

REVIEWER'S OPINION

by Prof. Kina Atanasova Vachkova, PhD,

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Department of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Philology, in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian Language (Contemporary Bulgarian Language)

The only candidate in the competition for the position of Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 32 of 09.04.2024, and on the internet-page of Plovdiv University, for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, is **chief assistant Bistra Vassileva Dikova, PhD**.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

I was appointed as a member of the academic jury in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Plovdiv University in the field of higher education 2. Philology. Bulgarian Language (Contemporary Bulgarian Language), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, by Order No. RD-21-1383 of 25.06.2024, issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University.

The only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is **Bistra Vassileva Dikova, PhD, senior assistant at Plovdiv University**.

The set of materials submitted by Bistra Dikova is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University. The candidate has submitted a total of 34 academic papers. Of these, 9 are not on the topic of her doctoral dissertation: 1 monograph, 2 textbooks, 5 articles, 1 review. They are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final evaluation. 1 of them has been published abroad and the rest – in Bulgaria, mainly in Plovdiv University academic editions.

2. Brief biographical details about the candidate

Bistra Vassileva Dikova graduated in Slavonic Philology from the Faculty of Education of Plovdiv University in July 1985 (Czech language and literature, Bulgarian language and literature, a teacher of Bulgarian language and literature). From 01.06.1987 she started working as a philologist-specialist at the Department of Bulgarian language at the Faculty of Philology in Plovdiv University. After a competition procedure on 18.12.1995 he became an assistant professor, on 01.01.2000 she became a senior assistant professor, and on 14.07.2014 – a chief assistant professor. On 14.07.2014 she acquired a doctoral degree in field 2. Humanities, 2.1. Philology. She has had specialisations in Brno, Czech Republic.

3. General description of candidate's work

Evaluation of the candidate's teaching and pedagogical work. Bistra Dikova has prepared and given 4 lecture courses to BA students on Phonetics of the modern Bulgarian language (to students of Bulgarian philology, Bulgarian and Russian language, Bulgarian language and history), Lexicology of the modern Bulgarian language (to students of Bulgarian philology, Bulgarian and Russian language, Bulgarian language and history), Stylistics of the modern Bulgarian language (to students of Bulgarian German language, Bulgarian language and history, Bulgarian language and citizenship education), and Phonetics and Lexicology for non-specialist Masters students. She has developed and taught these courses as seminars both in the above-mentioned and in a number of

other philology courses at Plovdiv University. She is the author of textbooks on aspects of modern Bulgarian language on which she has given lectures and seminars, such as "Indirect Uses of Verb Forms (Comparison between Bulgarian and Czech). Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2024, 226 pages. ISBN 978-619-202-963-0; 2. Phonetics, Phonology, Speech etiquette. Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2024, 122 pages. ISBN978-619-202-966-1.

Evaluation of the candidate's academic and applied research.

Contributions (academic and applied) and citations

Particular attention should be paid to the monograph "Content Beyond Form. Linguistic analysis of literary text". 2024, 234 pages. Paisii Hilendarski Publishing House. ISBN 978-619-202-956-2.

As the title suggests, the monograph is devoted to the problems of linguistic analysis of literary text. The author offers definitions of important linguistic and stylistic terms which constitute the basis of linguistics. Controversial issues are taken up, especially as regards the classification of stylistically marked linguistic units and stylistic devices in speech. The stylistic potential of units from different linguistic levels is explored. The most frequently used terms at phonetic level are defined, and at the lexical level, the connotative possibilities of different types of words are examined according to the neutral-expressive lexical classification. In connection with the semantic and formal relations between words, some stylistic devices, defined as semantic figures, are also described. At the morphological level, the potential of morphemes is analyzed, with more attention given to grammatical morphemes and word forms. At the syntactic level, the author describes the stylistic functions of sentences depending on the speaker's communicative intent, the means of expression and the techniques based on shortening or expanding the neutral sentence pattern, or on displacement. The book also includes three exemplary linguistic analyses of literary texts belonging to different genres - M. Basheva's poem "Gnoseology", the short story "Temptation" by Elin Pelin, and L. Karavelov's "Bulgarians of Old Time".

The main contribution of the monograph is related to the theory of linguistic stylistic analysis. This theory has been developed in its individual aspects, but there is no generalized and focused study as such. It is important to note that examples of its application are also presented. In examining the basic terms and concepts in linguistic stylistics, the author makes a new qualification of stylistic techniques, traditionally called *tropes* and *figures*. She proves that the definition of tropes as a variety of figures is not appropriate - the mechanism of figures is related to the reflection of syntagmatic relations in the speech. Another interesting contribution is the delineation of a variety of repetition that has not been studied before: the repetition of formally matching root morphemes that may be identical, but may also be homonymous.

It is obvious that these contributions are the candidate's personal achievement. They refer to the formulation of a new problem; the substantiation of a new hypothesis; the demonstration by new means of significant new aspects of already existing scientific fields, and creation of new classifications.

In the book "Indirect Uses of Verb Forms (comparison between Bulgarian and Czech)", Plovdiv: Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2024, 226 p., ISBN 978-619-202-963-0, the author presents the possible transpositions of verb forms in the Bulgarian language in comparison with the Czech language. Some basic stylistic terms are defined, with particular attention paid to the term transposition. The following definition is formulated: the morphological transposition is the use for expressive purposes of one grammatical form instead of another, where both the marked members of the grammatical category and the unmarked member in the main sense may be involved in this process. The transpositions of verbal forms are discussed in detail in the following categories: person and number, tense, taxis, type of action, inflection, type of utterance, type of verb, and voice. The comparison with the Czech language is made first at the systematic level, then at the level of figurative or indirect usages.

