

## REVIEW STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Stefanova Dzhelyova, PhD,**  
**Associate Professor at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Philology,**  
**Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language**

on the materials submitted  
for the acquisition of the academic position of *Associate Professor*  
**at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv**

In the Sphere of higher education 2. Humanities  
Area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (General and Comparative Linguistics)

### **General overview of the submitted materials**

Following Order № ПД-22-72 from 17.01.2025 of the Rector of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv (PU) I have been appointed a member of the Academic Review Board for the academic position of *Associate Professor* at PU in the Sphere of higher education 2. Humanities; area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (General and Comparative Linguistics), which was opened for the needs of the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology.

The single applicant for the open position of *Associate Professor*, announced in the State Gazette, Issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv, is Asst. Prof. Mariyana Asenova Kartalova, PhD who works at the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology, *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials submitted by Snr. Asst. Prof. Mariyana Kartalova, PhD is in accordance with the Rulebook for Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University and comprises the following documents:

1. an application to the Rector of the University of Plovdiv;
2. a Europass CV;
3. A Master's degree diploma with an Appendix;
4. A PhD diploma;
5. A list of scientific publications;
6. Copies of the scientific publications;
7. A list of noted citations;
8. A reference form concerning the fulfillment of the minimal national requirements;
9. Annotations of the materials in compliance with Art. 65 from the Rulebook for the Development of Academic Staff at PU;
  - a) in Bulgarian
  - b) in English;
10. Self-evaluation of the contributions
  - a) in Bulgarian
  - b) in English;
11. A declaration for originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
12. A certificate of length of service;
13. Documents concerning teaching;
14. Documents concerning academic work;
15. Other documents – Appendices.

The candidate Mariyana Kartalova has submitted a total of 21 scientific works, two of which are monographs.

### **Brief autobiographical data concerning the applicant**

M. Kartalova was born on 23.04.1988. She finished *Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov* Vocational School of Tourism in Plovdiv in 2007. She obtained her Bachelor's degree – A teacher of Bulgarian language and literature and Greek language and literature – at Plovdiv University in 2011. She obtained her MA in Contemporary Bulgarian Studies in 2012 and defended her PhD thesis in 2016. From 2018 to 2020 M. Kartalova worked as a full-time assistant professor, and from 2020 until now she has been a senior assistant professor at the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology of *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv. She has been trained and has acquired a qualification as an internal auditor (2023). She is a member of the University Committee for Accreditation Procedures and Education Quality Control at the Faculty of Philology of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

Kartalova strives to continuously improve her qualifications by participating in various training seminars. She is very familiar with modern educational information and communication technologies. She actively participates in scientific projects.

### **General characteristics of the applicant's professional activities**

The candidate's teaching and pedagogical activity can only be described as excellent. M. Kartalova has developed and taught various lecture courses and seminars – Introduction to General Linguistics, Communication and Communication Policy, Translation Theory, Basic Aspects of Modern Greek Grammar. She has been an academic supervisor of students who have successfully defended their BA theses. She organizes various events and student activities. She is capable of teamwork and of overcoming various challenges.

### **Assessment of the candidate's research activity**

The synchronic comparative study in M. Kartalova's monograph entitled *The Linguistic Picture of the World Reflected in Zoo- and Phytocomponent Phraseologisms* is a testimony to her very good research skills. The author tries to contribute to unexplored fields in this particular scientific field in which there are controversial theoretical issues. The study is contributory not only with regard to Bulgarian phraseology, but also with regard to Greek phraseology, where similar comparative works are also few in number. The study presents the lexico-grammatical word classes forming the phraseological units, their grammatical characteristics and the sphere of use of the phraseologisms. In accordance with the basic language – speech dichotomy the author gives her own answer to the question of distinguishing image similes and stable similes.

M. Kartalova's first book is of much value for ethno-linguistic theoretical and applied research. This scholarly work is important for teaching and translation practice and for foreign language teaching.

The articles published between 2015 and 2024 mark M. Kartalova's entry into the next research field – onomastics. The texts are in three main directions: continuing research on issues related to phraseology, research reconciling phraseology with onomastics while observing the appellativization of personal names, and purely anthroponymic studies of the family name system. The author popularizes her findings in both Bulgarian and foreign scholarly journals. The research is in full accordance with the modern scientific linguistic paradigm, the distinctive feature of which is interdisciplinarity.

The approach in the *Bulgarian Surnames Motivated by Profession or Craft* monograph is also interdisciplinary. The chosen topic is relevant because of the need for a comprehensive systematic-structural study through which the linguistic picture of the world can be presented from the perspective of Bulgarian national psychology. The surnames/family names (FNs) have a relatively stable linear development, reflecting the historical and socio-economic development of the Bulgarian people.

