

REVIEW

By Professor Krasimira Slavcheva Aleksova, D. Sc., Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

of the materials presented for participation in the competition
for the academic position of **Professor**
at the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities
professional specialization 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language)

Associate Professor Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD, Bulgarian Language Department at the Philological Faculty of the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”, has entered the competition for the position of Professor, announced in *Darzhaven vestnik*, No 98 of November 19, 2024, and in the website of the University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Bulgarian Language Department at the Philological Faculty of the University of Plovdiv.

1. General presentation of the submitted materials

By order No. RD-22-438, dated 18.02.2025, of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisiy Hilendarski” (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific committee responsible for the competition for the position of Professor at PU in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional specialization 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language), announced for the needs of the Bulgarian Language Department at the Philological Faculty.

The **only applicant** in the competition is Associate Professor Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD, from the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”.

The documents submitted by Associate Professor Krasimira Chakarova, digitally and in hard copies, are in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, and include the following:

1. Application to the Rector of PU for admission to participation in the competition;
2. CV in European format;
3. Higher education diploma for MA degree with Appendix to it;
4. Diploma for PhD degree;
5. Certificate for the academic position (title) of Associate Professor.
6. List of scientific publications participating in the competition as well as other publications after 2006;

7. Copies of the scientific publications for the competition;
8. Certificate for meeting the minimum national requirements;
9. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents.
10. Annotations in Bulgarian and English of the publications for the competition (according to Art. 76 of the Academic Staff Regulations of PU);
11. Self-assessment of the scientific contributions of the applicant;
12. List of citations of the publications of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova
13. Working record certificate;
14. Teaching load certificate;
15. Certificate for participation in national and international forums in the period 2007-2024;
16. Certificate for participation in scientific and other professional projects in the period 2007-2024;
17. Certificate for editorial work;
18. Copy of *Darzhaven vestnik*, No 98 of November 19, 2024.

The applicant Associate Professor Krasimira Angelova Chakarova presents a total of 16 scientific publications, including 1 monograph, 14 articles, 1 textbook and a list of 56 scientific research publications published after 2006. Accepted for reviewing are 15 scientific publications beyond the dissertation, and 1 textbook, 15 publications and projects will be taken into account in the overall evaluation. Excluded from the reviewing process are 22 publications on the topic of the PhD dissertation, the dissertation itself, published in book form under the title *Aspectuality and Quantity*, as well as 56 publications outside the subject matter of the competition, 10 applied science publications, 13 notes, personalia, etc., 1 published review and 24 reviews for promotions and awarding of academic degrees.

The publication in the country and abroad for the competition are categorized as follows: 1 monograph, 1 textbook, 4 peer-reviewed articles, 10 articles in non-reviewed edited publications. Out of the total of 16 publications, 15 (including 1 monograph and 1 textbook) are published in Bulgaria and 1 abroad (Hungary).

2. Brief biographical data about the applicant

Krasimira Chakarova was born on 10.04.1965. She graduated from the University of Plovdiv with distinction and an MA degree in Bulgarian Philology in 1989, and was awarded a PhD degree in 2000, after a regular PhD course in Bulgarian Studies at PU, 1990 - 1993. She worked as a teacher in Bulgarian Language and Literature at the "Academician K. Popov" high school in Plovdiv (1989-

1990). and taught Bulgarian for a year at PU (1993 – 1994 г.) on a part-time basis. From 1994 she was Assistant Professor, from 1999 Senior Assistant Professor and from 1999 Chief Assistant Professor in Bulgarian Studies at the Philological Faculty, PU “Paisiy Hilendarski”. In 2006 she became Associate Professor in the Bulgarian Language and holds this academic position for nearly 19 years now. On a part-time basis she taught Bulgarian as a foreign language at the Language Teaching Department of the Food Technology University in Plovdiv. From 2011 until now she has also been lecturing at the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Arts. The academic and teaching carrier of K. Chakarova so far is fully compatible with the nomenclature of the competition for a professorship in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional specialization 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language). Her working record amounts to 32 years, 31 years of which she was teaching and lecturing. The applicant has a very rich experience of administration as Deputy Dean of the Philological Faculty of PU (2011-2015, 2023- up to now), Director of the Language Teaching and Sports Department at the Food Technology University in Plovdiv (2006 – 2016), Chairperson of the Philology Section of the Union of Scientists, Plovdiv (2009 - up to now); member of the team of experts at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (2011 – 2015), Director of the Department for language and specialization training of foreign students at PU (2019 up to now). All of the above proves that the doubtless academic, teaching and administrative experience of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova, is fully suitable for the promotion to the title of Professor.

