

## **REVIEW**

**by Prof. Velka Aleksandrova Popova  
from Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen**

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of  
**professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**  
in area of higher education **2. Humanities; professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern  
Bulgarian Language)**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD, from Plovdiv University is the only candidate who has submitted documents in the competition for the position of professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of November 19, 2024 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

### **1. Overview of the submitted materials**

I have been appointed as a member of the jury in the competition for the academic position of professor at Plovdiv University in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology by order No. PD 22-438 of 18.02.2025 issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition was Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Angelova Chakarova, PhD, from Plovdiv University.

The submitted by Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova materials are in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University, and includes the following documents:

- application form to the rector requesting admission to the competition;
- CV in European format;
- diploma for a Master's degree with an academic supplement (original and copy);
- diploma for a doctoral degree (original and copy);
- diploma (certificate) for the academic position of Associate Professor (original and copy);
- list of publications' titles;
- complete texts of the publications (copies of publications);
- completed table for compliance with minimum national requirements;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents;

- abstracts of the publications under Art. 76. of the Regulations for academic promotion at Plovdiv university (in Bulgarian and English);
- list of author-declared contributions to research;
- list of citations;
- document (certificate) of work experience;
- documents related to candidate's teaching;
- documents related to candidate's research.

The documents under the procedure are comprehensive, reliable and correctly presented. They provide a realistic idea of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova submitted a total of 72 research papers (69 articles, two monographs and one textbook). The 16 research papers proposed by the candidate under the procedure (1 monograph, 14 articles and one textbook) were accepted for review. All but one article published in Hungary had been published in Bulgaria.

The information on the minimum national requirements shows that the candidate fully meets them with regard to the position of professor. The author's contributions, which are subject to assessment under the procedure, are definitely significant in terms of their content and scope. This is also evidenced by the citations of Assoc. Prof. Chakarova's contributions in authoritative professional publications.

## **2. Brief biographical data about the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Chakarova graduated from Plovdiv University in 1989 with a degree in Bulgarian Philology. In 2000, she was awarded a doctoral degree in Modern Bulgarian Language. Her teaching career began at the University as a part-time lecturer in Bulgarian in 1993, and in 1994 she was appointed a full-time assistant, after which she successively held the positions of senior and chief assistant. In 2006, she was appointed an associate professor of modern Bulgarian at the Department of Bulgarian Language.

Assoc. Prof. Chakarova has extensive teaching, administrative and organizational experience. From 2006 to 2016, she was the Director of the Department of Language, Physical Education and Sports at the University of Food Technology in Plovdiv (on an additional employment contract). She has served two terms (term 2011 - 2015 and term 2023 - until now) at Plovdiv university as a Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Philology, and since 2019 she has been the Director of the Department of Language and Specialized Training of Foreign Students at the University. Since 2009, Assoc. Prof. Chakarova has been the Chairman of the Philology Section at the Union of Scientists - Plovdiv, and from 2011 to 2015 she was a member and head of the Working Group at the National agency for program evaluation and accreditation of higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria. Her dedication in activities directly related to the organization of students' active academic life is impressive. In this regard, it is necessary to mention her skillful leadership of the Linguistic Club named after Prof. Boris Simeonov, in which Assoc. Prof. Chakarova has tirelessly worked with talented young philologists since 2001. It is important to recognize her contribution as the

author of the conceptual project for the annual faculty-wide Olympiad in Bulgarian Morphology, in which she participated as an organizer since its launch in the distant 1999. Among Bulgarian linguists Assoc. Prof. Chakarova is respected not only as an erudite and original scholar, but also as a patron and mentor of young talents in linguistics, and in this endeavor she goes far beyond the boundaries of the university she works at. Evidence of this is her continuous participation in organizing the National Scientific Conference for students and doctoral candidates, which is held annually in Plovdiv since 1999.

### **3. Overall impression of the candidate's work**

Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova teaches various disciplines related to the modern Bulgarian language. I must immediately note that my access to her teaching and pedagogical work is indirect, but the publicly available data in themselves speak for the qualities and professionalism of the candidate, namely: the excellent results of the students she supervised at public defenses of diploma theses, conferences, Olympiads; the development of specialized lecture courses on current problems of Bulgarian studies. The impressive 115 under- and post-graduate students, and 8 doctoral students she supervised have successfully defended their theses. An essential contribution to the teaching and pedagogical achievements of Assoc. Prof. Chakarova is her updated Handbook of Bulgarian Morphology (Plovdiv, 2024), which not only supports students and provides practice in morphology classes, but also builds on students' theoretical knowledge and their competencies and skills necessary for their future realization as teachers and researchers.

Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova's publications make sound contributions to research, which is evidenced in her participation in 40 research forums (conferences, symposiums, congresses) in Bulgaria, Hungary, Turkey, Belarus, Serbia, Germany. She is included in the working teams of 15 research projects (of 5 of which she is the leader). The number of her publications output exceeds the minimum requirements of the Regulation for the academic promotion of researchers in Bulgaria for holding the position of professor. The works submitted under the procedure, which are related to the morphology of the modern Bulgarian language, present the candidate as a serious and productive scholar. Most of the publications are dedicated to the verb, but there is no shortage of research on other word classes. Moreover, the author's attention is always directed at debatable or insufficiently studied problems in Bulgarian linguistics, and the proposed theoretical conclusions and constructs are based on a rich empirical base, which is indisputable evidence of their objectivity and significance. An important emphasis in Krasimira Chakarova's research is the popularization of the functional-semantic grammar of A. V. Bondarko through the study of Bulgarian material in the terms of his research paradigm.

Assoc. Prof. Chakarova has presented 22 citations of her works by Bulgarian, German, and Korean linguists, which exceed the citation indicators in the National Center for information and documentation for a professor. This shows that the productivity of the candidate's

research and ideas have received recognition among the scholars who study the Bulgarian language.

With her dedication and commitment to the study of the morphology of the modern Bulgarian language, Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova ranks among the leading specialists in the field. The author's focus on interesting and current problems related to complex morphological phenomena is maintained in the publications presented by her under the present procedure. In the course of their analytical presentation, the greatest attention should be paid to the monograph ***The category of verbal aspect in the modern Bulgarian language.*** (Plovdiv: University Publishing House "Paisiy Hilendarski", 2025, p.189. ISBN 978-619-281-013-9).

In the reviewed monograph, the author focuses her attention on the verbal aspect – an extremely complex and controversial category that often discussed by scholars. This important topic for Bulgarian morphological research is not new to Krasimira Chakarova's explorations, and the return to it in the reviewed publication can be defined as a natural continuation of her previous research. The author's rich personal experience, gained during her studies of the complicated category of verbal aspect in the modern Bulgarian language, as well as her in-depth knowledge of the research tradition in the field, turn out to be a solid basis for expanding traditional understandings and deriving new ideas in the present contribution.

My overall impression of the monograph is positive. An original and in-depth study is proposed, based on both a rich empirical base and modern theoretical models and constructs. The innovative functional-semantic research method, created by A. V. Bondarko which successfully combines two approaches to linguistic facts: the approach from form to meaning, on the one hand, and from meaning to form on the other, has been successfully applied. In terms of this paradigm, the verbal aspect is adequately presented in the reviewed work as a specialized core category in the functional-semantic field of aspectuality in the modern Bulgarian language.

The structure of the monograph includes an introduction, three main chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references. The bibliography, which includes 170 sources in Bulgarian, Russian, English, German, Polish, and Czech, demonstrates the author's broad knowledge of the topic explored in the monograph. In the first chapter, the author manages to fully and analytically trace the studies on the Bulgarian verbal aspect in the grammars from the Renaissance to the present day, with an emphasis on the contributions of significant authors from the respective periods.

The second chapter, dedicated to the verbal aspect as the core of the functional-semantic category of *aspectuality*, is constructed very rationally. At the beginning, the boundaries of this category are determined in the modern Bulgarian language, and the composition and structure of the corresponding functional-semantic field are commented on. It is defined as a broad linguistic sphere, uniting various means of expressing the "nature of the course and distribution of the action in time" (Peshkovski 1956: 105), and at the same time as a cluster of functional-semantic fields (limitation, processivity, phase, multiplicity, etc.), united by this

feature. At the same time, the author presents the peripheral modifiers in the macro-field of aspectuality: word-forming, lexical, morphological and syntactic, but the emphasis is placed on the description of the core category of the *verbal aspect*. For the identification of this category, the author proposes a new definition, according to which the type represents the action in terms of its internal completeness (complexity), incompleteness (processivity) or complex repetition (iterativity) regardless of its place in time. It is specified that the meanings *incompleteness* and *complex iterativity* have a common semantic feature – continuity, but differ in that in a non-actual plan iterativity can always be transformed into complexity, i.e. it is binominal in its essence.

Krasimira Chakarova's attempt to construct a model of the Bulgarian verbal aspect, which is understood as a three-membered lexical-grammatical category, formed as a result of complex interactions between the private functional-semantic fields in the sphere of aspectuality, can be defined as definitely contributing and innovative. In this construct, along with the actual types in the structure of the category (perfective and imperfective), opposing each other both grammatically (non-complexity ~ complexity) and lexico-semantically, the iterative is added as an aspect only in a broad sense, a functional bi-aspective, whose typological realization is highly dependent on contextual conditions. In a grammatical sense (both formally and semantically), it is marked not by its type, but by quantity (multiplicity). i.e. it expresses the idea of repetition of a given complex action without an indication of a temporal or spatial limit, and participates in the binominal morphological category of iterativity, represented by the private opposition *iterativity ~ non-iterativity*.

