

## **REVIEW**

**by Prof. DSc. Nikolay Stoychev Dimitrov**

of the materials submitted for the competition

for the academic position of **Professor**

**at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, 2.1 Philology

professional field: Bulgarian Literature – Literature of the National Revival

In the competition for the academic position of Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 31 of April 11, 2025, and on the website of the Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory at the Faculty of Philology, the applicant is Elena Slavova Getova from the Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

### **3. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific activity**

In connection with her participation in the competition for the academic position of Professor, Assoc. Prof. Elena Getova has submitted one monograph and 20 scientific articles, of which 2 in refereed scientific publications, for evaluation. The materials submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition meet the requirements for scientific publications of the article type. The study “Petko Slaveykov’s Journalistic XIX Century” in its subject matter, methodology and structure meets the requirement for a monographic study.

The monograph “Petko Slaveykov’s Journalistic XIX Century”, published in a book, is an attempt to add new touches to the journalistic and publicistic activity of the prominent Bulgarian Revivalist writer, poet and man of letters Petko R. Slaveykov. The study contains an introduction and three chapters. The first chapter “The Century, Europe, Journalism” aims to set the socio-cultural context of the work, the presence and importance of journalism in it. The notion of the concept of “century” is discussed, both in theoretical terms, with all the relativity of this concept, and in the specifics of the Bulgarian journalistic view of this concept. The reader’s gaze is successfully directed to the French press, related to this concept, and the Bulgarian replica in the edition of M. Balabanov – the newspaper, entitled “Vek” (“Century”). The Bulgarian 19th century is seen through the prism of Slaveykov’s journalism, outlining the priorities for the Bulgarian

people, which, although they coincide in particular (the woman question, fashion, the schools), still have a specific character, related to the political dependence of our people and its economic backwardness. At the end of this chapter, the researcher attempts to summarize Petko Slaveykov's vision of the 19th century and quite naturally comes to the conclusion that it is difficult to speak of any cohesive concept held by our National Revival writer regarding the "century". Something entirely acceptable in view of his operational inscription in the dynamics of the rapidly changing socio-cultural environment.

The second chapter of the monograph is dedicated to the newspaper "Shutosh", several thematic accents are placed in the writing of the newspaper. The first of them is related to the selection of translated materials for the newspaper from the foreign press. The materials selected are mostly relevant to Bulgarian reality, but are also amenable to ironic or parodic transformation. Attention is paid to the thematic preferences of the translators – fashion, political hierarchy, and the function of translation to become a cultural transfer between two cultures is also noted. The third emphasis in this chapter is on the polemics related to the history of the newspaper, its Greek origin, and the difficulties of publishing. The study focuses on one of the main journalistic techniques, called "transfiguration" – the play between symbolic figures (headlines, recurring characters and motifs), something that I would call the intimation of the media environment, including the inclusion and cultivation of its own readership. This chapter also devotes space to journalistic personalities – most of all, attention is focused on the publisher Teodor Kasap (Theodoros Kasapis). Although standing as a private problem, the fate of this publisher also illustrates the model of cultural diffusion (in this case, French culture) here in the Balkans. At the end of this chapter, some genre transformations and experiments in journalism of that era are examined, the role of correspondence, prayers, parables, dream interpretations, interpretations, creating opportunities for satirical and ironic deformations of certain social images and phenomena. Attention is also paid to the possibilities of humorous publications for personal self-deprecation.

The third chapter "...and other journalistic territories" draws attention to other manifestations of the journalistic 19th century, related to one degree or another to the figure of P. R. Slaveykov. It follows the cultural and political dialogues between him and representative figures of the Bulgarian Revival, such as Marko Balabanov and Lyuben Karavelov, who were representative of the 1870s. They trace cultural behavioral patterns, also setting some cultural stereotypes of the era. For example, Karavelov-Botev's writing about Marko Balabanov leaves its

mark on Slaveykov's introduction of his image in periodicals. The important problem of the function of journalistic stereotypes for understanding a given era is touched upon. Another thematic core in this chapter is related to the literary and journalistic sanctions in Petko Slaveykov's journalistic practice. His activity as a journalist translating from the foreign press, but also evaluating the translated material, is traced. Specifically, the linguistic models for characterizing foreign peoples and ethnicities, but also linguistic models of national consciousness, are examined, in addition to Slaveykov and in Rakovski, Karavelov, Botev. According to the researcher, the following features of Slaveykov's journalistic stylistics should be noted: "verboseness, multi-theme, polyvalence of statements, images branching into many meanings". At the end of the chapter, a place is dedicated to Petko Slaveykov's political project in his journalism from 1871-72. Two texts from 1881 and 1883 (namely the poem "Homeland" and the brochure "My Last Visit to Sofia") are compared with earlier journal publications, generating motifs and images – auto-reminiscences, auto-citations of the later texts. National geography as a political project of the newspaper "Makedoniya" is projected onto the poem "Homeland". There is probably reason in such an observation, but one must also take into account the literary context in which the poem appears, and especially Vazov's patriotic poetry. This chapter also adds touches to the problem of "cultural enlighteners – revolutionaries" in Bulgarian literary scholarship. The researcher focuses on Karavelov's feuilletons, in which Slaveykov appears as a character. Attention is drawn to the feuilleton travesty of Slaveykov's image, mainly due to differences in the political views of the two revivalists.

