

REVIEW

by Prof Vera Tervel Marovska

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of the Faculty of Philology

at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to acquisition of the academic position Professor

at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

in filed of higher education: 2. Humanitarian Sciences;

professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language - Modern Bulgarian Language)

By order No. PD–21–384 dated 16.02.2024 of the Rector of the Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "professor" at PU in the field of higher education 2.1 Humanitarian Sciences; professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Modern Bulgarian language), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language, the Faculty of Philology at the University of Plovdiv.

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, No 96 of 17.11.2023 and on the website of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology of the PU, the only candidate is Assoc. Prof Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, PhD from the same department.

1. General presentation of the received materials

The documents presented by Assoc. Prof Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov include a set of an administrative-operational nature, meeting the requirements of the Regulations for the

development of the academic staff of the University of Plovdiv, as well as the scientific works and their annotations according to the legal requirements.¹

According to the requirements of National Centre for Information and Documentation /NACID/, the minimum number of points reflecting the academic activities of a candidate for the academic position of professor is 550 points.

Associate Professor K. Kutsarov has presented 2 dissertations – for awarding the scientific-educational degree Doctor of Philology *Posteriority in the Bulgarian Language*, published as a book with the same title (Plovdiv: University Publishing House "Paisiy Hilendarski", 2010, p. 175. ISBN 978-954-423-569-7.).

The second dissertation is for awarding the scientific degree Doctor of Science. In this procedure, it is not presented as a main habilitation thesis, but it is processed and published as a monograph titled: *Bulgarian Lexeme Classes and the Teaching of the Parts of Speech*. (Sofia: IC "Kolibri", 2022, p. 352. ISBN 978-619-02-1031-3).

The habilitation thesis for the professorship is the monograph *Theoretical Aspects of the Vocative Form in the Bulgarian Language. Morphological Category of Appellativeness*. (Plovdiv: Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, 2024, p. 137. ISBN 978-619-202-931-9).

The applicant's portfolio of documented activities also includes articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.

The next type of contribution activity of the candidate is citations and reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

Associate Professor Konstantin Kutsarov is the academic supervisor of the successfully defended doctoral students Milena Stoyanova Vidralska and Desislava Mincheva Dimitrova.

He is also the head of project No. ФП23-ФЛФ-008 at the Scientific Research Fund at the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" on the topic: *Preparation of a PR strategy for the commercialization of philological research at the University of Plovdiv* in accordance with the Decision of the

¹ 1. Request the rector for opening a procedure; 2. Europass CV; 3. Minutes of the preliminary discussion in the department; 4. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; 5. Reference for compliance with the specific requirements of the Philology Faculty of the PU; 6. Certificate of compliance with NACID requirements; 7. List of publications with which he participated in the competition and annotations for them; 8. List of cited works of the candidate; 9. Self-attestation of the candidate's scientific contributions; 10. Set of documents on paper based on the points described in the copies required by the Regulations on the development of the academic staff.

Board of the SRF from 21.04.2023 (protocol No. 3), approved by the Academic Council on 24.04.2023.

As a result of the described scientific research, teaching and scientific-organization activities, Associate Professor K. Iv. Kutsarov participates in the announced competition for a professorship with over 650 points (with a required minimum of 550 points).

2. Brief biographical information about the candidate.

Associate Professor Konstantin Iv. Kutsarov is born on 14.08.1968 in Varna. He graduated with a degree in Bulgarian Philology at the University of Plovdiv in 1993. From 1993 to 1995, he was a part-time assistant at Department of Foreign Students at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv; from 1999 to 2001 he was a philologist specialist at the Department of Bulgarian Language at PU. In 1995 he becomes a doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian Language under the supervision of Prof Y. Penchev from IBL at BAS. He defended his dissertation in 2000. In 2001, he became a full-time assistant at the department. He was promoted to senior assistant in 2003, and to chief assistant in 2005. He qualified as an associate professor in 2010, and in 2019 he defended his dissertation and obtained the scientific degree Doctor of Sciences.

From 2015 to 2019, he held the position of Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Philology. He has been its Dean since November 2019. In December 2023, he was also elected as the head of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology of the PU.

