

OPINION

from Dr. of Sciences Iskra Vladimirova Hristova-Shomova,

Professor in the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

based on the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for the academic position of "associate professor"

at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

in: field of higher education Humanities, professional field Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language)

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Pedagogical, Humanitarian, Economic and Natural and Mathematical Sciences at the Branch, Smolyan, the candidate is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Branch, Smolyan.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order ПД-22-73 of 17.01.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'associate professor' at PU in the field of higher education Humanities, professional field Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language), announced for the needs of the Department of Pedagogical, Humanitarian, Economic and Natural and Mathematical Sciences at the Branch, Smolyan.

The only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition was Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov from the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", Branch, Smolyan, Department of Pedagogical, Humanitarian, Economic and Natural and Mathematical Sciences.

The set of materials on paper presented by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

The candidate, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, has submitted a total of 27 scientific papers: 2 studies, 2 monographs, 2 books, 20 articles, one dictionary, and a list of 41 research papers. 27 scientific papers that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final grade. 8 scientific papers on the dissertation are not reviewed.

Brief biographical data of the candidate

Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov graduated in Bulgarian Philology with a second specialty in Journalism at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in 1997 and obtained a master's degree at the same university with a major in Bulgarian Language and Literature with a specialization in Linguistics in 1999.

Since 2001, he has worked at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" as an assistant, senior assistant (2004) and chief assistant (2008). In 2006, he obtained the scientific and educational degree "doctor" with a dissertation on the topic "Zlatograd dialect", with a diploma from the Higher Attestation Commission.

He has delivered several lecture series at the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, as well as lectures at the Thracian Democritus University in Komotini, Greece, and at the Thracian University in Edirne, Turkey.

He has participated in 16 national and international projects, being the leader of five of them.

He has supervised 7 student theses.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

Evaluation of the candidate's teaching and pedagogical activities and preparation.

Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov has extensive teaching experience. He has taught various mandatory and elective courses for bachelors and masters: Phonetics, Language Culture, History of the Bulgarian Language, Dialectology, History of the New Bulgarian Literary Language, Cognitive Linguistics, Modern Bulgarian Language Part I and II, Business Correspondence, Communications and Communication Policy in Tourism. He has taught students from the specialties "Bulgarian Language and English Language", "Bulgarian Language and History", "Bulgarian Language and History with Cultural Management", "Primary School Pedagogy with English Language", "Marketing", "Tourism", "Information Technologies, Mathematics and Educational Management", "Management in Tourism".

The candidate has also participated in national and international projects focused on teaching and educational policy.

Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov also has extensive experience in individual work with students and graduates. Under his supervision, seven diploma theses have been defended. He has consulted numerous students for participation in scientific forums.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activities

First, I will evaluate the two monographs with which Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov participated in the competition for associate professor. The monograph "The Dialect of the Village of Pripek" contains a

detailed study of the speech of the village of Pripek in the municipality of Djebel. It is the only place in the municipality with a population that speaks Bulgarian, therefore the study of its speech is important for Bulgarian dialectology. Dr. Mihaylov's research covers the phonetic and grammatical system of the dialect. It is based on material collected by him personally during extensive fieldwork. The emphasis is on the phonetic and phonological features of the speech, which are analyzed in detail and professionally, against the background of other Eastern Rhodope dialects. But no less important are the observations on the grammatical features of the dialect. The dialect recordings from informants are also very valuable.

The second monograph presented by the candidate is entitled "Phonetics of the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language (with a View to the Dialectal State)". Unlike the first monograph, which is based on his own research, this work, conceived as a teaching aid, presents knowledge about the phonetics of the Bulgarian literary language based on the studies carried out so far. This is not an original research work, but a textbook, which will undoubtedly be useful for students, but it would be correct to define it as a textbook, not a monograph. The material in this textbook is examined systematically and consistently and shows the good scientific preparation of the author. It is very good that a section on spelling is included. But the dialect material is small and is not presented systematically. I would recommend to Dr. Mihaylov as his future task to prepare a new edition of this work, expanding the information on dialects.