#### **4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution.**

If I were to summarize the contributions in the scientific materials submitted for the competition, I would point out the following:

1. The understanding of the category "time", the concepts "century" (and more specifically the 19th century) and "literary year" based on journalistic publications, poetic works from the second half of the 19th century. The very entry of these concepts and categories into the vocabulary of the Bulgarian Renaissance writers and literary figures is a sign of a new type of attitude towards time, different from that of the Medieval and the Folklore man.

Getova, Elena. The concept of century in the journalism of Petko Slaveykov. // Scientific publication in memory of Prof. Dr. of Philology Kamen Mihaylov – Dzyalo, e-magazine in the

field of humanities 10th-21st centuries. year VII, 2019, issue 14, Sofia: Institute of Bulgarian Language, BAS, ISSN 1314-9067

Getova, Elena. "Notion de siècle" (the concept of a century) in the Bulgarian Revivalist journalism.// Scientific works of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Plovdiv, Vol. 56, Vol. 1, Vol. B, 2019, 13 - 23. ISSN 0861-0029

Getova, Elena. Images of time in Bulgarian Revivalist poetry. // Bulgarian language and literature, Volume 66, Number 5, 2024, 540 - 561. ISSN 0323-9519 (Print) ISSN 1314-8516 (Online)

Getova, Elena. The poetic 19th century of the Bulgarians (The consciousness of the present). // The awakening 19th century of the Bulgarians. Collection of scientific articles dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dobri Chintulov. Editor-in-chief. Associate Professor, D.Sc. Ivan Rusev. Veliko Tarnovo: Faber, 2023, 65 - 85. ISBN 978-619-00-1679-3. 2.

2. The research of Assoc. Prof. Getova on humorous publications during the Bulgarian National Revival, with a central place assigned to the newspaper "Shutosh", contributes to rethinking their place in the socio-cultural environment of the era.

Petko Slaveykov's Journalistic XIX Century. Plovdiv, 2022

Getova, Elena. Humor and journalism from the 60s of the 19th century. // Language, society, culture. Collection dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Prof. Dr. Elena Kanevska Nikolova. Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House. 2024, 342 - 359; ISBN 978- 619-7768-10-7

Getova, Elena. Newspaper "Shutosh" on journalism – polemics and perspectives. // Time and continuity. Anniversary collection dedicated to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yulia Nikolova. Plovdiv: University Publishing House "Paisiy Hilendarski", 2021, 43 - 56. ISBN 978-619-202- 679-0

3. The monographic study, as well as some of the presented articles, add new touches to the image of Petko Slaveykov, especially as a journalist and publicist. The journalistic dialogues in the press between Slaveykov and M. Balabanov, L. Karavelov deserve special attention, giving a different perspective on him, but also revealing the literary mores of that time.

Getova, Elena. Petko Slaveykov – Marko Balabanov: journalistic visions, political directions.// Literature: images and contexts. Anniversary collection dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Prof. Tsvetan Rakovsky, Veliko Tarnovo: Faber, 2019, 138 - 154, ISBN 978-619-00-1066-1

Getova, Elena. Newspaper “Shutosh”: uses and policies of translation. // Unknown, unknown, overlooked - Bulgarian authors from the 19th - 20th centuries. Dzyalo, an e-journal in the field of humanities for Bulgarian studies in the period 10th - 21st centuries. Vol. IX, 2021, issue 19. ISSN 1314-9067

4. Assoc. Prof. Getova’s research adds new touches and problematizations to the East - West cultural dialogue in the Bulgarian and Balkan context. To this contribution, special attention deserves the illumination of the concept of “united Europe”, launched, according to the researcher for the first time by Petko Slaveykov.

Getova, Elena. United Europe - a “discovery” of Petko Slaveykov? // In infinity, eternal and invisible. Anniversary collection dedicated to Prof. Dr. of Philology Georgeta Cholakova. Plovdiv: Univ. ed. “Paisiy Hilendarski”, 2020, 291-298. ISBN 978-619-202-612-7

Getova, Elena. “Istanbul” by Orhan Pamuk - the Western View. // The Authority of Meaning. Theory and Interpretations. Collection in Honor of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Buchkov. Plovdiv: Univ. ed. “Paisiy Hilendarski”, 2019, 307 - 321, ISBN 978-619-202-426-0

Getova, Elena. By the Well of the Saint, Under the Monastery Vine. // Bulgarian Language and Literature, Volume 60, Number 6, 2018, pp. 643 - 653, Sofia: MES, ISSN 0323-9519 (print)

Assoc. Prof. Elena Getova has submitted the following noted citations for the competition: 4 cit. in scientific refereed or indexed publications; 19 cit. in monographs and collective volumes. The citations are correct, well described, some of them by established scientists in their field. Two reviews for her book “Petko-Slaveykov’s Journalistic XIX Century” should be added to them. In number, they cover the citation requirements necessary for holding the position of “professor”.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova **meet all** the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a **sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS “doctor” and the procedure for holding the academic position of “associate professor”. The candidate’s works contain original scientific and applied contributions published in journals and scientific collections. The scientific and

teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Elena Getova present her as one of the leading scholars in the field of literature, journalism and culture of the Bulgarian Revival era.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Elena Getova in the educational and scientific research activities **fully** comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the Law on the Application of the Law on the Promotion of Scientific and Applied Literature of the Republic of Bulgaria.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-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 Faculty of Philology. for the election of Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova in the academic position of “professor” at the Paisiy Hilendarski University in: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1 Philology – Bulgarian Literature.

31.07.2025 г.

Рецензент:

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