

SHORT REVIEW

On the competition for holding the academic position ASSOCIATED PROFESSOR
under speciality *Philology 2.1. Bulgarian language* for the needs of the Department on
ethnolinguistics
according to the announcement in SG issue 22 of 15.03.2019
with candidate: Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peichev, ch. ass., PhD, at the Department on
ethnolinguistics

Author of the opinion: Elka Mircheva, Prof. PhD at the Department for history of the Bulgarian language

The only one candidate in the competition is ch. ass. Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva, PhD.

PhD K. Micheva-Peicheva is presented by her scientific production for the period from the time of her selection for a *chief assistant* in 2011 until 2018 – 37 scientific works. Amongst these are 3 independent and 2 collective monographs, 7 essays, 32 articles and 5 opinions and chronicles.

K. Micheva participates actively in the scientific activity of the Department on ethnolinguistics. In relation to the competition, she has taken part in 12 projects (8 of them completed and 4 ongoing) as 4 are international. In the presented report are marked 23 participations on scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad.

The detailed reference about the qualitative indicators, evaluating the activity of Micheva-Peicheva according to the scientific-metric indicators, established by BSA and IBL shows significant excess with regard to the minimum requirements under specific indicators.

From the very beginning of her scientific development, K. Micheva was attracted by one relatively new linguistic discipline – the ethnolinguistics, in which the model of binary is main instrument for entire diachronic and synchronic analysis of the cultural and language phenomena. This is also the topic of her doctoral dissertation *The collision of the purity and impurity*, published in 2013 (№ 3), which in adjusted form was published in Russian too (№ 2).

In her later works, K. Micheva has significantly expanded the subject of her study. Her solid classic education allows her to go beyond the frameworks of the traditional culture and to direct her searches to the Bulgarian medieval culture. Result of such development appears the presented as habilitation paper *The ethno-cultural binary in the medieval Bulgarian literature* (№ 1). It is devoted on the opposition *pure / impure*, which is a major element from the binary and goes in interaction with the oppositions *sacred / profane*, *good / bad*, *own / someone else's* and the like. While using a complex method of analysis, the author chooses as a source material for her study key moments from the development of the old Bulgarian literature and language – the corps of classic old-Bulgarian manuscripts (COM), the works of Patriarch Euthymius, the apocryphal literature and the newly-Bulgarian damascenes from XVII–XVIII c.

Absolutely expected in COM the cultural concepts are formed under the impact of the official religion, but they affect the traditional culture too by transforming more ancient mythological ideas for the opposition *pure / impure*.

Upon the choice of the works of Patriarch Euthymius, K. Micheva has the reasonable thesis that the hesychastic ideas affect to a certain extent all elements, which build the picture of the world. The made analysis clearly outlines the similarities and differences with the COM, as laying specific accent on the innovation elements.

The chapter about the Apocrypha deserves high evaluation, because each of the masses of texts raises different issues in front of the researcher. The analysis allows to be found the specific realizations especially of the concept *impurity*, which in the apocryphal literature leads to archetype ideas.

The next step in the large picture of the medieval Bulgarian literature, described by Micheva are the newly-Bulgarian damascenes. Traditionally this literature is examined from linguistic point of view, for which of particular importance is the appearance of the phenomenon *literary language on a folk basis*. With a serious reason, the author examined them as being a result of generally new perspective to the medieval literature, which reflects the occurred changes, causing the main values of the official religious doctrine to become part of the everyday life of the people. The precise analysis of Micheva shows how the sacred is not degraded, it is naturally put in the frameworks of the prophane by making the reader and listener of XVII more closer to the Christian ideal.

In the monograph of K. Micheva the semantic opposition *pure / impure* is clearly seen for the first time in the scientific studies. It is presented during its development through the ages and in different types of works of the „high“ and „low“ literature.

One of the leading topics in the scientific creative work of the candidate is the filling in of the linguistic picture of the Bulgarian language through the analysis of chosen concepts. Indisputable the leading place in the presented publications is for the concept *pure* and its multiple realizations both in the traditional culture and in the medieval Bulgarian literature (№№ 37, 29, 36, 21, 23, 35, 13, 9, 27).

Serious place amongst her contributions is for the studies of the concepts *freedom* (№№ 18, № 8, № 19, № 25, № 32), *love* (№ 7), *people (nation)* (14), as well as the opposition *own / someone else's* (№№ 12, 28, 24).

I would like to stress on series of works, devoted to the language of the sorrow in the obituary notice as far as the linguistics and linguo-culturology are concerned (№№ 10, 20, 34). K. Micheva has built her studies as starting from the Antiquity, puts attention to the newspaper obituaries from the Revival, in order to offer her linguo-culturological analysis of the modern street obituaries and the unique genre of the mock obituary.

The participation in the candidate in the project *Dictionary of the folk medicine* provides splendid material about the folk names of diseases, to which she has devoted a work (№ 26). In the traditional idea for the world evil forces cause the diseases and against these forces the people from times immemorial are trying to fight. Of particular interest are the apocryphal prayers, which provide abundant material, to the development of which K. Micheva-Peicheva shows serious interest (№№ 11, 30, 22).

I would like to draw particular attention to the work of the candidate in the project *The musical world of the Bulgarian in the lexical system of the Bulgarian dialects (ethnocultural*

aspects), which made PhD Micheva developing the topic about the folk names of percussion, wind and stringed instruments (№№ 17, 15, 16, 31). Some of the titles are in co-authorship with ass. Prof. Mariana Vitanova.

The entire activity of PhD K. Micheva-Peicheva won't be completely presented without noticing her participation in the educational projects of IBL *The written shall remain* and *Together ahead*, as well as the multiple lectures, media appearances and interviews for popularization of the scientific achievements.

Ch. ass. Micheva-Peicheva, PhD, is a recognized scientist with her own established place in the developing Bulgarian ethnolinguistics. The classic education, the specialization in the field of culturology and cultural anthropology are a precondition for a broader view on each topic, chosen by her and they enrich the linguistic observations, filling in the picture of the world of the Bulgarian language.

Ch. ass. Kalina Micheva-Peicheva, PhD, completely meets the criteria for holding the academic post *associated professor*. As considering this fact I would like to propose to the honorable scientific jury to award to ch. ass. Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva, PhD the academic post *associated professor*.

09.06.2019

Prof. Elka Mircheva. PhD