

REVIEW STATEMENT

by **Prof. Diana Petrova Ivanova, DSc**

Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor*

at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

In the area of higher education **2. Humanities**

Field of Professional Education **2.1 Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language)**

The only applicant for the open academic position of *Professor*, announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv" (PU) for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology at PU is Associate Professor Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD, who is a lecturer from the same department.

1. GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE APPLICANT

The set of materials submitted by the applicant on paper and electronic media includes the following documents:

1. materials required for the acquisition of the academic position *Professor*
2. research works

By order No. RD-22-438 of 18.02.2025 of the Rector of "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the Academic Review Board for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor*. The only applicant for the position is Associate Professor Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD. The documents and materials submitted by the applicant meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and the Rulebook for Development of Academic Staff at "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv" (PU). In terms of number of scholarly works and subject matter, the publications correspond to the profile of the competition and the requirements for the academic position of *Professor*. The participant in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scholarly works published after obtaining the academic degree PhD. The presented papers reveal the scientific interests of the applicant in the field of the Modern Bulgarian Language (Morphology) and relate to issues that fall within the competence of the author.

2. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROFESSIONAL APPLICANT'S ACTIVITIES

Krassimira Chakarova graduated from the Bulgarian Philology Department at PU in 1989 with full honors and in the same year began working as a teacher in Bulgarian Language and

Literature at The Secondary School of Mathematics “Academic Kiril Popov”. From 1990 to 1993 she was a PhD student in Bulgarian Language at PU, and immediately after that she was elected as a part-time lecturer at the Department of Bulgarian Philology (PU) (1993 – 1994). In the period 1994 – 2000 she successively passed through the positions of assistant and senior assistant. After defending her dissertation in 2000 she was awarded PhD and took up the position of principal assistant in Modern Bulgarian Language, and since 2006 she has held the academic position of Associate Professor in the Department of Bulgarian Language. Krassimira Chakarova has extensive administrative and managerial experience: she was the deputy dean of the Faculty of Philology (2011 – 2015), and at present holds a second term (from 2023 – until now). From 2006 to 2016 she worked on a second employment contract as Director of “The Department of Language Training, Physical Education and Sports” at The University of Food Technologies in Plovdiv. Since 2019 she has been The Director of “The Department of Language and Specialized Training of Foreign Students” at PU. Since 2011 she has also been working on a civil contract at The Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Professor Asen Diamandiev" in Plovdiv as a lecturer in the master's program *Public Relations of Art Organizations*.

Krassimira Chakarova has many years of leadership activities as a chairman of the "Philology" Section at the “Union of Scientists”, Plovdiv (since 2009 to present); Head of the Linguistic Club "Professor Boris Simeonov" at PU (since 2001 to present); a member and Head of the Working Group at the National Agency for Accreditation for the program accreditation of higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria (2011 - 2015); a member of “The Association of Teachers in Bulgarian as a Foreign Language”, etc.

She is also a member of the Faculty of Philology and Academic Councils at PU as well as of a number of editorial boards of periodicals: “Research Papers of PU”, “Research Papers of the Union of Scholars in Bulgaria” – Plovdiv Branch, the journal “Slavic Dialogues” (PU), the journal “Modern Linguistics” (Sofia University), and “Vivat Philologia”. She has also been a compiler of collective volumes of the proceedings of national conferences for students and PhD students, etc. With the acquired management skills and many years of experience, Krassimira Chakarova has established herself as a respected leader and organizer of a number of events: the annual students’ and PhD students’ conferences, the faculty Olympiad in Morphology; a participant in the students’ admission campaigns, a member of state exam boards, etc. Parallel to that she has demonstrated consistent research activity and regularly participates in national and international scientific forums. She works very actively with students and PhD students (115 bachelor and master students and 8 PhD students have successfully defended their theses).

She has successfully presented herself as a leader and participant in 15 scientific and organizational projects and academic conferences. Since 2007 she has a total of 42 participations with reports in national conferences, and national conferences with international participation. 8 of the reports are presented in international conferences. Krassimira Chakarova is well-known and respected for her research achievements in the academic circles. Her scientific works are cited by Bulgarian and foreign linguists, which is also reflected in the list of citations noted by the author (23). She truly deserves the diploma for high academic achievements of the “Union of Scientists” - Plovdiv, as well as the awards for her university and public activities.

Krassimira Chakarova participates in the procedure for a professorship with the monograph "The Grammatical Category of The Verb -*Aspect* in Modern Bulgarian Language" (Plovdiv, 2025), with "A Guidebook to Bulgarian Morphology" (2024) and with 14 articles: 4 in refereed journals and 10 in non-refereed journals with academic editing. Outside the competition, she has also presented a list of 48 articles published in Bulgaria after 2006: 8 in refereed journals and 40 in non-refereed journals; 7 of the listed articles have been published abroad (Russia, Hungary, Turkey, and Germany). She is also a co-author of 10 applied research publications (tests on language usage), as well as 24 scientific reviews and opinions as a participant in academic review boards.

