

SHORT REVIEW

**from Radoslav Mihaylov Tsonev, PhD, Associate Professor at the South-West University
“Neofit Rilski”**

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition of holding the academic position

‘Associate Professor’

at University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”

in: field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional field 2.1. Philology

(Modern Bulgarian Language)

In the competition for **‘Associate Professor’**, announced in the SG, issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Smolyan Branch, as a candidate participates **Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov** from the Department of “Pedagogical, humanitarian, economic and natural-mathematical sciences” at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” – Smolyan Branch.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-22-73 of 17.01.2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” (UP), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition of holding the academic position **‘Associate Professor’ at the UP** in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language), **announced for the needs of the Smolyan Branch.**

For participation in the announced competition documents are submitted **only** by Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov from the Department of “Pedagogical, humanitarian, economic and natural-mathematical sciences”, UP “Paisii Hilendarski” – Smolyan Branch.

The submitted by Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov a set of paper materials **is** in accordance with the Regulations on the Academic Staff Development of the UP.

The candidate has the educational and scientific degree “doctor (PhD)” with the scientific specialty 05.04.17 Bulgarian Language, awarded by the Higher Attestation Commission – Diploma No. 30731 of 31.07.2006 for the dissertation “The Zlatograd dialect”. Miroslav Mihaylov has the required length of service according to the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, (LASDRB). He has been appointed to a basic employment contract at the Smolyan Branch of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” from 05.10.2001 and continues to work as a Chief Assistant Professor PhD in the Branch until now.

For participation in the competition for **‘Associate Professor’**, Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Mihaylov has submitted the following scientific materials: 1 habilitation work-monograph: “The dialect of the village of Pripek. Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2022, 176 p., ISBN: 978-619-202-759-9. “; 1 published monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation work: “Phonetics of the modern Bulgarian literary language (with a view of the dialectal situation). University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Publishing House, Branch – Smolyan, Smolyan, 2018, 160 p., ISBN: 978-954-8767-70-5”; 1 published book based on a

dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree “doctor (PhD)”: “The Zlatograd dialect. University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Publishing House, Branch – Smolyan, Smolyan, 2016, 324 p., ISBN: 978-954-8767-64-4.”; 26 articles and papers published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; 2 studies published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; 1 published chapter of a collective monograph and 1 contribution (co-authorship) to compilation of dictionaries. 18 citations of his publications are noted in monographs and non-indexed peer-reviewed collective volumes and 3 citations in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

2. General description of the activity of the candidate

The candidate has many years of educational and pedagogical activity as an Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor in Bulgarian language. He teaches a variety of lecture courses and exercises, related to the methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature. He has lectured at 3 foreign universities. He has participated in 1 international, 5 national and 12 intra-university research projects (of which he is the head of 5). Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Mihaylov is a research supervisor of 15 graduate students who have successfully defended their graduate works. He has participated in 10 scientific conferences. He is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

The research and teaching work of Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Mihaylov at the Branch of University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” in the town of Smolyan, as well as his rich scientific production in the field of Dialectology, Phonetics and Phonology, Morphology, Word formation, Onomastics, the methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature, etc., allow the emphasizing and summarizing of many scientific contributions of the candidate. Some of them are:

* The habilitation work-monograph is a detailed study of the phonetic and phonological system, the morphological (especially regarding the construction of word forms) and some syntactic features of the dialect of the village Pripek, Dzhebel region. The modern state of speech is established, a comparison is made with neighboring dialects, and the specific local linguistic features are highlighted. Special attention is paid to the acoustic aspect of the vocals in Pripek and the most contrasting feature of the dialect – the replacement of the vowel [è] with [ù], as the authentic language material is presented through an acoustic analysis program.

The candidate’s conclusions are interesting and contain scientific contributions: the reflexes of the Old Bulgarian yat vowel in the Rhodopean dialects [è], [è] and [ă] depend only on the stress and do not depend on the type of the following syllable; there is no sufficient basis for the claim that the dialects in the Eastern Rhodopes are part of the Pavlikian dialects, due to the non-existence or emphasized facultativeness of the mentioned phonetic alternations such as the reflex [ÿ] instead of ̋, ̌ and the replacement of [è] with [ù]; the vowels [è] and [è] are variants of the phoneme [è] (and not two separate phonemes) and there is no etymological dependence in their distribution, etc.

* Additional scientific contributions in the candidate’s publications:

– on the phonetics of the modern Bulgarian literary language in comparison with the dialect state, which allows the use of the work as a teaching aid in phonetics among students with pronounced dialect specificity;

– on the main phonetic, phonological, morphological and syntactic features of the Zlatograd dialect. The analytical description of the dialect clarifies previous misconceptions and inaccuracies

while contributing valuable insights to Bulgarian dialectology, particularly regarding the dialects of the Eastern Rhodopes.;

- on the acoustic aspects and formant structure of vowels in Bulgarian dialects;
- on the correlation palatality – non-palatality in the consonant system of the Bulgarian language;
- on the Old Bulgarian phonetic markers in the modern Rhodopean dialects from Northern Greece;
- on the Smolyan anthroponymic system as part of the onomastics of the Bulgarian Rhodopes;
- on the motivation in learning the Bulgarian language as a consequence of the practical usefulness of the intended educational content, etc.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov meet all requirements of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB), the Regulations governing the application of the LASDRB and the relevant Regulations of the UP “Paisii Hilendarski” for the acquisition of the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’. The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the dissertation defense for the educational and scientific degree “doctor (PhD)”. His theoretical elaborations also have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented towards educational work.

The achieved results of Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov in his educational and research activities not only fully meet the minimum national and specific additional requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the UP for application of LASDRB, but also exceed them.

I strongly support the conferment of the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ to Ch. Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov, I give my positive vote and recommend to the scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Asst. Prof. PhD Miroslav Krasimirov Mihaylov in the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ at UP “Paisii Hilendarski” in: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Modern Bulgarian Language).

11.03.2025

Author of the short review:

(signature)

Assoc. Prof. PhD Radoslav Tsonev