

REVIEW STATEMENT

by **Prof. Diana Petrova Ivanova, DSc**

Professor at *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the acquisition of the academic position of ***Professor***

at *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv

In the area of higher education **2. Humanities**

Field of Professional Education **2.1 Philology**

Academic area of specialization: Bulgarian language (Modern Bulgarian Language)

The single applicant for the open position of *Professor*, announced in the State Gazette, Issue 96 of 17.11.2023 and on the website of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of *Bulgarian Language* is Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, DSc who works at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

The set of materials submitted by the candidate on paper and electronic media includes the following documents: 1. materials required for the acquisition of the academic position *Professor*; 2. research works.

By Order No. RD-21-384 of 16.02.2024 of the Rector of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the Academic Review Board for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor* at PU. The only applicant for the position is Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, DSc. The documents and materials submitted by the applicant meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria (LDAS), the Regulations for Implementation of the LDAS and the Rulebook for the Development of the Academic Staff of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv. In terms of number of scholarly works and subject matter, the publications correspond to the profile of the competition and to the requirements for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor*. The participant has submitted a sufficient number of scholarly works published after being awarded the degree of DSc.

2. General description of the applicant's professional activities

Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, DSc graduated from PU in Bulgarian Philology in 1993 and immediately afterwards started working as a lecturer in Bulgarian language for foreign students at the Agrarian University in Plovdiv (1993-1995). From 1995 to 1998 he was a PhD student at the Department of Bulgarian Language at PU and defended his PhD thesis in 2000. He has successively held the positions of philology specialist (1999-2001), assistant professor (2001-2003), senior assistant professor (2003-2005) and chief assistant professor (2005-2010). Since 2010 he has held the academic position of Associate Professor in the Department of Bulgarian Language, from 2015 – to 2019 he was Vice Dean of Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Philology at PU, in 2019 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in Philology and was elected Dean of the Faculty of Philology (2019 - 2023). At the end of 2023 he was re-elected for that position. In the same year he was elected for the first time as head of the *Department of Bulgarian Language*. With the acquired managerial skills and competencies, he has established himself as a reputable leader who has organized the entrance exams and the state examinations at the faculty. He has also been a member of the state examination boards, etc. At the same time, he has conducted consistent academic research and has regularly participated in national and international scholarly forums. Combining theory with practice, K. Kutsarov applies his scholarly achievements and innovative approaches in his teaching practice of Contemporary Bulgarian Language (Morphology).

3.Characteristics of the applicant's scholarly and applied research

The materials submitted under the procedure are three monographs and three articles published after he was awarded the degree DSc. The materials meet the minimum national requirements for acquisition of the academic position *Professor*. The list of publications additionally includes one monograph, 42 articles, 35 of which have been published in Bulgaria and 7 abroad (Russia Hungary, Poland, Turkey), 13 scholarly and applied publications, co-authorship (in a collective volume), and two author's scholarly work summaries. The presented works reveal the author's scholarly interests in the field of the Contemporary Bulgarian language (Morphology) and refer to problems that fall within the competence of the applicant.

The major work in the submitted publications is the applicant's habilitation thesis - being the monograph *Theoretical Aspects of the Vocative Form in Bulgarian. The Morphological Category of Appellativity*, 2024 (135 p.). It consists of an introduction, 4 chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and a reference list of the excerpted materials. The topic

is well- chosen; it is related to the applicant's interest in problems of innovative character, in this case the grammatical structure of the Contemporary Bulgarian Language (CBL), the analysis of which comes to answer questions that even at the current thorough linguistic researches have not found solutions yet; namely, the nature of the vocative form and its place in the grammatical structure of the Bulgarian language. In the study the author focuses his attention on the vocative form, which has had a lasting presence in the grammatical structure of the Bulgarian language throughout the ages. His main task is to confirm with additional scholarly arguments the thesis that the Vocative is not a member of the grammatical category of Case (for the first time, as the author notes, this thesis was put forward by K. Popov, 1953) and to prove that its place in the grammatical structure of the CBL should be regarded as a separate, independent morphological category.

Consistently and with sufficiently clear arguments he proves this thesis in the 4 chapters of his study by examining the vocative forms and their evolution through the different periods of linguistic development - Old Bulgarian, Middle Bulgarian; Revival and Contemporary Bulgarian (from the 10th century to present). In the first chapter he presents a thorough review of 15 Revival grammars and the views of their authors on the question of the grammatical category of Case, on the one hand, and on the other, the respective classification of the Vocative Form in the grammatical system. In the second chapter he emphasizes the objective description presented by the authors as regards the nature, the functions and the characteristics of the vocative forms, and their specificity in particular instances. He draws the conclusion that none of the grammarians deny their Case Status and include the Vocative as a member of the grammatical category of Case. This categorization is quite natural, given the strong influence of the grammatical tradition of the time and the weak philological training of the grammarians themselves. In chapter three, K. Kutsarov makes a thorough analysis in which he notes the progress in the theoretical understanding of a number of issues related to the category of Case, the declensions and their definitions in the Bulgarian grammars that appeared in the Post-Liberation Period, in which the scholarly approach of their authors is already evident. Accordingly, he points out their achievements with regard to the vocative uses of the nominative declension (P. Kalkandzhiev, St. Mladenov and St. Popvasilev, N. Kostov, A. T. Balan, D. Popov), but on the other hand, he states that their grammars' case system continues to include the Vocative in the grammatical category of Case. K.Kutsarov points out the importance of L. Andreichin's *Basic Grammar of Bulgarian Language* (1944), as well as the usefulness of the linguistic debate that arose in the magazine *Bulgarian Language*, which gives