The main work in the list of publications is the monograph "The Grammatical Category of The Verb - *Apect* in Modern Bulgarian Language", a topic significant for Bulgarian linguistics, in the development of which the author employs a new approach to research strategies and proposes new interpretations of issues related to the verbal category of *Aspect*. The monograph comprises 187 pages and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The introductory chapter presents in a clear and concise manner the object, goals, tasks, and theoretical theses that are the basis of the study. In the first chapter, the author provides a thorough analytical review of the history of research on the verbal category of *Aspect* in Bulgarian linguistics, and then focuses on the question of the composition and structure of the functional-semantic field of *Aspectuality* in the Bulgarian language. The author examines the basic concepts of the verbal category of *Aspect*, starting from the earliest and later Bulgarian Revival grammars, noting that despite the interest of Bulgarian Revival scholars in grammatical issues, there is no clear concept as regards the verbal category of *Aspect*, which can be explained by the fact that Bulgarian philological science was just beginning to develop at that time. The inclusion of a diachronic part makes the study comprehensive, presenting the different views on the issue of *Aspect* at its inception, perspective and development. It also precisely traces the history of the verbal category of *Aspect* in the synthetic works in the first half of the 20th century, as well as the discussions on the categorial nature of the verbal category of *Aspect* in the second half of the 20th century, highlighting the contributions of prominent scholars to the development of Bulgarian *Aspectology*. The review of the research studies in modern Bulgarian and foreign literature is thorough, tracing the differences in the views of individual authors on the verbal category of *Aspect*.

In her monograph, the author further develops a topic in which she has had a long-standing interest (already stated in her work "Aspectuality and Quantity", 2003). Stepping on a solid theoretical foundation, she finds a new, unexplored niche and directs her attention to clarifying the issue of the verbal category of *Aspect* in the second chapter "The Verbal *Aspect* as the Core of the Functional-Semantic Category of *Aspectuality*". The author focuses on the unexplored aspects of this topic, and with new factual evidence she reaffirms her previously stated thesis that "the Bulgarian verbal category of *Aspect* is a three-member lexico-grammatical category, formed as a result of complex interactions between the specific functional-semantic fields within the domain of *Aspectuality*" (p. 69). In a broad and detailed perspective, she provides a formal-semantic characterization of the verb aspectual forms (imperfectives, perfectives, and grammatical iteratives), supported by a solid corpus of examples. In fact, this part of the study poses the main questions related to the further analysis of the three-member lexico-grammatical category under consideration. In the third chapter, the author focuses on the specifics of the functioning of the verb aspectual types, examining the

relations: aspect – tense, taxis, type of action; imperfect – type of verbal aspect forms; aspect of the verb – type of action, etc. An interesting part of this chapter is also the participation of verbal aspect types in the narrative systems of the Bulgarian language, as well as the stylistic potential that the verbal aspectual forms carry. And since some issues related to the grammatical category of Aspect have already been discussed over time, the Conclusion chapter of the monograph presents the main findings in the author's work, namely: the scientific development of Bulgarian Aspectology is associated with the achievements of the researchers from the first and second half of the twentieth century; the verbal category of Aspect is the core of the functional-semantic category of Aspectuality (based on a specific common feature); the grammatical categories of Aspect and Tense are autonomous categories; the verbs of perfective and imperfective aspect, as well as iterative verbs, are separate lexical units, etc. Among the contributions of the study we can also add the proposed new definition of the grammatical category of Aspect.

The submitted scientific work is the result of many years of research and analyses on the topic, conducted by the author. It is seriously thought out and well-structured. Numerous studies on the topic have been examined and a new reading and new scientific positions on the issues under consideration have been proposed, which also defines the innovative nature of the study. The analysis and conclusions are based on the corpus of examples excerpted from literary texts. The monograph ends with a Conclusion chapter in which all essential conclusions are drawn and summarized on the basis of the presented material. The scientific literature used for the needs of the study is extensive and quite a number of well-known and respected Bulgarian and foreign authors working in the research area have been cited.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the goals and objectives set in the monograph by Associate Professor Krasimira Chakarova, PhD have been accomplished. She has focused on a number of specific features of the grammatical category of the verb Aspect, which she analyzes in a multifaceted way and interprets innovatively. Despite the disputable nature of the topic, Associate Professor Krasimira Chakarova expresses her own positions and defends her theses with arguments based on theoretical background and with examples excerpted from literary sources. With her conclusions, she attempts to correct some established positions in Bulgarian morphology related to the grammatical category of the verb –Aspect, thus providing grounds for future research on other unexplored or arguable issues. The text is written in a clear, accessible and scientifically rigorous language.

Along with the scientific materials (a monograph and articles), Krasimira Chakarova has also presented “A Guidebook to Bulgarian Morphology” (2024), which is a supplementary volume with updated theoretical framework and practical application. In terms of structure and content, the guidebook is very useful and facilitates students in their theoretical and practical preparation. It contains three main sections (Tasks and texts for seminar exercises in Morphology of the Modern Bulgarian Language; A new look at some disputable issues in the Morphology of the Modern Bulgarian language; Thematic selection of bibliographical sources) and an Appendix (Tasks and texts for seminar exercises in Morphology of the Modern Bulgarian Language).

The numerous scientific articles also outline the profile of Krasimira Chakarova as an highly-qualified linguist.

3. CRITICAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have none.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

I have known Krassimira Chakarova for more than three decades, and along with that, I have witnessed the path of her growth as a scientist, lecturer, organizer and administrative manager. She is a dedicated person and manages to combine activities of various nature, which always end successfully. Her work with students and PhD students is particularly valuable, as she engages them in academic research.

CONCLUSION

The works submitted for evaluation contain results with a certain contribution to the field of Bulgarian linguistics and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation and the Rulebook for the Development of the Academic Staff of "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv". The research analysis in the monograph "The Grammatical Category of The Verb - Aspect in the Modern Bulgarian Language" (2025) as well as the rest of the academic publications submitted by Associate Professor Krassimira Chakarova contain scientific, scientifically applied and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv". The results of the research show that the applicant possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills. Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the achieved results and contributions presented by the above-reviewed research works and recommend that the Academic Review Board prepare a report with a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD from the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology at "Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv" for the academic position of **Professor** at PU in the area of higher education: 2. Humanities; Professional field of qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

17.03.2025

Reviewer:.....

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Prof. Diana Ivanova, DSc