

## Associate Professor Candidate Evaluation Report

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materials submitted for participation in the competition **to hold the academic position "Associate Professor"** of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

According to the area of higher education  
2. Humanities: Professional direction 2.1. Philology  
(Slavic languages - Comparative grammar of the Slavic languages).

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 92/18.01.2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department "Slavic Studies" at the Faculty of Philology, **participating as a single candidate is Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD**, from the Department "Slavic Studies" at the Faculty of Philology of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

### 1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By orders № 23-C2-223/2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition to hold the academic position "Associate Professor" in the PU in the field of higher education 2. Humanities: Professional direction 2.1. Philology (Slavic languages - Comparative grammar of Slavic the languages) announced for the needs of the Department "Slavic Studies" at the Faculty of Philology of PU.

The comprehensive set of papers produced by Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for Implementation of LDASRB as well as the respective Regulations of the Plovdiv University and includes the following documents: application for participation in the academic contest; European format CV; list of scientific works; annotations of the materials pursuant to Article 65 of LDASRB in Bulgarian and in English languages, including self-assessment of the contributions; declaration of originality and authenticity; academic work documents; scientific research evidence; list of citations; list of publications on the topic of the dissertation; publications for the contest.

In the announced contest, the candidate participates with the following scientific works which have not been presented to the Specialized Scientific Council of Linguistics at the Higher Attestation Commission for acquisition of educational and scientific degree "PhD": 2 monographs and 20 articles. All of them have been written after the defense of her dissertation, do not repeat those included in the previous procedure and are respectively accepted for evaluation. The annexed 8 articles as specified in the list of publications on the topic of the dissertation are not taken into consideration for evaluation purposes. All documents submitted by the candidate are in proper form and diligently arranged. I have no objections whatsoever to the documents.

After I familiarized myself in detail with the works provided to me by Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD, both those of monographic nature as well as the individual publications in the form of articles or reports from conferences, I can confidently say that the candidate in the Associate Professor contest works in very exciting fields of the linguistics science - comparative grammar of the Slavic languages, comparative linguistics, semantics and linguistic pragmatics, the proven scientific significance of which nowadays is beyond any doubt. Her scientific interests are also focused on the methodology of foreign language learning and teaching of the Bulgarian language as a foreign language. The scientific production presented by the graduate of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", where she graduated with a degree in Slavic philology and specialization in the Polish language, is mainly in the field of comparative linguistics. She studies two genetically close, but typologically quite remote Slavic languages: the South Slavic Bulgarian language from the Eastern subgroup and the West Slavic Polish language from the Lechite subgroup.

## **2. General description of the candidate's achievements**

Since the contest is for a tutoring position - the academic position of Associate Professor - it makes sense to give proper credit to the achievements of Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD as a lecturer. She had held successively the positions of Assistant and Chief Assistant in Polish language and in the period 2003-2006 she was a full-time doctoral student in Comparative Grammar of Slavic Languages at the Plovdiv University, Faculty of Philology, Department of Slavic Philology (code 05.04.18 Slavic Languages/Comparative grammar of the Slavic languages), which had ended in 2008 with the successful defense of a PhD thesis on the topic "The Plusquamperfect in the Slavic languages (with a special focus on the Bulgarian and Polish languages)". Since 2009, the candidate has worked as a lecturer of comparative grammar of Slavic languages, historical grammar of the Polish language and modern Polish language in the Department of Slavic Philology at the Plovdiv University. Further to that, since 2019 she has also been teaching Bulgarian language to foreign students at the Department of Languages and Specialized Training of the Plovdiv Medical University.

She has created a number of new lecture courses and seminars, introduced in the "Slavic Studies" program, has participated in operative committees at department and faculty level as well as has reviewed scientific articles at the Plovdiv University. Under her scientific mentorship, 11 students from the "Slavic Philology" programme have successfully defended their graduation theses. This is quite a commendable achievement and clearly demonstrates that her teaching experience is theoretically informed.

