

REVIEW

by Stoyan Panayotov Burov – DSc., emeritus professor at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position "professor"

at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

by: field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional direction 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language – Modern Bulgarian language)

In the competition for a professor, announced in the State Gazette, no. 96 of 17.11.2023 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, as the only candidate participating is Assoc. Ph.D. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov from Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski.

1. General presentation of the received materials

By order No. PD-21-384 dated 16.02.2024 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of professor in the PU in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Contemporary Bulgarian language), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

To participate in the announced competition, the only candidate, Associate Professor Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, Doctor of Sciences, from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" submitted documents.

Presented by DSc. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov set of materials on paper is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU and includes the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae (European format)
- List of scientific works
- List of citations

- Certificate of compliance with the minimum requirements for holding the position
- Annotations of works
- Self-assessment of contributions

The candidate Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov has submitted a total of 6 scientific works, of which 3 are monographs and a list of 3 scientific research works. 6 scientific works that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final evaluation. The works are published in Bulgaria.

The production presented for participation in the competition is only a small part of the total number of works of the candidate. From the list of publications it is clear that he has 1 published monograph, 12 scientific and applied publications (mostly co-authored), 1 textbook (co-authored), 35 articles published in Bulgaria, 7 articles published abroad, 1 review.

2. Brief biographical data of the applicant

Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov (1968) has been awarded the educational and scientific degree of doctor since 2001 after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic of *Следходността в българския език*. In 2019, he obtained the scientific degree Doctor of Sciences after successfully defending his dissertation on the topic of *Българските лексемни класове и учението за частите на речта*. Since 2010, he has been an associate professor at the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. He was the deputy dean of the faculty for academic activities. Since 2019, he has been the dean of the Faculty of Philology, and since 2023 he has also been the head of the Department of Bulgarian Language. His main scientific activities are in the field of the morphology of the Bulgarian language. He has lectured on all sections of the modern Bulgarian language with an emphasis on the morphology course.

3. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, the only candidate in the competition for professor of modern Bulgarian language, has a long, rich and successful educational and pedagogical, research and administrative activity in the department, the faculty and the university. He has passed through all degrees in his scientific and administrative career: PhD student, assistant professor (since 2001), associate professor (since 2010), doctor (since 2000), doctor of sciences (since 2019). He has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the department he is a member of and has been leading since 2023, as well as to the development of the Faculty of Philology,

of which he was deputy dean for academic activities for one term and dean for the second term, as it is now. From the indirect data at my disposal, I can judge that he is an attractive teacher with non-standard approaches in his teaching activity, whose lectures, in which he includes the results of his own research work, gather a large audience. His activity related to candidate student exams in Bulgarian deserves high praise. For many years, he was the chairman of the commission for checking and evaluating candidate student works in Bulgarian, author and co-author of 12 study aids and tests in Bulgarian language for the preparation of candidate students. He was the supervisor of two doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertations.

In the competition for professorship, he participated with three monographs, namely: (1) *Теоретични аспекти на звателната форма. Морфологична категория апелативност* (2024) – main habilitation thesis in the competition; (2) *Българските лексемни класове и учението за частите на речта* (2022); (3) *Следходността в българския език* (2010). In addition, he submitted 3 articles for evaluation, the issues of which are related to the topic of the parts of speech.

I will focus my attention from here on on the habilitation professorship *Теоретични аспекти на звателната форма. Морфологична категория апелативност*, published in 2024 by the Plovdiv University Publishing House.

The monograph, in the amount of 135 pages, consists of an Introduction, Conclusion, Bibliography, List of excerpted sources and 4 chapters.

The first three chapters have a linguohistoriographical value. The first is dedicated to the vocative forms and their place in the case system in Old Bulgarian and Middle Bulgarian; the second - how the vocative forms are presented in our revival grammars; the third - how the vocative forms are presented in the new Bulgarian systematic grammars and in some monographs. As a historian of Bulgarian linguistics, I fully approve this detailed description of the opinions on the development of the category of case and declension and on the place of the vocative form: in the system of cases or outside the system of cases, which are so reduced that they lead to the complete destruction of the category, preserving only the vocative form, whose status changes into an independent morphological category. I think that in the historiographical review, more space should have been devoted to the presentation of the vocative forms in the school textbooks published after the Liberation, although I agree with the author's observation that no significant changes in the interpretation can be found in these grammars of the cases and in the description of the vocative form (pp. 67-68).

