

EXPERT OPINION

submitted by **Zhivka Stefanova Koleva-Zlateva, DSc,**

Professor at the Department of General Linguistics and Old Bulgarian Studies, St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo

regarding the selection procedure for the academic position of **Associate Professor**

for Paisii Hilendarsi University of Plovdiv

in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Languages – Comparative Grammar of the Slavic Languages)

In the selection procedure for the academic position of **Associate Professor**, announced in the *State Gazette*, issue 92 dated 18 November 2022, and on the Internet site of Paisii Hilendarsi University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Slavic Studies Department, Philological Faculty, Paisii Hilendarsi University of Plovdiv, one candidate has applied – Lilia Dragomirova Ivanova, PhD, from the Slavic Studies Department, Philological Faculty, Paisii Hilendarsi University of Plovdiv.

1. General introduction of the procedure and the candidate

I present the Assessment below in my capacity as a member of the Academic Jury for the selection procedure for the academic position of **Associate Professor** on the basis of Paisii Hilendarsi University's Rector's order No. ПД-21-52 dated 16 January 2023 in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Languages – Comparative Grammar of the Slavic Languages) announced for the needs of the Slavic Studies Department, Philological Faculty.

One candidate, Senior Assistant Lilia Dragomirova Ivanova, PhD, from the Slavic Studies Department, Philological Faculty, Paisii Hilendarsi University of Plovdiv, has applied for the selection procedure.

The set of materials presented by Senior Assistant Lilia Dragomirova Ivanova on a hard copy is in a full compliance with Art. 77 (1) of Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University of Plovdiv and includes all needed documents certifying the legitimacy of her application in this competition: application to the Rector for admission to the competition, curriculum vitae in European format, a copy of a Master's degree diploma of higher education, a copy of a PhD degree diploma, a list of the scholarly works, copies of the scholarly works and two monographs in original, a list of citations, a certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor*, annotation of the materials under Art. 65 of Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University of Plovdiv (in Bulgarian and English), including self-

evaluation of overall contributions and input, declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents, certificate of work experience, documents certifying the academic work of the candidate, documents certifying the scholarly research work of the candidate.

Dr. Lilia Ivanova participates in the selection procedure for the academic position of Associate Professor with a monograph (*Semantic and Functional Features of Temporal Adverbs in Bulgarian in Comparison with Polish*. Plovdiv: University Press ‘P. Hilendarski’, 2023), presented as a habilitation thesis, and 20 papers and conference reports. Three of the publications are published abroad, in proceedings of Polish universities, and the rest – in Bulgarian university proceedings. A monograph written on the basis of defended PhD thesis is also presented (*The plusquamperfect in Bulgarian and Polish*. Plovdiv: University Press ‘P. Hilendarski’, 2023) which by law also participates in the formation of the scientometric indicators of the candidates for occupation the academic position of Associate Professor. As L. Ivanova herself notes, this is a ‘revised, updated and abridged edition’ of her PhD thesis.

The scholarly publications presented by L. Ivanova together with the citations reported by her meet the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’, carrying 505 points out of the required 400 points.

L. Ivanova graduated in Slavic philology from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in 2002. In 2008 defended a PhD thesis on the topic ‘The Plusquamperfect in Slavic Languages (with a special focus on Bulgarian and Polish Languages)’. Since 2009 she has been working for the Department of Slavic Studies, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

I have no personal impressions of L. Ivanova, but I can say that the materials with which she participates in the competition present her as a thorough scholar and a respectable and responsible lecturer.

2. General characteristics of the applicats’s activities

Teaching activities

During her academic teaching career, Lilia Ivanova held lectures and seminars on a wide range of linguistic disciplines. She currently teaches disciplines of the field of Comparative and Historical Slavistics: Comparative Grammar of Slavic Languages, Introduction to Slavic Philology and Historical Linguistics of the Polish language. In previous years, she taught other disciplines providing the education of the Polonists, such as Business Communication (in Polish), Spelling and Punctuation (in Polish), Morphology of the Modern Polish Language, Phonetics of the Modern Polish Language and Practical Polish Language.