perspective to the further development of the issue of the categorization of the Vocative. A partial solution K. Kutsarov finds in the newly published Collective Grammar (L. Andreichin, K. Poropov, M. Ivanov, 1953) and underlines the contribution of K. Popov, who breaks the stereotype that has existed until then, by putting forward the thesis that the nature of Vocative does not comply with its categorization as a member of the grammatical category of Case. Out of the sight of the researchers, however, as the applicant notes, the question of the status and categorization of the vocative forms still remains open, and he takes up the challenge to continue the research and provide arguments on that significant linguistic issue discussed over time, which still has not been fully clarified. The subject matter is discussed in the fourth chapter of the monograph and in fact this is the most important part of his research in which he proves with scholarly arguments that the vocative form enters into a bipolar opposition with the unmarked basic form of the nouns, i.e. vocative –non-vocative opposition is formed, which gives grounds, according to the author, for the formation of the morphological category *Appellativity*. Partly this also affects the adjectives in masculine as regards agreement. Accordingly, he also notes the inflections in the vocative morphemes (-e, -o), less frequently -y in masculine., -o и -e in feminine, (напр. *любими, скъпи/ beloved, dear*).

4. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and objectives

The problem under consideration is not entirely new, it has partially attracted the attention of scholars, but for the first time the question of the status and categorization of the vocative forms is discussed in the present work in such a comprehensive and analytical manner both from diachronic and synchronic perspective. The topicality of the subject matter and the theses put forward in the analysis definitely mark the innovative author's approach in his research on the linguistic subject matter, building up a newly developed conceptuality, different from the traditional and stereotyped frames. The set goals and objectives have been fulfilled.

5. Scholarly contributions of the research

The present work is theoretical in nature and is the first complete scholarly study in Bulgarian linguistics concerning the nature and the status of the Vocative as non-member of the grammatical category of Case, categorizing it as a new morphological category - *appellativity* (within the word class of nouns that are masculine and feminine and in the word class of adjectives that are only masculine).

An extensive review is made with a critical analysis of the development of the vocative forms and their evolution during the different periods of linguistic development from the tenth

century to the present day. There is an in-depth analysis of the views of the Revival and post-Revival authors of grammars on the issues under consideration, highlighting the stereotyped nature of the former and the contributions of the latter to the research conducted.

The other two monographs presented by the applicant are also of an innovative character: 1. *The After-Transitivity in the Bulgarian Language* (2010), in which the author examines the means of its expression in the CBL on the basis of the theory of functional-semantic grammar. The focus in the research is primarily on the grammeme *FUTURE TENSE*. The next scholarly work 2. *Bulgarian Lexeme Classes and the Theory of Teaching the Parts of Speech* (2022) is a comprehensive study concerning the theory of parts of speech and the classification of lexemes of the Bulgarian vocabulary. It presents the author's concept of an innovative classification of parts of speech (word classes) and their subdivision on the basis of an innovative taxonomic model of twelve classes of lexemes in the Bulgarian language.

6. Critical comments and recommendations

I have none.

CONCLUSION

The works submitted for evaluation contain results with a definite contribution to the field of Bulgarian linguistics and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDAS), the Regulations for its Implementation and the Rulebook for the Development of the Academic Staff of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv. The applicant's habilitation thesis *Theoretical Aspects of the Vocative Form in the Bulgarian Language. The Morphological Category of Appellative*, 2024, as well as the rest of the submitted works definitely manifest **scholarly, scholarly-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to the linguistic field** and meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDAS), the Regulations for the Implementation, and the Rulebook on the Development of the Academic Staff of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

The results of the scholarly research of the applicant show that he possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills. For the above reasons, I confidently give **my positive assessment** of the results and contributions, identifiable in the applicant's scholarly works that I have reviewed and recommend that the Academic Review Board prepare a report with a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the selection of Assoc.

Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, DSc for the academic position of **Professor** at *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv in the Area of higher education **2. Humanities**, field of professional qualification **2.1. Philology**, academic area of specialization: Bulgarian language (Modern Bulgarian Language).

18.03.2024

Reviewer:.....

(signature)

Prof. Diana Ivanova, DSc