

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Penka Todorova Kaneva, PhD,  
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concerning the materials submitted for participation in a competition  
for the academic position of  
"Professor"  
at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Faculty of Philology,  
Russian Philology Department  
**in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences,**  
**professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ...**  
(Methodology of Russian Language Teaching),  
published in „State Gazette” issue 39/02.05.2023

In „State Gazette” issue 39/02.05.2023 a competition was announced for the academic position of “Professor” for the needs of University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, Faculty of Philology, Russian Philology Department in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... (Methodology of Russian Language Teaching), with an only candidate - associate professor Nadya Petrova Cherneva, a member of the Russian Philology Department.

### **1. General information about the competition and the candidate**

By Order ПД-21-1600 / 31.07.2023 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of “Professor” for the needs of University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, Faculty of Philology, Russian Philology Department in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... (Methodology of Russian Language Teaching).

In the competition announced, only one candidate takes participation – Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD, a lecturer at the Russian Philology Department.

The applicant’s documents submitted for a “Professor” academic position competition are in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as of the Rules for Acquiring scientific degrees and academic positions at University of Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD, presents for review one monograph, eleven articles (four of which are co-authored), published in Bulgaria, in a scientific journal indexed in Web of Science; two articles, published in collections of scientific articles abroad; a review of a book, published abroad, dedicated to issues directly related to the scientific specialty of the competition and an article, published in a Bulgarian scientific journal – a total of 16 scientific publications which are not used in previous procedures.

#### *Information about the applicant*

Nadya Cherneva graduated from the University of Plovdiv as a Master of Russian Philology with a second specialty “Bulgarian language and literature” in 1983 and as a Bachelor: “English language teacher” in 1994. She defended her doctoral degree in Philology in 2003 at the State Russian Language Institute “A. S. Pushkin”, in Moscow (Phraseology, Linguoculturology, Methodology of Foreign Language Teaching). Her doctoral degree was approved by Bulgarian Higher Attestation Commission in 2004. From 1997 to 2014 she completed five linguistic and scientific specializations in Russia – at the State Russian Language Institute and at the State University of St Petersburg.

The academic career of Assoc. Prof. PhD Nadya Cherneva began in 1990 at the University of Plovdiv where she successively held the positions of: lecturer, assistant professor, senior assistant, chief assistant and where in 2013 she was elected Associated Professor of Professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic languages – Russian language – Linguoculturology). Assoc. Prof. Cherneva gives lectures in other higher educational institutions such as: the Academy of Music, Dance and Visual Arts in Plovdiv, the Local centre of New Bulgarian University in Plovdiv, the Medical University in Plovdiv, the University of Food Technology in Plovdiv.

#### **2. Description of the applicant’s academic work**

The reference of the academic work of Assoc. Prof. PhD Nadya Cherneva shows that her teaching and work experience fully meets the requirements of announced application procedure for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ...

She gives lecture courses on linguistic, methodology and linguocultural issues – 19 academic courses at the University of Plovdiv and 9 academic courses at other universities. The majority of taught disciplines are directly related to the profile of the competition: “Competency-based approach and innovations in education”, “The text as a linguistic and didactic unit”, “Bilingualism: theoretical and practical aspects”, “Contemporary Russian – Lexicology”, “A Course in Russian Civilization”, “Russia in World Civilization”, “Comparative Linguoculturology”. Since 2002 she is the head of the Master Programme “Methodology of Teaching Russian”.

The extracurricular activity of Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva is also extremely intensive and dedicated to actual problems of foreign language teaching methodology. She is the organizer of 12 methodology conferences and methodological seminars in the field of teaching Russian as a foreign language for teachers, university lecturers, students and PhD students; the organizer of an International Scientific-Practical seminar “Translation Mastery Training” for students in Russian; the author of a Master Class for Pedagogues: “The Dance in Linguodidactic” as a part of a Methodological seminar, organized for the heads of Russian centres from 65 countries within the programme of the International Students Festival: „Друзья, прекрасен наш союз“; a lecturer in 6 editions of the International Qualification School “Contemporary Pedagogy Technologies in Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language” at Varna Free University; the leader of the representative team of the University of Plovdiv in 5 editions of the International Student Festival: „Друзья, прекрасен наш союз“.

The huge number of project activities in which Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva takes part is very impressive: 35 scientific and educational projects, 17 of which – Central European, 6 – international, 4 – bilateral, 3 – national and 5 – university projects. She is the head of 2 international projects.

Last but not least, and probably as a consequence of all the above, the intensive administrative activity of Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD, as a: Vice-Rector “International Cooperation, Academic Mobility, Public Relations and Protocol” (2019 - 2023); Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Philology for international activities (2014 - 2019); Scientific secretary of the Faculty of Philology “International activities, Eurointegration, Centres and Offices” (2007-2014); Faculty coordinator of Erasmus programme activities at the Faculty of Philology (2005 - 2019); Chairman of the University of Plovdiv “International Activities Commission” (2019 - 2023); Director of University of Plovdiv Audio-Visual Centre (since 2021); Director of “Centre for Russian Language and Culture” (2010- 2021); Director of “Centre for Languages and Intercultural Communication” (since 2007).