The author focuses his attention on several grammatical works and statements that reflect the evolution in the treatment of cases and vocative forms: the grammar of G. Mirkovich from 1860, who was the first to "dare" to reject the paradigmatic expression of the case forms (pp. 49-51); the opinion of K. Popov from 1953 that "The vocative form serves to express an address and not a syntactic relationship", therefore it is not a case (p. 85); the opinion of Il. Garavalova, who "appears to be the first Bulgarian linguist who finds the place of grammatic vocativeness in a separate morphological structure outside the case category" (p. 108).

In the course of the very precise critical linguistic-historical exposition, the main thesis of the author is advanced and defended, that when the case system of the Bulgarian language breaks down on the basis of the grammaticalization of the living vocative form, a new nominal morphological category, called appellative, is built, the members of which form the vative opposition vocative-vocative with a marked article vocative, which in a formal aspect finds expression in the system of vocative forms of masculine and feminine nouns, nouns and proper names. The category is characterized by a defect with respect to neuter nouns and with all plural nouns, and with a partial obligation of grammatical meaning, because address can be expressed and is quite often expressed with female and male proper personal names with the unmarked article, with diminutive names, with article forms and constructions, e.g. *Младежа, буден ли си?* (example on p. 117), *Младежа със зеленото яке, падна Ви портмонето!*, with interjections, etc. In individual cases, there are also structural limitations in the implementation of appealability with the vocative form, e.g. *Сава* and *Сава!*, *Никола* and *Никола!*, *Методу* and *Методу!*, especially with personal names of foreign origin, e.g. *Маруо* and *Маруо!*. Here I would like to draw the author's attention to the fact that in the vocative forms of -o and -e the two vowels in oral speech are never reduced, even though they are not stressed, even in the East-Bulgarian dialects, where reduction is very strong, cf. *Желю*, but *Жельо!*, *Кръстю*, but *Кръстьо!*. The same is the case with neuter nouns, cf. [момйчи], but *момйче!*, [кўчи], but *кўче!*. Thus, the form with an unreduced vowel, which is not stressed, can be considered as a distinctive feature in the realization of appellativeness. This observation can also be commented on in view of the interesting hypothesis of Kotova and Yanakiev, cited in the author's work, that the inflections -e and -o were originally interjections standing in postposition to names and gradually turned into inflections (p. 106).

The fourth chapter *Категориален статус на звателната форма. Морфологична категория апелативност* (pp. 111-123), although in a concise form, fully presents the theoretical views of the author on the subject:

1. In the modern Bulgarian language, there is a morphological category of appeal, based on the binary opposition vocative - non-vocative. The category is characteristic of nouns along with the categories of gender, number and definiteness - indefiniteness. With adjectives, the category has a concordant status, i.e. it is a formal category.

2. The historical development of vocative forms has led to a reduction of their formal inventory, and in the modern language, vocativeness is signaled by the inflections -e, -o, -u, -i. The reason for the inflectional reduction is the reduced number of vowels in our modern language compared to Old Bulgarian.

3. Syntactically, the vocative form is either a subject, when the predicate is fulfilled by a verb in the imperative mood, or an object, if the subject is expressed with a pronoun form, or a side word in the sentence (address).

4. In modern Bulgarian speech, there is a "shrinking" of the use of vocative forms at the expense of non-vocalic correlates. A pragmatic factor also intervenes in this process.

5. In the historical evolution of the vocative gramme, the formal factor plays a huge role. The trend towards the loss of vowel forms and vowel inflections is catalyzed by the historical reduction in the number of vowel sounds.

