

## OPINION

by Prof. Kalina Grozeva Lukova, DSn, lecturer at Burgas Free University

on the material submitted for participation in the competition for  
or occupying the academic position “Associate Professor”  
of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv

in: higher education field 2. The Humanities

professional line 2.1. Philology

(Antique and Western European literature: comparative study of literature)

In the competition for ‘Associate Professor’ announced in State Gazette #96 dated 17.11.2023 and on the webpage of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv for the needs of Department “History of literature and comparative theory of literature” at the Philological Faculty of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv, Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva from UP ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ participated as a sole candidate.

### 1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

I was nominated, by order No. RZZ-2175 dated 16.0.2024 the Rector of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv (UP), as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” at UP in the higher education field 2. The Humanities, professional line 2.1. Philology (Antique and Western European Literature: comparative study of literature), announced for the needs of Department “History of literature and comparative study of literature” at the Philological Faculty of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv.

The sole candidate: Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva from UP ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ has filed documents for participation in the announced competition.

The set of material on paper submitted by Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva is in conformity with the Regulations on the development of the academic membership in UP and it includes the following documents: application in the form approved by the Rector for admission to participate in the competition; European format CV; diploma of higher education with acquired educational-qualification degree “Master”; diploma of acquired educational and scientific degree “Doctor”; list of scientific works; scientific works (copies of publications); declaration for co-authorship; list of quotes; reference for the conformity with the minimum national requirements; declaration of originality and authenticity

of the attached documents; certificate of labour experience; documents for scientific work; documents for scientific-research work; other document.

The candidate, Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva, has attached total of 37 scientific works – 34 articles, 3 monographs, 29 reports from participation in conferences – national and international, participations in four projects, in two compilation of anthologies. Covering the habilitation topic are 1 monograph and 10 articles; on the dissertation – 2 monographs and 11 articles; on other topics – 13 articles. The distribution of the scientific works in the relevant headings, in the country and abroad, is as follows: 1 monograph on the dissertation topic, 3 articles on the habilitation paper topic, and 6 articles on other topics have been published abroad, and the remaining – in Bulgarian editions. Noted are 2 quotations in monographs and volumes with scientific reviewing and 4 – in non-referred magazines with scientific reviewing.

## **2. Brief biographic data of the candidate**

Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva graduated in 1998 ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ UP majoring “Bulgarian and French”, in 2007 – regular doctoral studies under code 05.04.06 – Antiques and Western European Literature at ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ UP, in 2008 – joints doctoral studies in French code Comparative Studies of Literature at Artois University in France. Since 2009 she is an assistant and since 2011 until now she is senior assistant in Department “History of literature and comparative study of literature” at the Philological Faculty of ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ University of Plovdiv.

The candidate has the necessary lecturing, scientific and professional experience as regards the announced competition.

## **3. General characteristics of candidate’s activity**

The academic work and tutorial activity of Senior Assistant Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva is rich and deserves a high praise. It encompasses exercises and lecture courses in Antique and Western European Literature with various specialities, lectures for Master programs at ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ UP; lectures and exercises in Antique and Western European Literature at the ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ UP branch in Smolyan.

Senior Assistant Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva is performing impressive tutorial work abroad under the Erasmus programme at universities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece, Poland, Germany, Spain.

Senior Assistant Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva was academic advisor of 12 students engaged on degree thesis, who successfully defended their diploma papers. She is taking part in working commission of department and faculty levels.

The attached documents correctly verify the various training courses.

The scientific works on the habilitation thesis are reviewed.

### **I. Monographs**

The monograph “Premodernism characteristics of Maupassant’s works” reflects many years of Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva’s research observations inspired also by her research work. The concept and the scientific hypothesis of presence of postmodernism artistic specifics – deviations from the realistic and naturalistic poetics of Maupassant are based on a solid theoretical matrix, through which she problematizes the notions: mimesis (through Plato, Aristotle, Auerbach), modernity and modernism – through the ideas of Baudelaire and Jamison, repetition, semblance, social realism, etc. The movement towards the analytic projections is compacted by the built in detail historical, esthetic, biographic contexts, including also through the presentation of Maupassant’s creative method.

Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva is proving her hypothesis of manipulations of the mimetic technique in Maupassant’s works through original and adequate analyses of premodernism breakthroughs.

In the non-traditional interpretation of the personal name Madeleine and the image of St. Mary Magdalene the prototype is halved into two reflections, disparaging the well-known image of the saint.

In the premodernism game of repetitions, semblances, ostensibilities, Sonya Aleksandrova-Koleva convincingly analyzes the creation of the so called “hollow images and copies” through the technique of image-making and false notions.

Productive and contributive is the research of the fine art in Maupassant’s literary text: the use of the picturesque pseudo-ekphrasis and of typical peculiarities of Ars Nouveau, mostly floral elements, as amimetic techniques in their ambivalence. an exceptionally positive moment is the work with the original texts in French, which enhances the reliability of the analytic conclusions.

I fully accept the correct self-evaluation of the contributions. The habilitation work is an innovatory, systematic and primary study of the premodernism in Maupassant’s works.

### **II. Articles on the habilitation work topic**

The presented articles can be reviewed as with scientific, as well as with scientific-applied significance. The texts, which prepare the habilitation work, study: techniques of the modern; Maupassant’s Madeleines; image-making in recreating the image; repetitions and duplications in the novel ‘Strong as Death’; pseudo-ekphrasis in the novel ‘Bel-Ami’ as an

experiment with the mimetic image; the floral elements in the interior as projections of *Ars Nouveau*.

In the article about the Arabs in Maupassant's short stories, the double perspective of the character – as foreigner and as one of our own is presented.

Scientific-applied significance has also the article (in co-authorship) 'The artistic text – lingual-cultural atelier for developing communicative competency', which describes the interpretative work on 'Bel-Ami' for educative purpose.

### **Conclusion**

The documents and the materials submitted by Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva **meet all requirements** of the Law on the development of the academic membership in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the application of said law and the relevant Regulations of 'Paisii Hilendarski' UP.

The candidate for the competition has presented **significant** number of scientific works, published after the materials used for the defense of the educational scientific degree "Doctor". The works has high scientific-research and educative-applied value. The scientific contributions of Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva, DS<sub>n</sub>, are indisputable upon the use of modern methodology of productive research of new literary problematics. The scientific and tutorial qualification of Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva is **unquestionable**.

The results achieved by the candidate in the educational and scientific-research activity is **in full** conformity with the minimum national and the additional requirements of the Philology Faculty adopted in relation with the Regulations of UP for the application of the Law on the development of the academic membership in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting familiar with the submitted for the competition materials and scientific works, analysis of their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained therein, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** appraisal and **to** recommend to the Scientific Jury to draft a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Philology Faculty for election of Senior Assistant Sonya Krasimirova Aleksandrova-Koleva on the academic position of "Associate Professor" at 'Paisii Hilendarski' UP in: higher education field 2. The Humanities, professional line 2.1. Philology (Antique and Western European Literature: comparative theory of literature)

10.03.2024

**Opinion prepared by:** Prof. Kalina Grozeva Lukova, DS<sub>n</sub>