The submitted habilitation thesis consists of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, an alphabetical index of FNs and bibliography. The Introduction clearly defines the research subject matter, the object of study and the research objectives. Chapter One reviews the Bulgarian onomastics research on the development of the system of FNs and the Bulgarian naming

regulations. The author is well acquainted with the previous research achievements on the problem at hand, as well as the normative documents dating from different periods and regulating the number and form of personal names. The second chapter provides an ethnographic overview of clan and family relations and the development of crafts. The emergence of FNs in this context dates back to the Renaissance period (p. 34). Relying on documents and very good knowledge of basic ethnographic research, M. Kartalova succinctly points out the characteristic crafts and their distribution in the different regions. The review of the legislative and socio-economic prerequisites for the functioning of certain types of family names is a testimony to M. Kartalova's scientific maturity. The author's aspiration to the establishment of the new disciplines of ethno-linguistics and linguoculturology is evident. The influence of the change of the basic social unit of the clan with the family and, accordingly, the relationship between the *nickname/byname – clan name – family name* on family names is outlined.

In the Introduction, as a research method, the author points out the complex approach in the processing of the excerpted material involving the use of “onomastic analysis (aiming to arrive at the first motivating base) and etymological analysis (p. 13)”. However, the work goes beyond this characterization. I would define the method as a complex structural-systemic method. Family names as specific linguistic signs constituting a system of their own are represented in their intra-systemic and extra-systemic linguistic relations. The relationship between the form and substance of a family name, its relationship with other family names in the same system and the extra-systemic relationships of both the individual family name and the system as a whole in accordance with changing cultural, historical and socio-economic conditions are studied.

The exclusion of phonetic analysis is stated, but the family names are given with their phonetic and accentological variants, as well as their word-formation variants – *Zografov/Izografov, Dyulgerov/Dyulgyarov, Domuzchiev/Domuschiev, Tkàchev, Tkàchov; Ketibov/Ketipov, Fuchedzhiev/Fuchedzhiev; Ahchiev/Ahchiyski, Balàkov/Balakchiev*.

A thematic classification is made (Chapter III) according to the semantics of the motivating word denoting a person having a particular craft or profession. Seventeen thematic groups are distinguished. In each of them the FNs are arranged in alphabetical order. Each FN is also listed with its number in the alphabetical index, which allows for the fastest retrieval of specific information. In Chapter IV, 92 synonym clusters are presented, which reveal the simultaneous existence of lexical phenomena from different historical periods and different linguistic interactions. In forming the synonym clusters, the polysemantic nature of the motivating words is taken into account.

### **Critical observations and recommendations**

I have some notes which I suggest as corrections in a subsequent revision and publication of the text.

I believe that several FNs with a motivating word denoting a craft or profession should not appear in the system under consideration: *Vastanov, Ganderski, Mahlebashiev/Mahlebashiyiski, Mukarev/Mukarov, Myudzhedzhiev, Opalchenov/Opalchenski*. I think the listed names denote a person's one-time manifestation (*Vastanov, Opalchenov/Opalchenski*), a personality trait (*Ganderski, Mahlebashiev/Mahlebashiyiski*), or participation in a ritual (*Mukarev/Mukarov, Myudzhedzhiev*), not a permanent craft or profession.

To be excluded from the system of FNs are some compound words with a main verbal base and an animal name – *Derizhabov, Derimishkov, Derimechkov, Kozhoderov, Mishkoderov*. These FNs have a pejorative meaning and are derived from phraseologisms of the type: *dera yare* ‘cough’ (lit. ‘to skin a (sheep's) kid’), *dera kozite/kotkite/lisitsi/pracha* (lit. ‘to skin the goats/cats/foxes/billy-goat’) – colloq. ‘to vomit’, *dera kozhi* (lit. ‘to skin skins/hides’ – ‘to ruthlessly, cruelly plunder or exploit’, etc. The above-mentioned names are grouped along with the family names *Kozinarov, Kozharov, Tabakov/Tabashki* in thematic group XIII, which in itself does not need to be separate.

The paronymy between some FNs and between the words accepted as motivating has led to errors in the definition of some synonymic clusters.