Following the argumentative constitution of the species relations in the contemporary Bulgarian language in a three-component model in the first part, in the next part of the second chapter the formal-semantic and functional features of the imperfectives, perfectives and grammatical iteratives are examined in detail. On the basis of a thorough analysis, the idea of the species defectiveness of the non-representational imperfectives is rejected. For the first time, the so-called additional meanings of the perfective, i.e. singleness, efficiency and concreteness which function alongside the main meaning of the verbal action wholeness (complexity, completeness), are presented. The differences between the typological meaning of the action which is the achieved goal (efficiency) and the meaning of the result are commented on, as well as the specific interaction between the additional meanings of the perfect aspect and some modes of action (single-act, delimitative, etc.).

After the detailed analytical presentation of the components of the Bulgarian verb form system – imperfective form, perfective form and iterative, the focus of the next (third) chapter is on the peculiarities in the functioning of verb forms. Moreover, they are optimally presented in their interaction with the categories of tense, taxis and type of action. Attention is paid to the uses of the perfective form in the imperfect, as well as to the controversial issue of the opposition *imperfect: aorist*, defined by the author as non-opposition; as a functional-semantic difference, realized in the sphere of narrativity. This chapter also focuses on the use of forms in the Bulgarian participle system, as well as in the so-called narrative plans that speakers of the Bulgarian language can use when constructing a connected text. The types of

restrictions in the expression of prohibitiveness are also commented on. The problem of the stylistic potential of the verbal aspect is discussed and interpreted as a result of primarily transpositive uses.

Assoc. Prof. Chakarova's contribution to the full study of one of the most complex categories in Bulgarian morphology can be defined as innovative and productive. Her research is not limited only to the theoretical construction of a three-component model of the verb form, but offers an empirical verification for the Bulgarian language as well. I would like to praise the professional integrity of the author in presenting the debatable issues in the research of this contradictory and complex linguistic phenomenon, which allows her to tentatively yet convincingly present her concept. This is manifested in her exquisite academic style and her punctuality in presenting details.

In conclusion, I am confident that Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova's monograph *The Category of Verbal Aspect in Contemporary Bulgarian* is an indisputable contribution to Bulgarian studies. The other publications submitted for evaluation expand the thematic scope of the author's research, as they focus on various debatable issues related to the study of the contemporary Bulgarian language. Closely related to the monograph are two articles (*On some specific problems in teaching verbal aspect (with a view to teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language)* and *On the issue of teaching the category of aspect in the Bulgarian language and its acquisition by foreigners*), which focus on the serious difficulties in mastering the Bulgarian verbal aspect by foreigners. The problems in teaching the category of aspect in the process of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language are discussed, with a special focus on the factors for optimizing this process. The methodological ideas proposed by Assoc. Prof. Chakarova are based on her understanding of the verbal aspect as a trinomial category in the modern Bulgarian language, which differs to a large extent from the popular 'morphologocentric' concept, which is used in a number of systemic grammars. In the last two contributions the author convincingly demonstrates the applicability and usefulness of her ideas for the teaching practice.

#### **4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution**

All publications submitted for this review reflect the original contributions of Assoc. Prof. Chakarova. The publications are solely and exclusively written by the author. The description of the contributions in her research is correct and fully corresponds to the submitted research papers.

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

The valuable theoretical and applied contributions of Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova are indisputable. They could contribute to adding a new perspective in the search for solutions to many debatable issues in linguistics. In this regard, I would like to recommend that they soon be published as reference materials (which has already been done to some

extent in the Bulgarian Morphology Handbook), and as course books for teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language.

## **6. Personal impressions**

I have known Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova for years. She is not only an excellent researcher in the field of morphology and stylistics, but also a tireless mentor to students and doctoral candidates dedicated to linguistics. My personal impressions of her have been accumulated over the years of collaboration as jury members in the annual conference for doctoral students and undergraduates, organized by the University of Plovdiv. Thanks to Assoc. Prof. Chakarova's efforts, this forum gained significance in Bulgarian academic life as particularly important for your researchers.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimira Angelova Chakarova meet all the requirements of, the Regulations for the Implementation of the act and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of research papers published after the materials used in the defense of her doctoral thesis and in the procedure for awarding the academic position of associate professor. Assoc. Prof. Chakarova's research contains original theoretical and applied contributions which have received recognition both in our country and abroad. Her theoretical conceptualisations have practical applicability, and some of them are directly focused on teaching. The research and teaching expertise of Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Chakarova is undoubted. Her teaching and research results fully comply with the minimum national and specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, as stated in the Regulations of Plovdiv University for the implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Upon reviewing the materials and research submitted for the competition, and analyzing their significance and contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend that the Academic Jury prepare a report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the promotion of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimira Angelova Chakarova to the academic position of professor at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the area of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

31.03.2025

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(Prof. Velka Popova, PhD)