

REVIEW

by Dr. Maya Dimitrova Vlahova-Angelova – Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the materials presented for participation in the competition for the academic position of

Associate Professor at Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski

in: the field of higher education 2. in the Humanities

professional field 2.1. Philology (General and Comparative Linguistics),

advertised in the State Gazette, no. 98, from 19.11.2024, and on the internet page of Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski, for the Department of General Linguistics and the History of the Bulgarian Language in the School of Philology, with the sole candidate being Head Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyana Kartalova from the Department of General Linguistics and the History of the Bulgarian language of PU Paisiy Hilendarski.

General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

The set of materials presented by Head Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyana Kartalova for participation in the competition is in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Regulations of PU and the Academic Staff Development Act and includes all the required documents connected with the candidate's pedagogical and academic research activity. The candidate meets the minimal national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

The Candidate's Brief Biographical Data

Mariyana Kartalova is a graduate of Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski. She has a philological education with a bachelor's degree in Bulgarian Language and Modern Greek (2011), a master's degree in current Bulgarian studies (2012), and has obtained the educational and academic degree of doctor with a dissertation on the topic *Phraseological Units with Zoo- and Phytocomponents in the Bulgarian and Greek Languages* (2016). To this moment, Dr. Kartalova has held the academic position of Head Assistant Professor in the Department of General Linguistics and History of the Bulgarian Language at PU for five years (from January 2020 until now). She has sufficiently large teaching and research experience acquired in the following areas: general and comparative linguistics; Bulgarian and Greek language. It is clear from the submitted documents that Dr. Kartalova has significant organizational experience related to academic and pedagogical activities at PU and as an expert in various committees at the university level as well.

General Characteristics of the Candidate's Activities

Regarding the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities, it can be seen from the documents presented that she has already had the opportunity to present herself as a lecturer at PU, where she has been entrusted with conducting one of the most important mandatory lecture courses for philological majors, Introduction to General Linguistics, which she has been teaching in recent years. In addition, the candidate has developed and is conducting another lecture course, Communications and Communication Policies, among students from a wide range of majors at PU. The candidate also conducts a number of extracurricular activities, mainly in the form of semester exams, the supervision of graduate students (five students total, currently one), as well as the reviewing of

diploma theses – nine thesis reviews in the period 2015–2025. It is clear that the candidate is actively involved in all aspects of the educational and pedagogical work at PU.

For the competition, she has submitted 21 academic publications in two main linguistic areas – phraseology and onomastics, incl. two monographs – one based on a defended dissertation (*The Linguistic Picture of the World, Reflected through Zoo- and Phytocomponent Phraseologisms*, 2022) and one habilitation thesis, which does not overlap with the topic of the dissertation (*Bulgarian Surnames Motivated by a Profession or Craft*, 2024), as well as nine citations. Her publications are predominantly in PU collections, as well as in collections from international scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, but the candidate also has one publication in a journal indexed in Scopus – *Езиков свят (Orbis ligvarum)*, and one in the prestigious journal *Балканско езикознание (Linguistique balkanique)*. One of the publications proposed for the competition is in English. There are no co-authored publications. The citations are mainly in journals and collections from Bulgaria, as well as one in an edition indexed in WoS.

M. Kartalova's academic interests encompass two main areas, phraseology and onomastics, and her research deals with material from the Bulgarian and Greek languages. The contributions of her works are connected with the methods of studying phrasal similes, but also her expansion of the volume of linguistic material analyzed. I would like to draw particular attention to the series of publications that study personal names included in phrasal similes, and in particular the way in which these personal names are updated and modernized under the influence of changing linguistic realia.

Dr. Kartalova's habilitation dissertation builds on previous research on Bulgarian surnames, presenting the author's concept of surnames as a separate subsystem within the framework of the Bulgarian three-component personal name system, subject to its own rules, unlike personal and patronymic names. The work is dedicated to only one type of surname in Bulgaria – those originating from a craft or profession – but this is by no means a shortcoming.

In her study of surnames, Kartalova makes a connection with some of her ideas set out in earlier publications. Here she states that surnames related to a profession or craft are an important element in building the linguistic picture of the people and reflect the folk psychology of the Bulgarian (p. 12).

One of the most innovative aspects of the work is the idea that the studied surnames related to professions or crafts are organized in a system based on synonymous relations between names of Bulgarian origin and those of foreign origin. A similar concept for classifying surnames on a *word nest principle*, i.e. presenting surnames that are “semantically related to each other,” was first proposed by Prof. B. Parashkevov in several of his publications, but Kartalova approaches it in her own way, by investigating the presence of “synonymous relations” in surnames, as she defines them in her work. Based on this position, the author classifies the 1670 surnames she compiled in a new way, summarizing that 651 surnames enter into relations of synonymy, separated into 92 synonymous nests.

M. Kartalova's work has other strong points. The first chapter of the study presents a detailed review of the normative documents related to the establishment of the three-component personal name system in Bulgaria, with an emphasis on surnames. It presents an idea of how our personal name system developed, as well as what the relationships are between patronymics, kin names, and surnames, which at a given point became intertwined. In the second chapter, the information on the development of occupations in our country is presented particularly well; this is of essential im-

portance in order to understand the context in which the Bulgarian surnames originating from crafts or professions developed and became established. The third, fourth, and fifth chapters represent the essence of the study, where the results of the linguistic analyses of the excerpted onomastic material are presented, on the basis of which a **thematic classification of surnames** is made, the **synonymy** among surnames is presented, and there is an **etymological analysis of all surnames**. The detailed thematic classification, including 17 thematic groups of surnames corresponding to crafts and professions that were (and some still are) widespread among Bulgarians, is laid out very well, conscientiously and in detail. Based on the thematic fields that surnames form, the interests and activities of the Bulgarian population from the past to the present day are clearly highlighted (p. 44). Regarding the etymological analyses of surnames, the author has worked conscientiously, and the proposed etymologies are based on serious and reliable sources; the controversial and unclear examples, which are inevitable and for which relevant information is also provided, have not been omitted. It is clearly shown that names motivated by lexemes of foreign origin prevail – mainly borrowed dialect words from the Turkish language or through Turkish. In this sense, their study is important at the present moment, since their meanings are now opaque for modern speakers of the language, who not infrequently do not know what their names mean and often replace them with patronymic surnames.

It should be noted that the work contains valuable statistical summaries – data on the frequency of names according to the thematic group they fall into, data on the number of names entering into synonymous relationships, and statistical data on the proportion of names according to their origin. The monograph concludes with an alphabetical index of the surnames studied, representing a kind of dictionary of this class of surnames, which is a valuable reference book for anyone interested in the topic.

CONCLUSION

In this competition, Head Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyana Kartalova presents an academic production sufficient in volume and quality; she already has significant teaching and pedagogical experience, and she meets all the requirements for holding the position of associate professor. I propose that the academic jury support her election to this position in the field of higher education 2. Humanities; professional field 2.1. Philology (General and Comparative Linguistics).

6 March 2025

Review prepared by:

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