

## SHORT REVIEW

### **with regard to the competition for the academic position 'Associate professor in Bulgarian language', posted in State Gazette 36 from 03. 05. 2019**

Applicant: Assistant Professor Dr. Maya Vlahova-Angelova from the Department of Onomastics at the Institute for Bulgarian Language „Prof. L. Andreychin" - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Author of review (member of the jury): Associate prof. Dr. Ana Ivanova Kocheva from the Institute for Bulgarian Language „Prof. L. Andreychin" - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

1. The candidate for the academic position Associate Professor - Assistant Professor Maya Vlahova-Angelova, Dr. Sc, has presented 1 habilitation work in the form of an e-book, 1 study, 22 articles in scholarly journals, of which 15 are authored by her, and 7 have been written in co-authorship, 2 reviews, 1 report, 2 chronicles and personalia. The total number of publications after the acquisition of the academic research degree "Doctor of Science" and the position of Assistant Professor comes to 30.

2. Maya Vlahova-Angelova is already a well-established scholar who has connected her career with IBL at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for more than 14 years, starting as a Ph.D. student. In 2010 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation and as a researcher, assistant and Assistant Professor in The Department of Onomastics, which conducts research in the field of Bulgarian anthroponymy and homonymy, actively participates in the research projects of the unit, in the organization of research forums (including reports), prepares scholarly publications, organizes and takes part in initiatives related to the promotion activities of the IBL among the wider public. She took part in 14 international and national forums in the period 2013 - 2018. She is also the editorial secretary of the journal *Linguistique balkanique*, the mouthpiece of the Institute for Bulgarian Language, BAS. Maya Vlahova delivered the logistics of the Institute's first journal, which is indexed in SCOPUS.

3. The main research interests of Vlahova-Angelova are mainly in the field of Bulgarian anthroponymy and homonymy. Special attention will be paid to her study "Colors in Bulgarian Toponymy (on material from Western Bulgaria)", published in the series of *Izvestia na IBE*, issue XXVII (2014), pp. 130-160. ISSN: 0323-9934. In the study, the author sets out to study in full, as a separate class, those names that contain color markings. She describes, systemizes and analyzes the color terms found in Bulgarian toponymy. They are also considered in terms of their semantics, in order to trace all the possible meanings they encounter, including those that are with meanings for "colorless". The studied corpus of toponymous material is impressive - it has several thousand names. The cognitive and semiotic approach allows to analyze the semantics of the individual color labels and to describe all their literal and transitive meanings, thus defining the semantic fields of each individual term for color in the toponymy. The result of the study is in providing answers to a number of important linguistic questions about species terms (by origin), about archaic and dialectal lexemes with the meaning *color*, about the most common types of toponyms containing colors, the frequency of individual terms, their transport uses found in toponymy. Maya Vlahova continues the theme for colors in her other publications. Also interesting is the article "The National Taxonomy of Fruit according to the Data of Bulgarian Toponymy", published in *Bylgarski ezik*, Vol. 61 (2014), vol. 4, pp. 55-69. ISSN: 0005-4283, in which the

Bulgarian folk names of plants (fruits) are studied from an ethnolinguistic point of view on the basis of a rich toponym material. As local names preserve many phytonimics, most of which are archaic, they are supposed to reflect reliably the mechanisms of conceptualization of the natural environment and folk bio-systems.

Particularly noteworthy, of course, is Vahova-Angelova's habilitation work. Onomastics and ethnobotanics: fruit names according to the toponymy data in Western Bulgaria. Sofia: Publishing House of BAS "Prof. M. Drinov ". ISBN 978-954-322-956-7. 2018. 120 pages <http://www.baspress.com/book.php?l=b&id=1368q>, published as an e-book. In fact, Vlahova's work consists of two parts, which will conditionally be defined as: 1) an overview (theoretical) and 2) an inherent onomastic (pragmatic) on West-Bulgarian language material, helping to build a model of folk taxonomy of fruits. Although unannounced (with few exceptions), the presented model is not only a model for the fruit taxonomy but also for the plants bearing these fruits. From the title, content and development of the book, it is clear that it has a multifaceted character. The author offers a model for the folk taxonomy of fruits in Western Bulgaria, which is based mainly on the genus-species relations - hyperinomis or hyponimis - in the names of the different plants. An important detail in the study is that Nomina loci, named by fruit names, reflected in the occurrence of toponyms (the toponyms are already their own names), are included in the construction. The construction is Vlahova's top theoretical achievement; she applies it to deploy the richly collected material from Western Bulgaria. The schemes have a dendritic structure with different (hyper- and hypo-) levels: genus, species, variety, that is, the names in the horizontal order are mutually subordinate to each other, and in the vertical are equal varieties (heteronyms) of the fruit-tree. Vlahova's success in this work is beyond doubt. The presented work translates visually the complex semantic relations and should be highly regarded as a methodological model in writing such works.

4. I allow myself to make a critical remark on some of Vlahov's findings in the article "Sazhiviyavane na dialektnata leksika po dannii ot balgarskata toponimia" - In: Jubilee collection "Professor Ivan Kochev - a life devoted to linguistics". 2016. Sofia. BAS, pp. 298-303. ISBN: 978-954-322-852-2. There are judgments that the "ubiquitous urbanization and depopulation of villages lead to a catastrophic loss of dialects ...", that "territorial dialects are among the most endangered and hardly the efforts of foundations and linguoecoactivists can stop or slow down the processes of disappearance.". Leaving aside the fact that dialects exist not by such efforts but by language laws, I must emphasize that contemporary field studies of dialectologists show the opposite - there is a revival not only of territorial talks but also of the attitude towards them; today they are a sign of national and regional identity, and there are also new, previously unknown, written expressions through social networks, which is a sign of digital society.

5. Assistant Professor Dr. Maya Vlahova-Angelova presents herself in the contest with valuable scientific researches, which set models for further development in the field of Bulgarian onomastics. Her scientific activity and production meet the requirements for assuming the academic position of Associate professor, so I strongly believe that she should be selected by the Scientific Jury and by the Scientific Council of IBL.

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Prepared by:

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