The scientific achievements of Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD, are really impressive. She is the author of two monographs. The first one is a revised, updated and abridged edition of her dissertation thesis with title "The Plusquamperfect in Bulgarian and Polish languages". I find the theme of her work to be scientifically important – this temporal form has not been studied in a comparative context for two Slavic languages until now. This makes the topic an innovative contribution as well. The monograph presents the main theoretical problems related to the semantics and functions of the plusquamperfect in the Bulgarian language with emphasis on the place and role of the genetically identical form in the Polish language. The plusquamperfect in Bulgarian is shown as a live and actively used verb form in contrast to the modern Polish language, where this tense (usually called past perfect in English) no longer has frequent use but is found instead mainly in literature texts dating back to the 19th and 20th century. The author is seeking answers to the question of what are the reasons for the disappearance of the plusquamperfect in the Polish language. The functional and semantic equivalents of the Bulgarian plusquamperfect in the Polish language are presented as well. The study lays out rich and well suited material from both languages for illustration. Theoretically, the study is in line with the works of the most prominent Bulgarian, Polish, Russian and other scientists who had written on this topic.

The second monograph is a habilitation thesis titled "Semantic and functional features of temporal adverbs in the Bulgarian language in comparison with the Polish language" (discussed at an extended Faculty Council on 14.10.2022). The functional and semantic characteristics of these adverbs are very competently analyzed with special attention to the function of the modifiers located on the periphery of the temporality field. The classification of adverbs in groups is accompanied by an original description of the semantic functions of a selected group of lexical temporal modifiers in the Bulgarian language in comparison with their Polish language equivalents.

Indexes of the lexical modifiers with a temporal component in the Bulgarian and Polish languages have been derived with a description of the meanings, which can serve both for the purposes of practical training as well as a basis for making a bilingual dictionary of temporal adverbs. The views of a wide range of Bulgarian, Polish, Russian and other scientists who worked on the subject are also presented. Original, rich and graphically and theoretically grounded linguistic material from both languages is put to comprehensive analysis.

I would like to point out that the author of the two monographs makes extremely relevant comments as well as insightful comparisons and reconciliations of the various theories and concepts related to the topics; she is fluent in the terminology as well. The authors whose research is directly related to the studied scientific issues have been very smartly chosen which deserves credit on its own. The names of the researchers are not only mentioned, they are presented and commented from various aspects in the text. This shows a very good knowledge of the theoretical foundations as well as the methodological principles. The author's research skills, intuition and theoretical background stand out as evidenced by the numerous examples from the Polish and

Bulgarian languages. I would like to emphasize that in both monographs, her fluent command of the Polish language is evident, which is a guarantee not only of the high quality of the observations made and the conclusions thereto but also demonstrates that author was capable enough to skillfully include her researcher's intuition in the analytical process.

The comparative method applied in the two monographs makes it possible to reveal the differences and similarities between the Bulgarian and Polish literary languages both from semantical and formal perspective, to draw conclusions that are useful for pragmatic, didactic and translation purposes. In general, her works are meaningful contribution to linguistics, the Slavic comparative studies and to the study of Bulgarian-Polish linguistic relations.

The number of scientific articles is impressive, they are 20 and were published in collective books and periodicals (17 in Bulgaria and 3 abroad, in Poland). All are related to the academic courses taught by the candidate and for the most part have a confrontational nature. They prove her worth in this field and the knowledge of the specialized literature. The articles deal with issues related to the temporal system in the Bulgarian and Polish languages (verb forms, temporal adverbs) in a functional and semantic aspect. Some of the articles trace verb forms in their historical development, others examine speech etiquette, the evaluative semantics of temporal adverbs, etc. The citations by her colleagues (8 in total) are the best attestation to the importance of the analyzed issues and statements made in her articles.

The research work of Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD, includes participation in a national project, active participation in scientific conferences held in Bulgaria and abroad. The candidate was the compiler and editor of the collection "The Slavistics - Paths and Perspectives", dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Prof. Ivanka Gugulanova PhD.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD, participates in the contest with a sufficient number of scientific works. In her, I see a determined researcher who has produced solid theoretical works that have both scientific merit as well as practical application. I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

### **CONCLUSION**

All above stated as well as the monographs, articles and tutoring experience profile Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD as a capable lecturer, with solid theoretical background, with compelling didactic practice and publications that reflect such. The scientific interests of the candidate are closely related to the field of the academic contest and this is a very important factor for the further growth and development of Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD in the Department of Slavic Studies.

In view of the needs of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and based on everything stated hereinabove, my final conclusion is that the scientific and tutoring work of Chief Ass. Prof. Lilia Ivanova, PhD presents her as a very worthy candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 2. Humanities: Professional direction 2.1. Philology (Slavic languages – Comparative grammar of the Slavic languages).

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(Assoc. Prof. Katazhina Popova, PhD)