3. General characteristics of the applicants activities

Evaluation of the teaching activities and competence of the applicant (textbooks, lecture courses, work with undergraduate and postgraduate students)

The lecture courses read by Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova at PU are also fully compatible with the subject matter of the competition for professorship in 2.1. Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language). They include Morphology of Present-Day Bulgarian, Bulgarian Aspectology, Contrastive Aspectology (aspect and aspectual meanings in Bulgarian and English), Functional Grammar, Introduction to Editorship, Language of the Media, Editing Translation. Her lectures at PU in Business Communication and Language and Style of Business Documents and the course in business communication taught at the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Arts in Plovdiv add up to the picture of her specialization in teaching and her academic competence. Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova has a rich experience in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language to students from abroad. Throughout her academic carrier at PU so far, in addition to enhancing her professional competence, Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova has worked devotedly with undergraduate and postgraduate students for their maturing as competent linguists.

This is proved by her service as head of the Prof. B. Simeonov Linguistic Circle at PU from its very foundation to the present; her role as founder and organizer from 1999 onwards of the annual competitions in Bulgarian morphology held at PU; her role since 1999 in organizing a number of publications of the National post- and undergraduate students' conference at the same university; the supervision of 115 undergraduate and MA theses, of 6 postgraduate specializations, and 7 PhD dissertations, all of these successfully completed. K. Chakarova has presented for the competition for the academic title of Professor a revised and enlarged edition of her *Handbook in Bulgarian Morphology* (2024, first edition 2000). The corrections, additions, substitution of new section in the place of the old ones, are considerable in all parts of this textbook and this update of the content make the book a valuable and necessary resource, which will help students in various disciplines of the humanities to build up their knowledge and improve their competence in Bulgarian morphology. All of this is a proof of the considerable contribution of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova in keeping and enriching the strong traditions of the Plovdiv school in the study of Bulgarian morphology, founded by Prof. Ivan Kutsarov.

Evaluation of the research and applied science activities of the applicant

Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova has been involved in rich and varied research and applied science activities in the field of Bulgarian morphology, functional-semantic grammar, the study of the language of the media and business communication, teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language, etc. This part of my review evaluates only the research and applied science activities of the applicant as represented in the body of materials submitted for the present competition. All publications presented for the competition are written and published in Bulgarian. Out of the total of 16 publications, 15 have been published in Bulgaria and 1 in Hungary. All of them are scientific and not popular science publications. The following thematic fields with significant contributions of the applicant can be singled out:

1. The categories of the verb in present-day Bulgarian, including in a contrastive perspective: 1 monograph (*The Category of Aspect of the Verb in Present-Day Bulgarian*, 2025, pp. 188) and 7 articles. Three of the articles are contrastive and they search for functional equivalents and analogues of the Bulgarian linguistic expressions in other Slavic languages or else they offer typological analysis of the constructions in several Slavic languages, Bulgarian among them. Two of the articles in this thematic area have appeared in peer-reviewed publications and 5 in edited publications.

2. Publications with a pronounced functional-semantic grammar perspective – 1 article in a peer-reviewed publication and 2 in edited publications, and a considerable part of the monograph also deal with issues undoubtedly belonging to functional-semantic grammar.

3. Morphological investigation of phenomena connected with some nominal sub-classes and one class of invariable words in present-day Bulgarian. Here belong 1 article in a peer-reviewed publication and 3 in edited publications.

Contributions (scientific, applied-science and popular science) and citations

In my opinion the monograph *The Category of Aspect of the Verb in Present-Day Bulgarian* and the 16 articles submitted for the competition contain the following scientific contributions, all of them personal achievements of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova:

