

OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Habil. Hristina Mileva Toncheva-Todorova,**
Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of **Associate professor**
at **Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**
in the sphere of higher education 2. Humanities,
area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language)

Following Order No. **ПД-22-73 from 17.01.2025** of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv 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 (Modern Bulgarian Language) for the needs of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv – Smolyan Branch.

The competition for **Associate professor** was announced in the **State Gazette, issue 98 from 19.11.2024** and on the web-page of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The single applicant for the open position is **Senior Lecturer Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, PhD**, from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv – Smolyan Branch.

The application documents submitted by Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov as hard copies **are** in compliance with the Rulebook for Academic Staff Development at PU. The reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements shows that the candidate meets the quantitative requirements for all indicators.

Brief biographical details about the candidate. In 1999 Miroslav Mihaylov graduated from the programme *Bulgarian Philology* at the Faculty of Philology at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. After graduation, he worked as a Bulgarian language and literature teacher for two years. Since 2001 he has worked as a lecturer at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv – Smolyan Branch. In 2006, he acquired the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’.

Teaching and pedagogical work. The candidate has significant teaching experience: he has conducted seminars and lecture courses in Modern Bulgarian Language, History of Bulgarian language, Dialectology, Cognitive Linguistics, Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language, Business Correspondence. The candidate has given lectures at Universities in Poland, Greece and Turkey.

Academic and applied research. I have known Miroslav Mihaylov since his first participation in scientific conferences. Since the dawn of his academic development, he has declared a strong and genuine desire to research the dialects of the Rhodope Mountains, which has turned out to be the centre of almost all of his publications. One of his earliest contributions is his PhD thesis entitled “The Dialect of Zlatograd”, which helped fill a gap on the Bulgarian Linguistic Territory Map. Later, the author continued his description of a number of phonetic regularities in the Rhodope dialects. The list of publications includes eight which were submitted for the procedure of acquiring the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’, these are not part of the ongoing procedure.

The candidate participates in the habilitation procedure with **two monographs**: “Phonetics of the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language (with a view also to the dialectal state)”, Publisher: Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv – Smolyan Branch, 2018, p. 160, “The dialect of the village of Pripek”, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2022, p. 176. The candidate is the co-author of “Village Names in Smolyan”, Smolyan, 2015, and “Frequency Dictionary of Personal Names in Smolyan”, Smolyan, 2010.

The other publications which the candidate has presented for the competition are as follows: **two studies**: “Acoustic Aspect of Vocals in the Speech of the Village of Pripek”, 2021 and “Ethnopsycholinguistic aspects of intercultural education”, 2024, **twelve papers**: “Teaching verbosity in school”, 2002, “Motivation in learning the Bulgarian language as a consequence of the practical usefulness of the educational content”, 2004, “Word formation patterns in the anthroponymic system of Smolyan”, 2011, “The vocal system in the speech of the village of Pripek as a challenge for Bulgarian dialectal and historical phonetics”, 2011, “The transition è > ù in Eastern Rhodope speaks as evidence of migration processes”, 2013, “Semantic classification of oikonyms from Madan and Rudozem municipalities”, 2013, “Slavic anthroponymy in Smolyan”, 2015, “The Old Bulgarian phonetic markers in the modern Rhodopean dialects from Northern Greece - evidence of national and linguistic identity”, 2018, “A spectral picture of palatal consonants in the modern Bulgarian literary language”, 2020, “Sound analysis of speech by Fourier transform”, 2021, “Mechanisms for automatic voice recognition using sound spectrograms”, 2021, “The correlation *palatality - non-palatality* in the Bulgarian language regarding its concrete implementation in the pronunciation of the verb “кипя” (“boil”)”, 2024.