The presented works of Dr. Mihaylov also include two books (perhaps both monographs were also published as books). Both books are the result of his own field research. The first book, "The Zlatograd Dialect," is based on Dr. Mihaylov's dissertation, so I will not discuss it in detail. However, I will note that it contains a detailed and in-depth analysis of the peculiarities of the Zlatograd dialect with very rich dialect material collected during field work. Undoubtedly, this work is a significant contribution to Bulgarian dialectology. The second book is onomastic and is dedicated to the settlement names in the Smolyan region. This is a collective monograph, at the beginning of which the authors of the individual sections are precisely indicated. Dr. Mihaylov participated in the preparation of the list of settlement names, accompanied by data on the settlements and the origin of the names. He is also the author of the semantic analysis of the Turkish names of the settlements. The same team has also prepared a Frequency Dictionary of Personal Names in Smolyan with an analysis of their semantics.

In his study "Ethno-psycholinguistic aspects of intercultural education" the candidate examines the issue of school education of students who are speakers of different languages and representatives of different cultures. The issue is relevant for the Smolensk region, but in the study it is placed against the background of the dynamics of processes throughout the European Union. As the author points

out, respect for multilingualism and different cultural identities will lead to the fall of barriers between different communities in our country and in the European Union.

Dr. Mihaylov's articles, proposed for review, are 20, published in Bulgarian and foreign journals and collections, one of them is in English. They are mainly in three scientific areas: dialectology and onomastics, phonetics and acoustics, problems of language teaching in school. Some of the articles relate to the dialects of Zlatograd and Pripek and they repeat information that is also contained in the author's monographs. But the candidate's research horizon is much broader, as can be seen from a number of his publications. The article "Word-formation models in the anthroponymic system of Smolyan region" is interesting, in it the diversity of personal names in the region is shown and analyzed. The two articles (co-authored with Ivan G. Iliev) on the phonetic and morphological features of the speech of the village of Glavki, Xanthiy region are very helpful. The article "The lexicon of the Eastern Rhodopean way of life in the work of Stanislav Sivriev" is also related to dialectological issues. It analyzes the use of local dialect names of specific objects that have fallen out of use today, but continue to live on in the works of the Zlatograd writer.

A number of articles by the candidate (some of them co-authored) are devoted to the contemporary description of sounds with modern technical means, to the mathematical methods for describing the sound expression of human speech, to the spectral picture of speech sounds. They demonstrate Dr. Mihaylov's good knowledge not only in the classical science of sounds, but also in the latest research approaches for studying human speech.

The clear and rich language and the precise and correct terminology used should be mentioned as a common characteristic of the presented scientific works. Also impressive is the good bibliographical information and the precise and correct citation.

The candidate's contributions are primarily in the field of dialectology and onomastics, based on his personal field research. However, the researcher does not remain at the level of the collected material, but applies to it a thorough analysis and his own hypotheses about the cause of linguistic phenomena. His research undoubtedly enriches the idea of modern Bulgarian dialects and the system of settlement names in the Rhodope Mountains. The candidate's contribution to the study of the acoustics of the speech process is undeniable. Among Dr. Mihaylov's contributions, his research in the field of language teaching at school should also be mentioned. It is evident from them that he is actively engaged with the environment in which he lives and teaches, that he has a responsible attitude towards the multilingual and multicultural world that surrounds him.

The attached list of over 20 citations shows that Dr. Mihaylov's works are well known in scientific circles and that their contribution has been appreciated by specialists in dialectology and phonetics.

3. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

Among the reviewed scientific works, I place in first place the monograph dedicated to the dialect of the village of Pripek, in which the contribution is entirely that of Dr. Mihaylov. A large part of the articles are also his personal scientific contribution. In the book, the study and the articles that are co-authored, the contribution of Dr. Mihaylov is significant.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend that Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov continue and expand his work on presenting Bulgarian phonetics with a view to Bulgarian dialects. This may provide a new perspective on the overall phonetic system of the Bulgarian language.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the relevant Regulations of the Paisii Hilendarski University.

The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "doctor". His research shows excellent linguistic competence and a mature research approach. He has significant original scientific contributions in the field of dialectology, onomastics and phonetics. His research activity is aimed at both theoretical science and pedagogical work with students and pupils. Dr. Mihaylov's teaching experience is respectable, and his individual work with students and graduates deserves admiration. **The scientific and teaching qualifications of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov are beyond doubt.**

The results achieved by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov in academic and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Branch in the city of Smolyan, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the application of ADSRB, and even exceed them.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientifically-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Branch in the city of Smolyan for the election of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov to the academic position of "As-

sociate Professor" at the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University in: field of higher education Humanities,
professional direction Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language)

16.03.2025

Prepared the opinion:

(signature)

Professor Dr of Sciance Iskra Hristova-Shomova