"Phonetics. Phonology. Speech etiquette". Plovdiv. Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2024, 123 pages. ISBN978-619-202-966-1. The book aims to describe and systematize the basic units at the phonetic level - phonemes. The classifications of phonemes and their phonological content are discussed. The suprasegmental phonological units are described, as well as the regularities in the structuring of the Bulgarian syllable. Contemporary sound changes are presented not only in terms of their nature, but also in terms of their relationship to speech etiquette. Special attention is given to phonemic transcription, which is particularly useful in solving some spelling and pronunciation problems. The book also contains tasks for self-study.

"Observations on the vocabulary of administrative and business style. Bulgarian Studies Szeged 2017. Szeged: JATEPress, 2017, pp. 103 - 110. ISBN 9633153654, 9789633153659". The article aims to trace the changes occurring in the lexicon of administrative-business style in recent decades in relation to new socio-political conditions. The conclusions are based on the analysis of legislative texts from different fields. The necessary new nominative vocabulary is acquired in various ways. As far as the borrowing of foreign words is concerned, administrative texts prove to be relatively impenetrable. Most of the newly borrowed words belong to the international lexicon. By way of primary nomination, mainly complex words with a clear internal form are created. In contradiction to the tendency of borrowing and creating new words is the tendency of preserving rather archaic lexical units. Particular attention is paid to the restoration of the old present participle, which begins precisely in business texts.

"On the connotative potential at the morphological level. Scientific Works of P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv", vol. 53, no. 1, collection A, 2015. Plovdiv, 2016, pp. 231-239". The article describes the different possibilities of morphemes to realize connotative functions. The synonymous relations between grammatical morphemes and word forms and their figurative use in speech are differentiated. The author's attention is focused on the mechanism of grammatical metaphor. The term grammatical transposition is defined, and some controversial issues are clarified. The uses of the reported forms known as admiratives are defined as one of the directions in the development of perfect forms, rather than as transposition. Grammatical transpositions within the different morphological categories are summarized. The implementation of the repetition principle in morphemes is identified as controversial.

"On the new words in the modern Bulgarian language. Academic works of P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, vol. 55, no. 1, collection. A, 2017. Plovdiv, 2018, pp. 52-58". In recent years, the Bulgarian language has been developing and changing very rapidly in line with the changes in social development, political life, everyday life and the development of new technologies. One of the most important issues is the borrowing and the creation of new lexemes that are nominatively necessary. The analyzed examples are excerpted from commercial advertising materials and represent names of new household objects and appliances. The new words emerge as a result of various processes; English names are borrowed as they are, words are built up from domestic or foreign ingredients. The possibilities of primary nomination by affixation and composition are actively used.

"Templates and Clichés. Scientific works of P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, vol. 58, no. 1, collection. A, 2020. Plovdiv, 2020, pp. 262 - 272". The article deals with an issue related to contemporary stylistic terminology. A distinction is made between the terms cliché and pattern, which are used in speech as synonyms and with a negative connotation. A cliché is defined as a stable, reproducible linguistic unit that is separately shaped but has a unified semantics. The templates are persistent uses of different linguistic units, "worn out" by frequent use, which is why they have a negative semantic and stylistic effect. The templates are classified according to their origin and illustrated with examples from the contemporary press and colloquial speech.

"Textbooks on Bulgarian stylistics at the turn of □□ century. Scientific Works of P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, vol. 59, no. 1, coll. A, 2021. Plovdiv". The article discusses the

first Bulgarian textbooks on stylistics, published at the turn of XX century by Puhlev, B. Angelov and V. Yordanov. The establishing of stylistics as an independent science, its differentiation from rhetoric has its origin in these textbooks. The first Bulgarian authors did not create original concepts, but they were familiar with the achievements of European research. The texts written more than a century ago set the pattern for systematic stylistic descriptions; much of the reasoning in them is still relevant today. The precision of the definitions of the various tropes and stylistic figures is remarkable.

The citations of B. Dikova's research confirm the importance of her contributions. There are citations of 5 works of the candidate. The most cited (3 times each) are the papers "On the so-called present participle with regard to functional stylistics" and "On the question of the indirect uses of the present tense form in Bulgarian and Czech". As an example of citation in an authoritative publication we will point out the paper "On the question of *уе (ѡа)* formations in the modern Bulgarian language (in comparison with Czech)", cited in Nitsolova, R. "Bulgarian Grammar. Morphology. Sofia. Kl. Ohridski University Press", 2008.

The enclosed reference for the minimum requirements submitted by chief assistant. Bistra Dikova, PhD, shows that with required 400 points, she has completed 455, i.e. 55 more.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials, presented by chief assistant Bistra Vassileva Dikova, PhD, **comply with all the requirements** of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of research papers published after the materials used in the defense of her PhD. The candidate's works contain original academic and applied contributions. Her theoretical findings have practical applicability, some of them being directly oriented towards teaching. The academic and teaching qualification of chief assistant Bistra Vassileva Dikova is accepted without doubt.

The achievements of chief assistant Bistra Vassileva Dikova, PhD, in teaching and research fully comply with the minimum national and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in the Regulations of Plovdiv University for the implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

As a result of reviewing the materials and the research presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the theoretical and applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive evaluation of the candidate and recommend that the Academic Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the promotion of chief assistant Bistra Vassileva Dikova, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, in higher education area 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian Language (Modern Bulgarian Language).

10.08.2024

Reviewer:.....

Prof. Kina Vachkova, PhD