6. The category of appeal is characterized by the so-called implicative implementation of the grammatical meaning: the presence of the grammatical meaning of appeal implies the absence of the grammatical meaning of definiteness; the realization of the grammatical meaning of title implies the presence of the grammatical meaning for the singular and the absence of the meaning for the plural.

In conclusion, I will point out that the habilitation work of the candidate for professorship is a mature work of high scientific value. Here the author has fully realized his scientific potential, stated in his previous works. Although not large in volume, this monograph represents a peak in Konstantin Kutsarov's work. The language is extremely precise, the analyzes are convincing, the usual provocative hypotheses and these are absent from his previous works. The author offers us an innovative work that enriches contemporary Bulgarian grammatical thought.

It seems to me that the author can continue his observations on the topic and consider the morphological category of appellativeness as the nucleus of a grammatical category of the same name, which will allow him to cover all means - grammatical and ungrammatical - of expressing appellativeness in the field of the address.

Since I have already reviewed his capital work *Българските лексемни класове и учението за частите на речта* (2022), see *Journal of Български език*, 2022, № 3, pp. 110-114, and I have given my positive assessment of it, I will not consider it in detail, but only in abbreviated form I will present its main contributions to the theory and practice of learning about the parts of the speech. According to the author, there are 12 parts of speech: discursive, noun, countable noun, adjective, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction, particle, determinative, interjection. Pronouns have been dropped from the "traditional" 10 parts of speech, instead the author adds three new parts to the list: participle, determinative, discursive. His view on communion as a separate part of speech is already known to the reader from the book „Българското причастие“ (2012), as well as from some of his articles. Pronouns are not considered as a separate part of speech and in some works of Russian linguists, i.e. The position of K. Kutsarov does not come in an empty place. The question of the peculiarities of pronouns among other parts of speech is also raised in R. Nitsolova's book. In principle, pronouns could actually "scatter" among other parts of speech depending on what they replace or refer to: pronominal nouns, pronominal adjectives, pronominal counts, pronominal adverbs. Until now, there is no unity in most of the works of Bulgarian linguists: pronominal adverbs are considered as a type of adverb, while the rest are considered proper pronouns. This contradiction is removed in R. Nitsolova's book. K. Kutsarov proceeds in the following way: he separates personal pronouns into a separate part of speech called "discursive", and he refers the other known types of pronouns to nouns, adjectives and adverbs. The author assumes that for a given class of modifiable full-meaning words to be a separate part of speech, it is necessary that all words of the class possess at least one common grammatical category. In this sense, the pronouns do not really form a homogeneous group. Ordinal numerals are correctly assigned to the class of adjectives. Like St. Georgiev K. Kutsarov separates the modal particles into the "determinatives" part of speech, but does not find sufficient grounds for separating so-called predicative adverbs into the "pre-dictatives" part of speech. In this point, his objections do not take into account some serious arguments presented in the works of Yu. Maslov, especially R. Rusinov and others. The terms determinative and discursive are at this stage accepted as working terms.

The rest of the author's works, submitted for participation in the competition, complete the picture with scientific research and achievements in the field of Bulgarian grammar.

The author has indicated a total of 11 citations of the works submitted for participation in the competition. He fulfilled and re-fulfilled the minimum requirements for holding the position of professor.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

The presented works are entirely created by the author, whose writing style and creatively innovative handwriting are so original that they cannot be mistaken for another.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks, some recommendations were made in the course of my presentation.

6. Personal impressions

I have excellent personal impressions of the author, colleague and man Konstantin Kutsarov. I know almost all of his scientific work, I follow his speeches with interest, and I think that he already fully deserves the position of professor. Like his other colleagues from the University of Plovdiv and in accordance with long-standing academic traditions, he declared his candidacy for a professorship after defending a major doctorate, a commendable practice which in recent years, due to loopholes in the law, has been completely distorted.

Conclusion

I unreservedly support the candidacy of Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov for professor of 2. Humanities, 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Modern Bulgarian language) and in this sense I recommend the scientific jury to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the implementation of the selection.

April 16, 2024

Reviewer:

Prof. DSc. Stoyan Burov