- The monograph *The Category of Aspect of the Verb in Present-Day Bulgarian* expounds an original conception of the functional-semantic micro-field of aspectuality in Bulgarian, describing its content and structure, resulting from the intricate interaction of several syncategorial functional-semantic fields. In my view this contribution can be categorized as “formulating a new theory or hypothesis” in an established scientific area, in this case functional-semantic grammar. The above theoretical stand belongs generically to the wider in its character scientific conception of the author, that of the functional-semantic grammar of the Bulgarian language. We can also find proof of this in two of the articles. One of them offers an original morpho-centric typology of the functional-semantic fields of present-day Bulgarian, with a classification based on the relevant stratification categories (cf. the article “Towards the Study of Functional-Semantic Fields in Present-Day Bulgarian”). Both the monograph and this article also pay special attention to peripheral modifiers and their functions. A theoretically significant conclusion has been reached about the degree of dependence of these modifiers on the centre of the field. Another article presented for the competition investigates important structural-semantic characteristics of the lexical and syntactic peripheral modifiers in the micro-field of conclusive modality in present-day Bulgarian. Yet another contribution of the author is proving the semantic and pragmatic in their nature differences between lexical and syntactic peripheral modifiers, not only capable of autonomously functioning as sole explicators of conclusivity, but also of being successfully combined with expressions belonging to the centre of the field (the conclusive), especially in case of the need to resolve semantic ambiguities due to homonymy (in my view, biparticipants and bideterminants) within the paradigm evidentials in my terminology (cf. the article “Lexical and Syntactic Means of Expressing Conclusive Modality in Present-Day Bulgarian”).

- The monograph presented for the competition offers a complete original theory of aspect of the verb in present-day Bulgarian as the core of the aspectual micro-field. This model of aspectual relations in present-day standard Bulgarian is Assoc. Professor Chakarova’s personal contribution to the multi-voiced discussion on verb aspect in Bulgarian (and beyond). I would like to point out that

this model is consistently and logically developed in the monograph under review. To the applicant's original contributions we can also add the analysis of the relationship between the plane of content (the meaning expressed) and the plane of expression (the features of the formal markers), carried out throughout the monograph. From a general linguistics perspective significant are Assoc. Professor Chakarova's views on iterative verbs (signaling *complex iterativity*) as an aspectual paradigm having the status of a *quasi-grammeme*, and also on their participation as a marked member in the binary morphological *crypto-* (also "hidden", "satellite") *category of iterativity*. These terms (*quasi-grammeme, cryptocategory*), and many others (like *aspectual triad, suffixoid, biaspectuality, complete and incomplete triads, functional biaspectives, basic aspectual meaning, unconjugated (non-finite) verb forms, quasiparticiples* and many others), reflecting salient characteristics of the concepts they name, are indicative of Assoc. Professor Chakarova's innovative approach in understanding the status of a number of phenomena in the Bulgarian language. The contributions enumerated here I would put in the rubric "formulation and development of a new theory or hypothesis".

- I consider Assoc. Professor Chakarova's views on the role of various grammemes, most often defined as temporal, in expressing the aspectual meanings of *processuality (durativity), complexity (completion)* and *repetitiveness (iterativity)*, an important element of her overall theory on aspect of the verb in present-day Bulgarian and an important contribution to clarifying the intraparadigmatic relations between temporal and aspectual meanings. In addition to this, the intraparadigmatic connections between the semantic characteristics of imperfectives, perfectives and iteratives (in the authors conception) on one hand, and the semantic features of the categories of tense, taxis and *Aktionsart* (lexical aspect) on the other, are influenced by contextual conditions, lexical meaning, situation types, etc. Chapter three of the monograph, entitled "Characteristics in the functioning of verbal aspect", is yet another proof that the category of aspect is not discussed in isolation by Assoc. Professor Chakarova but is analyzed with the help of involving the widest possible number of linguistic factors in their complex interaction.

- The section in the monograph *The Category of Aspect of the Verb in Present-Day Bulgarian* dealing in detail with the constructions referring to multiple repeated situations, expressing by means of syntax the aspectual meaning of *iterativity*, are another contribution to the research into present-day Bulgarian morphosyntax.

- Assoc. Professor Chakarova's theory about the category of verb aspect underlies a number of significant descriptive and methodological findings adding to the modern interpretation of aspect in Bulgarian as part of the language competence of speakers of Bulgarian, which should also be acquired by foreign learners of the language. A proof to this evaluation of mine can be found in sections of the

monograph (pp. 65-67) and the articles “On some specifics problems in teaching verb aspect (with a view to teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language)” and “Towards the problem of teaching aspect of the verb in Bulgarian and its acquisition by foreign learners”.