As is clear from the mentioned dates, the candidate's scientific-research, teaching and administrative-management work is focused on a smooth, consistent and continuous accumulation of the competence needed for the optimal realization of his diverse academic activity. He certainly cannot be reproached for personal preferences and inclinations; he has always dealt professionally with the many diverse challenges before him. The acquisition of the necessary experience and opportunities is evident in his work as the head of a large faculty with a complex network of specialties and diverse educational plans, where he was initially deputy dean in the department of the most important educational activity, and subsequently already a second term and its dean.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's work.

Regarding the teaching process in the faculty, it should be noted not only that Assoc. Prof K. Kutsarov has always been an undisputed authority for his students, but at the same time

he is their mentor and friend, relying on their support and appreciation. And this is a fact both for the present moment, when he is already in his mature age, but also for the earlier years, when he could not rely on a natural age distance from them. He is their advisor and a regular participant in student research and educational events.

Assoc. Prof K. Kutsarov has made a significant contribution to the shaping of the educational plans in recent years, to the emphasis and reductions placed in them, which to a minimum extent affect the general level of the student's scientific competence at the stage of completing the university education. He is among the initiators of the new, practically oriented form of state exams, the handling of which ensures the minimum level of knowledge and skills without which the students should not leave the classrooms on their way to becoming teachers.

On an individual level, Assoc. Prof Konstantin Kutsarov is a conscientious and responsible teacher, for whom the updating and modernization of his own teaching is an indispensable task. The support of his coworkers is the most accurate indicator of this.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied work:

The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof Konstantin Iv. Kutsarov characterizes him as one of the representatives of the Plovdiv school of theoretical grammar. This fact can be traced in all his studies, regardless of their scientific, popular science or practical-applied character.

1. The first manifestation of this fact is attention to the language system and its structural organization; the constantly dominant thought about the place and status of the studied phenomenon in the language system; respectively in its morphological system, in the paradigm, and the resulting relation to the presence or absence of categorial potential in the phenomenon under consideration. The system-linguistic specificity can be traced in almost all his articles, in the monograph on the parts of speech, in his habilitation thesis *Theoretical Aspects of the Vocative Form in the Bulgarian Language* (for the full title of the mentioned works, see the relevant lists in the documentation and on pp. 2 and 3 of this review). The continuation of the title: *Morphological Category Appellative* is indicative of the commented feature. The book describes not only the place of the so-called vocative forms in the language, but also considers the possibility that they form a systematically conditioned order of correlative units within the framework of a hitherto undescribed morphological category *Appellativeness*. And although the vocative forms, in our opinion, are rather a dying phenomenon, since fewer and fewer nouns can be placed in actively functioning vocative forms compared to the older state of the language (today these are only

personal nouns, and primarily the proper - with all the limitations typical for them too), the author's orientation is necessarily towards the system and its state, and not only towards the available forms and their factual description. It is clear that the vocative forms are not case forms (they found a place in the case paradigm only because the readership of the grammars from the Revival was the school education and the aspiration for its unification). The modern communication and the speech etiquette of formal communication largely exclude them from regular use, with the exception of etiquette formulas such as *господине, госпожо, другарю, другарко, etc.* under. In this sense, the vocative forms are more similar to the formal-grammatical characteristics of the lexical-grammatical order *personal: impersonal nouns* than to the grammeme of a grammatical category.

Although primarily with regard to the semantics of posteriority, in the book *Posteriority in the Bulgarian Language* (see p. 2) the author's attention is to the specificity of the semantic feature and its possible varieties depending on whether its expression has modal, temporal or aspectual character; whether it is in a subordinate relationship or not. The author has analyzed a large volume of linguistic material, which refers to various linguistic facts (forms for type, tense, yes-constructions with perfectives, subordinating phrases with modal verbs, etc.), linguistic phenomena of different status, characteristic of different segments from the language system. The preference for the *ще*-particle forming the positive future tense forms in the modern language is its origin from *хутѣти*, meaning a conscious mental process characteristic of persons. All other combinations with non-person subjects, animate and inanimate phenomena give rise to metaphors, and it is this metaphoricity of constructions that is the impetus for their semantic reinterpretation.

