

REVIEW STATEMENT

by Prof. VANYA IVANOVA ZIDAROVA, DSc,

Professor at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv

on the materials submitted

for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor*

at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv

In the Sphere of higher education 2. *Humanities*

Area of professional qualification 2.1. *Philology* (Bulgarian Language – Contemporary Bulgarian Language)

General presentation of the procedure and the applicant. Following Order № ПД-21-384 from 16.02.2024 of the Rector of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv (PU) I have been appointed a member of the Academic Review Board for the academic position of *Professor* at PU in the Sphere of higher education 2. Humanities; area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Contemporary Bulgarian Language), which was opened for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

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 the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv, is Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, DSc who works at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials submitted by Konstantin Kutsarov is in accordance with the Rulebook for Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University and comprises the following documents: a list of scholarly works, annotations of the scholarly publications, a list of citations, a self-assessment of the scholarly contributions, a reference form concerning the fulfilment of the minimal national requirements for the academic position of Professor (650 points vs. the required 550), three monographs.

General characteristics of the applicant's professional activities. Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, DSc is an established and respected scholar and lecturer at the University of Plovdiv. His activities are diverse and cover the most important aspects of academic work – teaching, research and administrative duties. The main part of his teaching work comprises lectures on Bulgarian morphology in the BA and MA degree programmes. Currently Assoc. Prof. K. Kutsarov is the Dean of the Faculty of Philology and a first-term Head of the Department of Bulgarian. His re-election for a second term as Dean is a testament to his successful administrative work and the respect he has earned among the faculty.

Assessment of the candidate's research activity. The candidate has submitted three monographs to the competition for *Professor*, his habilitation thesis being the monograph *Theoretical Aspects of the Vocative Form in Bulgarian. The Morphological Category of Appellativity* (Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, 2024, ISBN 978-619-202-931-9). The main objective of the study is to present a new vision of the nature of the vocative forms, which the author manages to achieve through a profound analysis of the general linguistic view on case as a grammatical form. The Bulgarian vocative forms are presented as part of the nominal paradigm and are meticulously examined diachronically. This is done through their analysis in the Old Bulgarian and Middle Bulgarian periods, as well as through an overview on the information about them in the Bulgarian Revival grammars and the Contemporary Bulgarian grammars. The author attributes a categorial status to the vocative forms in the contemporary Bulgarian language and establishes an independent morphological category called appellativity. The category is based on the binary opposition vocativity : non-vocativity, the marked grammeme being vocativity which is formally opposed to the so-called basic form of the substantive. In his study K. Kutsarov holds that the vocative is not a part of the case-system, since it does not refer to syntactic relations in the sentence and does not need a syntactic environment to realize its semantics. The author's theoretical reasoning is accompanied by an analysis of semantic realizations, types of forms, formal markers, and types of syntactic usages.

Assoc. Prof. Kutsarov's publications cover the period 1995 – 2023, including publications both before and after he obtained the current academic position of Associate Professor and the current scientific degree of Doctor of Science. The presented list of publications includes: one monograph (The Bulgarian Participle. Plovdiv University Press. Plovdiv, 2012, ISBN 978-954-423-813-1), 12 scholarly and applied publications, co-authorship in a collective volume (Bulgarian Language. Textbook for Foreign Medical Students, Plovdiv, 2005), 36 articles published in Bulgaria and 7 articles published abroad. The main topics that have aroused Assoc. Prof. Kutsarov's research interests include theoretical morphology, verb morphology, the taxonomy of lexeme classes, the semantics of verb categories, the participle system in the Bulgarian language. Assoc. Prof. Kutsarov's overall research output presents him as a scholar who, knowing in detail the grammatical tradition, strives to express an original and unconventional opinion.

Assoc. Prof. K. Kutsarov's scholarly works are proof of the author's lasting interest in the issues in Bulgarian morphology and they stand out for their theoretical depth, innovative thinking, bold research positions and consistency of ideas. Assoc. Prof. K. Kutsarov's stature and role are evidenced by the citations of his research by representatives of the Bulgarian linguistic community.

Conclusion. The documents and accompanying materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Ivanov Kutsarov, DSc meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of

Academic Staff at the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rulebook for the Application of LDASRB and the corresponding Rulebook of the *Paisii Hilendarski* Plovdiv University. The applicant has submitted a substantial number of scholarly works which contain original scholarly contributions and are published in prestigious academic journals and volumes. His theoretical and practical works are without a doubt of a contributory nature and present the candidate as a researcher possessing theoretical depth and striving for an original approach. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kutsarov, DSc are unquestionable.

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scholarly publications submitted for the purposes of this position, having analyzed their significance and the contributions entailed in them, I confirm my positive assessment, as expressed above, and recommend to the Scholarly board to prepare a report 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 the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv in the Sphere of higher education 2. *Humanities*, area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Contemporary Bulgarian Language).

15.04. 2024 г.

Reviewer:
(signature)

Prof. Vanya Zidarova, DSc