Paronymic are the FNs and motivating words *Kafedzhiev/Kafedzhiyski* with the motivating word *kafe* ‘coffee’ from the Turkish word *kahve* or the Greek *ο καφές* and *Kavadzhiyski*, for which the same motivating word is provided. The motivating word behind *Kavadzhiyski* is, I believe, derived from the first meaning of the Greek word *κάβα* (1. *wine cellar*, 2. *stake (in poker)*). I do not believe there is any synonymy in the FNs *Kafedzhiev/Kafedzhiyski/Kafezhiski* and *Kavadzhiyski*.

I also find paronymy in *Mekekchiev*, *Mekikov*, *Mekikchiev*, whose motivating word is Turkish, a borrowing from Persian – *mekik* ‘loom shuttle’, and *Mekicharski* which denotes ‘a person who makes *mekitsi*’ and is quite different from the afore-mentioned ones.

The author derives the FN *Matardzhiev* from dial. *matordzhia* – a shepherd or trader of *màtori* (non-castrated rams). Another word *matara* ‘a soldier’s canteen’ exists, which is phonetically closer to the above-mentioned FN and there is good reason to accept it as a motivating word.

I believe the FN *Papuhchiev* is phonetically closer to *Papukchiev* and it is not synonymous with *Paukchiev*, whose motivating word in the Slavic languages means *payak* ‘spider’.

Some FNs are listed with the wrong motivating word: in *Chushkarov/Chushkarev* the Old Bulgarian motivating word **ЧУШКОРА** means ‘husk, shell’, not ‘pepper’. In *Shatkàrski* – from dial. *shatkàr* – the meaning ‘one who breeds *shatki* (ducks, geese)’ should not be associated with the Common Slavic root for indicating movement *\*ksent-* : *\*skent* and Old Bulgarian **ШАТАТИ СЯ** meaning in Modern Bulgarian ‘roam, walk, wander’.

In the FNs *Pàndadzhiev*, *Pàntadzhiev*, *Pàntazhiev*, *Pàntadzhiyski* containing the motivating word *panta*, the second sense of a *cardplayer* is chosen. I think in this case the first meaning ‘a person who makes hinges’ is more logical (a hinge being ‘a joining mechanism of two objects that rotate around a common axis’).

Questions are also posed by the FN *Rakarov*, which may have another meaning or motivating word besides the literal meaning of *rak* ‘crab’. N. Gerov in Volume V of his dictionary defines *rak* as “an iron plate into which the heel of a mill wheel is set so that the spindle can turn”. This definition may be taken as a figurative and a secondary sense of the word *rak*. There is, however, an Old Bulgarian word **РАКА** which has the following senses: 1. a tombstone; 2. a coffin.

The meaning of *Kehayòv* on p. 80 is inaccurate in that it is derived from *kehàya* ‘obs. chief of a group, village town-crier’, thus, the name incorrectly enters the semantic group *glashatay* ‘town-crier’. On p. 123 the common meaning used in Bulgarian is given: *kàhya* ‘keeper of a rich house, head of an esnaf’ < Pers. *Kethudā* < *ked* (house) and *huda* (master).

In order to clarify the meaning of some words, Nayden Gerov’s Dictionary should be consulted, and in cases in which the motivating word has penetrated into Bulgarian from Turkish or Greek, the corresponding bilingual dictionaries should be consulted.

The task of constructing a system of FNs motivated by crafts or professions requires a thorough knowledge of all linguistic disciplines. That the candidate possesses such knowledge is unquestionable. The above-mentioned oversights are unavoidable in this type of research, as data from a large number of lexicographic sources using different graphic markings in the etymology of the motivating word of the excerpted names are processed.

This study makes a significant contribution to Bulgarian onomastics in that it provides an alphabetical index in which the FNs are assigned numbers. This allows for quick retrieval of information, which is a basic requirement in modern research publications.

I highly value Mariana Kartalova’s research, which is part of the onomastic tradition at the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at the University of Plovdiv. It is a declaration of the colleague’s strong presence in Bulgarian linguistics.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and accompanying materials submitted by Mariyana Kartalova **meet all the requirements** of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff at the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rulebook for the Application of LDASRB and the corresponding Rulebook of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv.

The candidate's scholarly works contain original scholarly and applied contributions and are published in academic journals and volumes, published by international publishers. Her theoretical works have practical applicability, some of them are directly oriented towards teaching. The candidate's scientific and teaching qualifications are high.

I confidently give my **positive assessment** and I recommend to the Scholarly board to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the selection of **Mariyana Asenova Kartalova** for the academic position of *Associate Professor* at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv in the Sphere of higher education 2. *Humanities*, area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (General and Comparative Linguistics).

14.03.2025

Plovdiv

Reviewer: .....

(Assoc. Prof. A. Dzhelyova, PhD)