a team, his academic behavior and his tolerant relations not just with the members of our Department, but with other university colleagues as well.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scholarly publications submitted for the purposes of this position, having analyzed their significance and the contributions entailed in them with regard to their theoretical and scholarly merits, I find it expedient to confirm my **positive assessment**, as expressed above, and to recommend to the Academic Review Board to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the selection of **Senior Lecturer Harun Harun Bekir, PhD**, for the academic position of **Associate professor** at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the area of professional qualification 2. Humanities; Area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Turkish).

06.03.2023  
Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion:  
(Professor Dr. Habil. Hristina Mileva Toncheva-Todorova)