The candidate is the co-author of **ten** publications: “The anthroponymic system in Smolyan as a part of the onomastics of the Bulgarian Rhodopes (general characteristics)”, 2012, “Modern mathematical methods for describing spoken sound”, 2014, “Semantic classification of oikonym in Smolyan municipality”, 2015, “Acoustic aspect of vocal substitutions in the speech of Pripek, Kardzhali (using modern engineering and mathematical methods)”, 2016, “The speech of the village of Glavki, Xanthiia (Phonetic features)”, 2016, “The speech of the village of Glavki, Xanthiia - morphological characteristics of the names”, 2018, “Mathematical model for determining the formant structure of vowels in the Bulgarian language”, 2019, “Formant structure in the variants of the vowel [Ê] in the Rhodopean dialects”, 2022, “Sound spectrum of vocal components”, 2022, “Formant transitions in the spectral picture of speech”, 2022.

Scientific contributions. In all of his numerous publications, Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov has demonstrated his interest towards the dialect systems of the Bulgarian language, by presenting precise comments on long-established postulates concerning the distribution of such phonetic successors to eric and nasal vowels as [ô], the reflexes of the Old Bulgarian yat vowel, which depend only on the stress (“The dialect of the village of Pripek” book. 2022), the replacement of [ê] with [ù] (“The transition è > ù in Eastern Rhodope speaks as evidence of migration processes”, 2013). It is with a certain amount of satisfaction that I wish to mention the fact that I, too, have taken part in researching the dialect of the village of Pripek and that the observations and research activities carried out with my colleagues from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv –Kardzhali Branch, have led to a number of publications (and two books with the same title!) describing the peculiarities of the above-mentioned dialect region, which are missing from course books. Modern methods of acoustic analysis have been used in Dr. Mihaylov’s publications, these methods are based on the application of Speech Analyzer (“Formant structure in the variants of the vowel [Ê] in the Rhodopean dialects”, 2022, “Sound spectrum of vocal components”, 2022, “Formant transitions in the spectral picture of speech”, 2022.) Consequently, our mutual work contributed to clarifying many debatable or insufficiently researched peculiarities of micro-dialects on a phonetic, morphological, syntactical and lexical level.

Dr. Miroslav Mihaylov’s research has gone even further. It has been aimed at not only clarifying some theories from course books on Bulgarian dialectology, but also at establishing the patterns and tendencies in the phonetic system of the Modern Bulgarian language, for instance, researching the correlation *palatality - non-palatality* (“The correlation *palatality - non-palatality* in the

Bulgarian language regarding its concrete implementation in the pronunciation of the verb “кипя” (“boil”), 2024).

I would also like to mention that the candidate has participated in collective monographs on anthroponymy, which are the result of his interests towards researching personal names with Slavic origin (“The anthroponymic system in Smolyan as a part of the onomastics of the Bulgarian Rhodopes (general characteristics)”, 2012). Toponyms and oikonyms are also within the scope of research of the author (“Semantic classification of oikonym in Smolyan municipality”, 2015). In general, Dr. Mihaylov’s various interests are evident from his publications, his presented papers at scientific conferences, from his numerous university, national and European projects, from his intriguing lectures with students, from the many defended Master’s thesis under his guidance, as well as from his active participation in numerous events connected with the academic life at the Smolyan Branch.

CONCLUSION:

The documents and materials, presented by the candidate, **Senior Lecturer Miroslav Mihaylov, PhD**, comply with all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv and are in accordance with the quantitative indicators for occupying the academic position of “Associate professor” for the needs of the Smolyan Branch.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of research papers published after the materials used in the defense of his PhD. The candidate's works contain original academic and applied contributions, I have not discovered data about plagiarism in the above mentioned works. His theoretical findings have practical applicability, some of them being directly oriented towards teaching. The academic and teaching qualification of **Senior Lecturer Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, PhD** is accepted without doubt.

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scholarly publications submitted for the purposes of this position, having analyzed their significance and the contributions entailed in them with regard to their theoretical and scholarly merits, I find it expedient to confirm my **positive assessment**, as expressed above, and to recommend to the Academic Review Board to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the selection of **Senior Lecturer Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, PhD**, for the academic position of **Associate**

professor for the needs of the Smolyan Branch in the sphere of higher education 2. Humanities;
Area of professional qualification 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

10. 03. 2025

Prepared the opinion:

Plovdiv

(Professor Dr. Habil. Hristina Mileva Toncheva-Todorova)