The last example of the obligatory general theoretical basis and the description of the language system as a whole that I will give is from the monograph on the parts of speech (see bibliographic description on p. 2), although it, as it turned out, is valid for almost the whole work of K. Kutsarov. This monograph traces in detail the emergence of the philosophical and linguistic theories of the lexeme classification *Parts of Speech* from Antiquity to the present day. It is the first knowledge of language and linguistic signs, and although it is fundamental for every and any linguistic description, K. Kutsarov's interest is as much in it as in the systemic linguistic relations and connections, traceable in the presence of phenomena, as well known and characteristic of the linguistic description, as well as in the nature of novelties of a discussion nature - e.g. for the personal pronouns *I, You and He* qualified as discursive; about the determinative and the special status of the participles - a

favorite topic of K. Kutsarov, which is quite closely related to his research preferences and part of his creative physiognomy.

2. The second feature of K. Kutsarov's work is his respect for the tradition in linguistic research, the respect for the views and contributions of the Renaissance and contemporary authors for the formation of any significant linguistic idea or theory. They are an indicator of the continuity in linguistics and of the fact that the new is born on the basis of the historical tradition and is its natural perspective. The works of Assoc. Prof K. Kutsarov have detailed historical overviews and in this sense are valuable also in view of the history of the Bulgarian grammar and the continuity in scientific interpretations of linguistic facts. Many of the articles, as well as parts of the author's monographs, which are specially dedicated to renowned Bulgarian and world linguists, also have a historical overview thematic scope.
3. Each selected topic is considered in detail and has a research essay dedicated to it only and to the extent that K. Kutsarov can offer a new scientific interpretation and qualification for it. For me personally, this is the most valuable thing in his work, although sometimes his suggestions seem to me too exotic, sometimes factually insufficiently argued or controversial. However, it is the consideration of such interpretations that produces innovative solutions that provoke and reject traditions.
4. For example: whether participles are a separate part of speech; whether the restated 3-part form is a non-participle, but something different from it; whether the analytical verb forms are syntactic constructions; whether present passive participles exist in the modern language, etc.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution.

As is almost a rule in relation to linguistic research, in the works of Assoc. Prof Konstantin Kutsarov there is no outside collegial interference. With the exception of project work, which is in most cases collective, his research has a markedly individual character - it is his personal work. There are no co-authored works among them.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations; personal impressions

I have known Assoc. Prof Konstantin Kutsarov since his admission to Plovdiv University. For most of the time from then until now, he has been engaged in linguistics - with

grammar and teaching the Bulgarian language. He never seemed to have any aspiration for his personal and professional development other than this. His growth, in every respect, proves the uprightness and sincere interest in his work. He is a graduate of the Plovdiv linguistic school and this can be traced in all aspects of his endeavors. Moreover, he is one of the zealous followers of this line of research and his works are a successful attempt to prove its correctness. When presented at scientific forums, the researches of Assoc. Prof K. Kutsarov are received with interest and provoke discussions, which is a reason for the authority of their author.

As a person working on the same problems as Assoc. Prof K. Kutsarov, I could and would be tempted to argue and comment on his reasoning when they do not coincide with mine. However, this is meaningless in this case, since the purpose of the review is different. Here I should give my assessment of the potential of this candidate to occupy the academic position of professor. And considering his activity - of any nature - I could confidently formulate only a positive ending to this text.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Associate Professor Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov in the peer-reviewed procedure meet all the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition has presented a greater number of scientific works than the minimum requirements of the NACID for holding the academic position of professor (published after the materials used in the defense of educational-scientific position "doctor" and the academic position of associate professor). His works include original scientific and applied contributions that have received peer recognition and have been published in journals and scientific collections issued by national and international academic publishing houses. Some of them are directly oriented towards academic work in the system of secondary and higher education. The scientific and teaching qualifications of K. Iv. Kutsarov is undoubted. The results achieved by him in the educational and scientific research activities fully correspond to the minimum national criteria and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of DASRBA.

Having reviewed and analyzed the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment of the scientific and teaching

work of the candidate and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report and proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Assoc. Prof Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov at the academic position of "Professor" at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in: field of higher education 2. *Humanitarian Sciences*; professional field 2.1. Philology (*Bulgarian language - Modern Bulgarian language*).

16.04.2024

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

(Prof Vera Marovska)