

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Teodora Kurteva Rabovyanova, PhD – "St. Cyril and St. Methodius"
University of Veliko Tarnovo

of the materials submitted for participation in a contest
for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Scientific field 2. Humanities,

professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Contemporary Bulgarian
Language), announced in the State Gazette, No. 98/19.11.2024 and on the website of
the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Branch of the Uni-
versity of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" – Smolyan

Admitted participant: Chief Assistant Dr. Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov

1. Data for the procedure and about the applicant

According to Order No. RD-22-73 of 17.01.2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed a member of the Scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv, Branch – Smolyan. In this competition Chief Assistant Dr. Chief Assistant Dr. Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, participated as the only candidate.

The procedure of the contest has been followed and the submitted set of materials confirms that the administrative requirements have been followed. I did not find the texts of articles and report №№ 4.1, 5.6, 5.10, 5.14 – 5.16, 5.18, 5.22, for which I took a position only on the available abstracts.

Miroslav Mihaylov was born on 14.02.1976 and obtained a Master's degree in Bulgarian Philology at the University of Plovdiv in 1999 and a second degree in Journalism 2 years earlier. Teaching experience is also important (from 15.09.1999 to 2001). Since 05.10.2001 he has been a lecturer at the Branch of the University of Plovdiv in Smolyan until now. In 2006, the Specialized Scientific Council in Linguistics awarded him the educational and scientific PhD degree (scientific code 05.04.17 Modern Bulgarian Language). From the List of Scientific Papers, we learn about the topic of the dissertation – "The Zlatograd Speech". Since 11.10.2004 he has been a

Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Pedagogical, Humanitarian, Economic and Natural Sciences – Smolyan Branch (according to the Certificate of Academic Workload), in 2008 he was elected Chief Assistant Professor.

The defended 14 diploma theses under the guidance of M. Mihaylov, the "heavy" workload, and last but not least – the wide range of disciplines taught – within the scope of the Modern Bulgarian Language (Phonetics, Lexicology, Dialectology, History of the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language, Historical Linguistics, Language Culture, Business Correspondence and Language Culture), Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature at the Initial Stage of the Basic Educational Level, Experimental Methods in Phonetics, Acoustic Features of Colloquial Speech, Communications and Communication Policy in Tourism, etc.

The lectures delivered at 3 foreign universities, membership in authoritative scientific organizations (Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, International Sociolinguistic Society) reveal the candidate as a scientist with a desire to develop in his preferred scientific fields and to promote his scientific pursuits.

The active participation in projects (18 are indicated, but 12 of them do not have a date /at least a year/), 10 participations in scientific events – mostly at the University of Plovdiv, incl. and in the Branch in Smolyan, as well as in conferences organized by the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, etc. It would be good in the future for the author to participate in other university forums in the country, as well as to focus his attention on publications in refereed philological journals. Thus, the results of his studies will have greater visibility.

2. Description of scientific works

The candidate's scientific and research biases – towards phonetics, dialectology and onomastics, are evident in the presented monograph and textbook. The works "The Dialect of the Village of Pripek" and "The Zlatograd Dialect" describe the respective dialect and have all the necessary qualities. Valuable are the personally collected language material, the rich bibliography and the many attached transcribed dia-

lect texts. Among the habilitation works is "Phonetics of the Union of Bulgarian Students (with a view to the dialectal state)", which, firstly, fulfills its purpose – to be a textbook on phonetics; Secondly, through appropriately selected and memorable examples, the author explains the phonetic changes that occur in diachrony in our language. A plus is the comparison with different dialectal features, which, however, are not clearly distinguished from the changes adopted in the codified literary written and oral speech, as well as from pronounced colloquial influences on the orthographic norm. There are also statements that require in-depth research: the pronunciation [’ʙ] of the letter Я in the conditional spelling of verbs is "to disappear" (p. 43), the equalization of the sound value of Я before a consonant sound with [ЎА].

The articles reveal M. Mihaylov as a dialectologist, defending his research "offspring" (5.3), a specialist phonetician, who in a significant part of his works combines this attraction to dialectology and phonetics with modern methods of sound analysis (5.9 – 5.22). Another part of the research is in the field of onomastics – joint work on anthroponyms and oikonyms in the Smolyan region (5.5, 5.8, 5.23 – 5.26), on the methodology of teaching Bulgarian at school (studies 4.2, articles 5.1, 5.2), with a literary-dialectal bias is article 5.4 on the everyday vocabulary from the Eastern Rhodopes in the work of St. Sivriev.

Scientific contributions: I accept ALL scientific contributions mentioned by Miroslav Mihaylov in his documentation. In my opinion they should reflect only the results after 2017, i.e. after the defended doctorate. I do not find plagiarism in scientific production. 21 citations are indicated, of which 2 are on the doctoral dissertation, of the remaining 16 – 3 citations are co-authored, 3 are in unreferenced articles with scientific review. At the same time, the 15 co-authored articles and the glossary are evidence of teamwork skills as well as good organizational skills.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Of course, the texts presented by M. Mihaylov also raise questions. It is necessary to refine the statement in terms of accuracy and the presence of duplicate infor-

mation. Inconvenience is caused by the mistakes made, including in the documents for the competition (in the abstracts, in the contributions), and for some of the omissions we test the students (repetitions, articles, capital letters, punctuation in the complex sentence). Because "what is written remains" and discredits us in the public space.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by M. Mihaylov meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the relevant Regulations of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD thesis. His theoretical developments have practical applicability; they are directly oriented to educational work.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, and on the basis of the teaching activity of the candidate, I find it reasonable to give a **positive** assessment and **recommend** to the esteemed scientific jury to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov for the academic position of Associate Professor at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in Higher Education Field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language – Contemporary Bulgarian Language).

17.03.2025 г.
Veliko Tarnovo

The opinion was prepared by:
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