- Assoc. Professor Chakarova’s well-grounded original position on the consistency and the structure of the functional-semantic category of *genericness* (*genderness?*, *пoдoвoсм*), in her terminology, (cf. her article “Towards the problem of the structure of the functional-semantic field of genericness in present-day Bulgarian”) is yet another contribution of the author. In my view this can be subsumed under the rubric of “developing a new theory or hypothesis”. My statement is supported by the following original/alternative proposals of the applicant: defining the status of *genericness* as a nominal, and not general, functional-semantic category; including the lexico-grammatical category of gender of nouns in Bulgarian in the centre of the functional-semantic field of *genericness*; working out an original view on the distribution of the peripheral modifiers in this field according to their semantic proximity to/distance from the centre. To the contributions belonging to this group I will add those contained in 3 articles, offering detailed argumentation of the original position of the applicant about the pragmatic effect of *quasi-colloquialness*, achieved by the use of invariable adverbs, particles and interjections of Turkish, Arabic-Turkish, or Persian-Turkish origin, a fact that had remained unnoticed by previous research before (cf. her article “Observations on the use of invariable words of Turkish origin in Bulgarian”); the recognition of four gender sub-classes of nouns of common gender divided into two groups: those with semantically motivated dual-genderness and those with formally conditioned dual agreement due to the presence of the “neuter gender ending” (cf. her article “Formal-semantic characteristics of common gender nouns in Bulgarian”); the study of an almost fully neglected case of obligatory (grammatical) pleonasm, caused by the communicative intention of the speaker to underscore the quantity of each of the objects, a construction including a numerative + noun phrase, consisting of two non-person nouns coordinated by *and*, the first of which is masculine (cf. her article “On a specific case in the use of cardinal numerals in present-day Bulgarian”). It should also be pointed out that this article proves the applicability and the significance of the perception-based approach in linguistics: the study of important linguistic phenomena based on their perception by the speakers of the language.

- Under the rubric “proving by novel means of significant new aspects of established scientific topics, problems, theories and hypotheses” I would include the article “The problem of the morphological status of Bulgarian determinatives revisited”. My reasons for this are as follows. In this article Assoc. Professor K. Chakarova offers her consistent and well-grounded view that invariable words like *дopy* (even), *caмo* (only), *дaжe* (even), *тъкмo* (exactly), *имeннo* (precisely), *чaк* (that much) etc. are a borderline lexical class, characterized by specific semantic functions of the

items belonging to it as *pragmatic actualizers*. This function of theirs, explaining their high frequency of occurrence in modern communication, their morphological invariability and their relatively small number, justifies the position that they do not represent a separate and independent word class (part of speech), but belong to the adverbial system of the Bulgarian language as a special subclass, that of adverbs of *logical clarification* (*наречия за логическо уточнение*). The author includes this subclass into the wider class of *lexical deictics*, where these specific adverbs are isolated precisely by their function of pragmatic markers or actualizers.

- Another group of two articles dealing with the passive in present-day Bulgarian I would also include in the rubric of contributions that amount to “proving by novel means of significant new aspects of established scientific topics, problems, theories and hypotheses”. Here belongs the article “On the status of the constructions of the type *съм* (be) + past passive participle”, where the arguments in support of K. Chakarova’s own position are based on clearly stated criteria for the distinction of composite verb forms from syntactic constructions (a problem significant in the context of the process of grammaticalization, as well as from the perspective of specific languages, recognizing the high degree of compositeness of the forms of the Bulgarian verb paradigm). Assoc. Professor K. Chakarova has pointed out significant reasons for the existence of a considerable number of different theoretical interpretations of the status of the passive constructions, and also for the functional ambiguity of these constructions. In addition to this the author adduces specific arguments in favour of her own position: the constructions including *съм* (be) + past passive participle are the only morphological explicators of passivity in Bulgarian, while the so-called reflexive passive is a syntactic expression of the passive meaning; the participial passive includes above all resultative forms and their use is most common in what I call resultative (perfect) tenses. To this group of contributions of the applicant I would add the use of methods belonging to the perceptual and corpus-based approaches in linguistics, and to the theory of grammaticalization in the argumentation of her own stand on the status of the so-called passive conditional (e.g. *бих бил нпием* (I would be accepted) as “a borderline case of analytic constructions”, characterized by “highly dynamic development”. In the author’s opinion the formal changes in the passive conditional (*биха били четени* – *биха четени* etc.) point to the existence of gradability on the level of form in their paradigm, due to the incomplete process of grammaticalization. The element of linguistic futurology that can be detected in this publication are based, not only on the author’s theoretical analysis, but are supported by categorical data from the taxonomic corpus and from the interviews with native speakers about their perception of these forms. (cf. her article “The passive conditional in present-day Bulgarian revisited”).