Lilia Ivanova's activity as an academic advisor of graduate students is also impressive. Under her guidance, 11 students studying Slavic Philology developed and defended their theses. The wide

thematic range of theses, dedicated to issues in the field of Cognitive Linguistics, Morphology, Linguistic Pragmatics, and Applied Linguistics, is impressive.

Scholarly research

The main part of the academic works of L. Ivanova submitted for the selection procedure, including her habilitation monograph, are dedicated to the comparative study of the realization of the functional-semantic category 'time' at the lexical level of language. These publications are a natural continuation of the previous research of the author, for which she received her PhD degree. This time, L. Ivanova's attention is focused on the temporal adverbs in the two languages, which she refers to as peripheral linguistic means of expressing time and which she rightly notes as being functionally characterized by a combination of temporality and adverbiality. We should point out that the scholarly interest in peripheral language phenomena is fruitful, because it is there, in the language periphery, where the 'central' language phenomena are usually born. A special place in the reviewed works is devoted to adverbs answering the question 'when?' as central representatives of the functional-semantic category of time.

The habilitation thesis of the author is distinguished by an aspiration to achieve completeness and justification. It has a clear and logical structure, providing an in-depth study of temporal adverbs in view of their place in both languages. And these are languages with different grammatical temporal systems, which makes the comparative study particularly interesting. It is natural to expect differences in the realization of the studied category at the lexical level. And since a systematic approach is applied to the studied adverbs at the lexical level, conclusions can also be drawn about the systemic conditioning of each of the studied units. The material is beneficial for formulating conclusions about the semantic development of the paired adverbs of time, about the role of their initial internal form in this process, which can also be considered as a kind of etymological memory. In this direction, I see opportunities for the future development of L. Ivanova's research work.

The text is readable, fluid and at the same time skilfully arguing the formulated statements and convincing the reader of the author's competence, of her ability to study the linguistic material. The conclusions drawn are also significant for the pedagogical practice with a view to the education of Slavic philology students and for the translation practice. It would be good if in the final concluding chapter there had been drawn conclusions concerning the systematic conditioning of the studied lexical units and the overall conditioning of lexical temporality by temporality as a linguistic functional-semantic category with a view to the languages compared.

Most of L. Ivanova's articles, with which she participates in the competition, are also devoted to adverbs of time. To a large extent, the analysis and conclusions presented in them are included in the monograph *Semantic and Functional Features of Temporal Adverbs in Bulgarian in Comparison*

with Polish. Five of the author's articles examine grammatical issues related to temporality and inter-sectional issues, such as antecedence, relativity, resultativeness (together with the lexical units that express them), the translation of the Bulgarian past perfect into Polish, and also the question of adverbs as part of speech. One article is devoted to the expression of politeness in Polish and Bulgarian.

It can be seen that the applicant to the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scholarly works, which do not include the works on the basis of which she received the PhD degree. These are works with indisputable scholarly contributions. They present L. Ivanova as a competent scholar and lecturer, whose teaching work is based on in-depth scholarly preparation and research experience in the field of taught academic disciplines.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

The presented production fully meets the requirements for occupying the academic position of 'Associate Professor'. I have no remarks that are relevant in view of whether L. Ivanova deserves to occupy this academic position. I would recommend her to publish her research in linguistic journals as well, reaching a larger audience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, which is a testimony of Lilia Ivanova's academic merits as a researcher and lecturer and of her adequacy to meet the requirements of the law for occupying the academic position 'Associate Professor', I believe I have the grounds to declare my definite stance that the candidate deserves to be elected for the position 'Associate Professor' in the Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1 Philology (Slavic Languages – Comparative Grammar of the Slavic Languages). I will unhesitatingly vote positive.

24 February 2023

Prepared by:

prof. Zhivka Koleva-Zlateva, DSc