Everything, stated to this point, gives me reason to say that the candidate has the necessary experience to occupy the academic position of “Professor”.

#### *Scientific Contributions Assessment*

In the scientific development of Assoc. Prof. Cherneva research in the field of theory and practice of foreign language teaching, linguoculturology, intercultural communication, intrecultural education, ethnolinguistics, comparative linguistics, philosophy of language stands out.

A central place in the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Cherneva is occupied by the monograph “Linguodidactological Spaces of Cultural Dialogue” (Plovdiv, University Publishing House “Paisii Hilendarski”, 2023), in which the process of acquiring culture is explored through the relations: language – man – world.

A scientific achievement of the monograph is the argumentation of some innovative interdisciplinary technologies and practices for intercultural dialogue and developing key linguistic and extralinguistic competences. An achievement with practical aspect is the description of the author's model for intercultural training applicable in the practice of foreign language teaching and intercultural education.

A significant contribution to the theory and methodology of foreign language teaching is the outlining of the linguodidactic potential of dance as a sociocultural phenomenon and developing a methodological conception for foreign language teaching with a specific system of exercises on the basis of it.

Some other publications of Nadya Cherneva are also devoted to the topic of linguocultural units as a foreign language teaching methodology resource (articles №1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 14, 15).

Nadya Cherneva's interest towards revealing the linguodidactic potential of culture and arts is deep and long-lasting, five more of her publications, submitted for review, are devoted to this issue (№ 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

Intercultural communication, intercultural education and achieving intercultural competence - a key competence for the contemporary linguodidactic paradigm - is the focus of attention of two articles (№ 10, 11).

The most significant *scientific contributions* of Nadya Cherneva's publications, in my opinion, are

- ✓ Stating reasons for new scientific research objects in the context of the triad: culture – foreign language teaching – pedagogical innovations; revealing the potential of art as an effective tool for teaching and learning foreign languages
- ✓ Structuring and description of ethnocognitive and ethnocommunicative functions of Russian Folk dance phenomenon as a traditional knowledge, folk art, semiosphere and a precedent text of Russian culture, the knowledge of which is the key to achieving an adequate dialogue between cultures.
- ✓ Revealing the linguodidactic potential of dance as a sociocultural phenomenon and as a productive innovation technology for the practice of foreign language teaching.
- ✓ The recognition of the ballroom culture theme as a linguodidactic resource that offers a variety of themes, attracts micro- and macro- texts which could be used as an illustrative material; enables deepening the intercultural competence for an effective dialogue between cultures.

Among the most significant *scientific-applied contributions* I highlight the following:

- ✓ Development and approbation of a methodological conception that includes a specific system of exercises (for different language levels – A1, A2, B1) and gives reasons for the inclusion of dance in the process of teaching a foreign language through revealing: a) the language of dance as a social and cultural phenomenon, b) the magic of dance as theory and practice of teaching a foreign language in and out of the classroom.
- ✓ Methodological suggestions for skills and habits development in Russian language classes for advanced students through studying of Russian ballroom culture which allows a non-linear interpretations of processes and perceptions in their linguocultural significance.
- ✓ The development of a methodological framework for using the “Russian-Bulgarian Dictionary of quasi-symbols” (Tula, 2021) when applying the technology of cultural dialogue.
- ✓ Methodological interpretations for using songs and dances for developing language skills.

I value the formulated contributions and the obtained scientific and applied results as a personal merit of the candidate for the academic position of “Professor” Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva.

Fulfilment of the minimal national requirements by Nadya Cherneva is in conformity with article 2b, paragraph 2 and 3 of LDASRB.

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

I have no critical remarks towards Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva. My recommendation for her is to continue the development of research in the field of interdisciplinary technologies and practices for foreign language teaching and learning and to implement the obtained results in practice.

### **CONCLUSION**

The submitted documents, materials and the published works of the applicant, Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD, responds to all the requirements of LDASRB, of the Rules for the implementation of the LDASRB, and the relevant regulation Rules of the University of Plovdiv for taking the academic position of Professor.

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after publishing the materials used for defending her doctoral degree and for the competition for occupying the academic position of “Associate Professor”. Their scientific contributions to the theory and practice of foreign language learning are undisputable and a significant part of them has been published in journals and scientific collections referenced in the international database *Web of Science*.

The theoretical works have practical applicability and some of them are directly oriented toward the process of teaching and learning foreign languages. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD, are unquestionable.

The achievements of the candidate meet the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b and the Regulations of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Based on the above **I give my positive assessment of the candidacy and recommend** to the scientific jury to make a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology **for the election of Assoc. Prof. Nadya Petrova Cherneva, PhD, to the academic position of “professor”** at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... (Methodology of Russian Language Teaching).

02.09.2023 г.

**Signature:** .....

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*(Assoc. Prof. Penka Kaneva,  
PhD)*