



STATEMENT

by

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on the materials submitted on the occasion of participation in a procedure for awarding
the title of 'Professor'
in professional field 2.1. Philology
for the needs of the Bulgarian Language History Department of the IBL-BAS

Assoc. prof. **Ivona Karachorova-Shumanova** PhD is the sole participant in the procedure for awarding the title of 'Professor' in professional field 2.1. Philology, in the Bulgarian Language scientific specialty, announced in State Gazette No 22 of 15.04.2019, for the needs of the Bulgarian Language History Department of the IBL-BAS. As a member of the academic jury, approved by order No РД-09-14/07.05.2019, I have the duty to present the following statement:

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

Subject Matter:

The sole candidate for the academic position submitted a set of documents within the statutory deadline, which included all the required components and was prepared in accordance with the IBL-BAS formal requirements. Assoc. prof. Ivona Karachorova-Shumanova PhD, presented a total of 53 scientific publications in the procedure, of which 1 monograph, 2 studies, and 49 scientific articles, all published after her habilitation (2000). I have not considered the article under No 12 in the list, which is similar to No 15.

Data on her participation at scientific forums within the country and abroad (a total of 27), her work on research projects (10 in the 2009-2019 period, two of which she headed), and her teaching work were also presented.

I have known the candidate for more than three decades and I have been able to track her academic development and progress as a serious researcher of Old Bulgarian manuscripts. Her participation in the announced professor competition is a completely natural stage of a long career.

2. General description of the candidate's activity

Ivona Karachorova has been teaching Old Bulgarian and Church Slavonic language at the Plovdiv University for nearly two decades. She is the author of an original lectures course in the Church Slavonic language, specifically prepared for students studying theology at the PU. Thus she set the beginning of the profiled training in this professional field and the evaluation of her work in the conducted surveys with the students is extremely positive.

The candidate's scientific publications can be reviewed in three main thematic areas:

The first and undoubtedly the most important from the point of view of palaeoslavistics include the **work of Ivona Karachorova on the study of the Slavic Psalter**. This is her "trademark" and the topic on which she defended her dissertation in 1984, and which she continued to develop afterwards. In the context of this procedure, first we should note the edition of the Boyana Psalter of the 13th century prepared by her (No 1 in the list of publications), which for the first time provides full scientific research of one of the valuable and interesting manuscripts in the Old Bulgarian tradition. This monument has been studied rather little thus far, although it has been known since 1977. The rich scientific instrumentation, the precise text processing, linguistic and codicological analysis, and various applications and indexes make this publication a must have in any academic library not only in the Slavic but also in the entire Christian academic world.

Another study (published in 2012), as well as publications Nos 1-6, 10-16, 18-22, 24, 26, 28-29, 31, 33, 39-40, 46 (i.e. 26 out of 49 articles), are dedicated to various themes and aspects of the history of the Slavic Psalter. There, the candidate covers and comments on various problems of the Old Bulgarian psalter tradition, and in some cases introduces sources unknown until now, while in others – returns to sources already known in order to present new perspectives or analytical approaches.

Karachorova's second group of studies is dedicated to the **vocabulary in the works of Patriarch Euthymius**. Her contribution to the peculiarities of word formation (No 27), the theological and antiheretic vocabulary (No 42), and the geographic names (No 41) are worth mentioning. For technical reasons, I had no access to the articles indicated with Nos 25 and 36, so I cannot state an opinion on their content. I suppose that after the issue of the comprehensive Glossary of

Patriarch Euthymius's Language¹, her work on the word wealth of Tarnovo School will continue in new interesting directions.

In the last few years a new thematic area has been identified in the work of Ivona Karachorova – **studies concerning the apocryphal and spellbinding prayers**, and their presence in the Old Bulgarian manuscripts (No 32, 34, 37, 38, 43-45). This undoubtedly very interesting part of the Old Bulgarian euchological tradition has so far been the subject of a rather generalized text analysis in terms of functionality and use in the social and cultural context of folklore during the late Middle Age. Karachorova's work introduces for the first time prayers text processing and publishing of some of the most common texts and sequences, as well as analysis of their vocabulary.

After applying the current scientometric approaches, I am able to summarize the evaluation of the scientific output of the candidate for the Professor academic title in several numbers: it includes a monograph (unfortunately published by a small and not very popular publisher, which prevents its widespread distribution, especially abroad); both studies, as well as 18 of the 49 articles, were published in Bulgarian periodicals with scientific review (NRS_24.06.19%20.pdf). One of the articles has been published in an edition referenced in WoS. Much of the non-referenced articles have been published in prestigious scientific publications (e.g., the five articles in the KME) that are not covered by this database. There are a total of 9 publications abroad (2 of them pending publication). A significant part of the papers proposed for review (7 articles) remain outside the scope of the international scientometric instruments. This, however, does not diminish their scientific significance and their real "visibility" in the international Paleo-Slavic scientific exchange, as judged by the cited quotes data (68 in total), which clearly show that Ivona Karachorova is an internationally recognizable scientist in her specific field of studies.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

For all of us, it is clear that working with old manuscripts is a lonely occupation requiring devotion and dedication. Therefore, it is not surprising that the majority of the candidate's

¹ Glossary of Patriarch Euthymius's Language, Part I, A-H, C., УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2019

scientific works are sole authored (only one article is co-authored) and the scientific contributions therein are entirely original.

3. Remarks and recommendations

On the background of Ivona Karachorova's long-time work with manuscripts requiring (and nourishing) precision and discipline, I was surprised by the rather chaotic form and arrangement of the materials submitted for review, that seriously hampered and sometimes hindered my acquaintance with their content.

I would recommend that in the future Karachorova should take the steps necessary to state and establish her well-deserved place on the international scientific stage as a Psalter connoisseur and a renowned Slavonic handwritten tradition expert. This would add a fully justified scientific acknowledgment to her dedicated research work.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Ivona Karachorova-Shumanova **meet all the requirements** of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA, and the relevant Rules and Regulations of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The candidate in the procedure has submitted a significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used to acquire her D.Sc. degree and her habilitation. The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Karachorova is **unquestionable**.

After studying the materials and scientific papers submitted in the procedure and after an analysis of their significance and their scientific contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** evaluation and to **recommend** the Academic Jury to prepare a proposal report to the Bulgarian Language History Department with the IBL-BAS to grant the Assoc. Prof. Ivona Karachorova D.SC., the academic title of Professor in the Professional Field of Philology 2.1. in the Bulgarian Language academic specialty.

28.06.2019

Drawn up by:

Prof. Maria Antonova Schnitter, D.C.Sc.

(academic position, academic degree, name and surname)