- Three of the articles presented for the competition are indicative of the applicant’s contribution to comparative and contrastive studies. The peculiarities of the Bulgarian perfective

aspect imperfect tense, the Bulgarian conclusives, and the optative constructions in present-day Bulgarian stand out very clearly in comparison with their analogues or functional equivalents in closely related languages, and also in the context of typological classifications of semantically similar phenomena in these languages. This is precisely what Assoc. Professor K. Chakarova has done in the three articles that can be subsumed under the two groups of contributions (“proving by novel means of significant new aspects of established scientific topics, problems, theories and hypotheses” and „working out new classifications, etc.”) cf. her articles “The Bulgarian perfective imperfect tense and its analogues in Russian”; “Towards the problem of the functional equivalents of the Bulgarian conclusive in Serbo-Croat”; “The typology of optative constructions in Bulgarian, Russian and Polish”.

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova are well-known beyond the circles of Bulgarian linguists. Her application for the competition lists 30 points for citations of her works included in peer-reviewed and internationally recognized and indexed data bases and 150 points for citations in edited monographs and collections. A detailed list of citations is also presented, showing that Assoc. Professor K. Chakarova’s scientific contributions have been recognized by leading scholars in the country and abroad (among them Prof. D. Ivanova, Prof. K. Vachkova, Prof. A. Bagasheva, Prof. V. Zidarova, Prof. K. Kutsarov, Prof. A. Gradinarova, Prof. R. Stancheva, Prof. V. Popova, Prof. E. Ivanova of Saint Petersburg State University, Prof. B. Sonnenhauser of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Assoc. Prof. T. Aleksandrova, etc.), and many other established researchers (among them Assoc. Prof. M. Kuzova, Assoc. Prof. V. Sasheva, Assoc. Prof. S. Abazova, Assoc. Prof. Rabovyanova, Dr. Surmova), and by young scholars (e.g. Dr. D. Dimitrova, Leonid Motz – Department of Slavonic Studies, University of Vienna). My own observations show that many other linguistic publications quote the findings of K. Chakarova. Her H-index, quoted in Google Scholar is 6. It seems to me however that scientometrics is not always capable of reflecting the quality of the scientific work and even less so, the evaluation of the linguistic community.

The minimum national requirements in the various groups are fully met for the academic position of professor in the in the field of higher education 2. *Humanities*, professional specialization 2.1. *Philology* (with a minimum requirement of 550 points Assoc. Prof. K. Chakarova’s documents state 950 points). The additional specific requirements of the Philological Faculty at PU are also met: in addition to the habilitation thesis 14 other publications after her promotion to the academic title of associate professor are presented; Assoc. Prof. K. Chakarova has supervised 7 PhD students (the minimum requirement being 1 successful doctoral student); she has participated in more than the required two scientific projects; her teaching load of 60 hours of lectures annually as associate professor has been covered in the course of nearly 19 years, well above the required 5 years; she has

more than the two required different lecture courses; she is the author of one published textbook in the subject areas of the Philological faculty.

4. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant

As I have already pointed out above, I believe that all contributions in the publications presented for the competition are personal achievement of Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova, PhD.

5. Critical comments and recommendations

I have no principled or formal critical comments and recommendations. In spite of the fact that Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova's views and interpretations are different from mine in a number of cases, I believe that the depth of her analyses and the consistent logic of her argumentation, her undoubted ability to discover specific, borderline, insufficiently studied linguistic phenomena, are a considerable contribution to the current contemporary scholarly debate in Bulgarian linguistic studies.

6. Personal impressions

I have known Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova personally for a sufficiently long period of time to have accumulated many proofs of her positive personal, academic and professional qualities.

CONCLUSION

The documents and the materials presented by Assoc. Professor Krasimira Chakarova **meet all** the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The applicant has submitted a **considerable** number of scientific publications appearing after those used for the acquisition of doctoral degree and the academic title of associate professor. The applicant's works contain original theoretical and applied-scientific contributions which have received international recognition, a representative part of them having been published in international journals and edited collections. The theoretical results in them can receive practical application and part of them are relevant to language teaching. The scientific research and teaching competence of the applicant are **beyond any doubt**.

The results achieved by Assoc. Professor Dr. Krasimira Chakarova in teaching and research **fully** meet the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of the Philological Faculty adopted in the Regulations for the implementation of ZRASRB at PU. After examining the materials and the scientific publications presented for the competition and analyzing their

significance and their scientific and applied-science contributions, I can convincingly give my **positive** evaluation and recommend the examiners' committee to prepare the formal proposal to the Faculty Council of the Philological Faculty to confer the academic position (title) of professor in the Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv to Assoc. Professor Dr. Krasimira Chakarova in the field of higher education 2. *Humanities*, professional specialization 2.1. *Philology (Contemporary Bulgarian Language)*

02.04. 2025

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr Sc. Krasimira Aleksova