

OPINION

On topic of the competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor"
in a professional area 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty "Bulgarian language",
according to the announcement in the "State Gazette" No. 29 of April 12, 2022

with a candidate: Dr. Ruska Sabeva Stancheva, associate professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin"

Reviewer: Dr. Nadezhda Spasova Kostova, associate professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin"

1. General overview of the provided materials

Assoc. Prof. Ruska Sabeva Stancheva is the only candidate in the competition for the selection of a professor for the needs of the Department of Modern Bulgarian Language at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin". The materials provided by Stancheva for participation in the competition fully meet the requirements for occupying the academic position "professor".

Assoc. Prof. Ruska Stancheva provides 41 scientific publications: 2 independent monographs, 9 studies (2 of which are in refereed and indexed editions; 5 studies are co-authored) and 30 articles (4 of which are in refereed and indexed editions; 9 articles are co-authored) for the competition. The candidate points out 59 citations of her works, 23 of which in monographs and collective volumes and 36 citations and reviews in non-refereed journals. Stancheva participates in 22 national and international conferences and scientific forums at home and abroad, where she reports her research and the results of the research projects.

2. General overview of the scientific, scientifically-applied and pedagogical activities of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Ruska Stancheva has a large share in the activities of the Department of Modern Bulgarian Language, as well as in the work of the Language Consultation Service. She leads 4 projects included in the research plan of IBL. Two of these projects "Normative Grammar. Stage 1" (2016 - 2020) and "Normative Grammar. Stage 2" (2021 - 2023) are aimed at a formal description of the grammatical system of modern Bulgarian language. Related to the work on these projects are 11 publications of Stancheva, which are presented for participation in the competition.

The project "Study of Public Attitudes and Value Orientations to the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language as a Factor in the Codification of Its Norms" (2017 – 2019) is funded by the National Research Fund under contract No 10/5 of 15.12.2016. This is the first large-scale study in Bulgaria of public attitudes towards language and language norms. Principal investigator of the project is Assoc. Prof. Stancheva. She presents theoretical framework of the project in an article in the magazine "Bulgarian Language" [№10]. The collective monograph "Language Attitudes of

Bulgarians Today. Language Attitudes, Linguistic Conduct and Codification of Standard Language Norms Today " is selected by the BAS Publishing Council for a monograph of national importance. The project is directly related to the codification of literary norms, which is a main task of the Institute for Bulgarian Language.

The project "Bulgarian Language Resources Online" (2022 – 2023) is the latest one of the Institute for Bulgarian Language, aimed at creating a national online platform for language resources with four main modules: orthography, pronunciation, grammar and language consulting. The project is financed by the Ministry of Education and Science. Assoc. Prof. Stancheva has taken on the responsibility of leading this project, the results of which will benefit Bulgarian society.

Assoc. Prof. Stancheva is the supervisor of PhD student Zhaneta Zlateva (PhD degree 2020), as well as of two more PhD students – Laura Mikova and Malina Stoycheva.

3. Analytic assessment of the main scientific and/or scientifically-applied contributions of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Ruska Stancheva's scientific interests are mainly in three areas: Bulgarian grammatical heritage, codification of literary norms and Bulgarian grammar.

Assoc. Prof. Stancheva analyzes the codification practice of the first Bulgarian scientific grammars in monograph [1]. She divides the six grammars published in the period 1936-1944 into two groups according to the theoretical approach to language applied in them: historical or functional. A scientific contribution to Bulgarian linguistics is the conclusion that the enrichment of the literary language by the territorial dialects is only a stated position in the grammars, but not a practice. Stancheva's view of codification as a continuous and ongoing process has a contributing character.

Stancheva's scientific contribution is the proof of the innovative nature of "New Bulgarian Grammar" by Balan. Balan was the first Bulgarian linguist who adopted the synchronic approach to language and highlighted the functional superiority of literary language over dialects [1, 32, 37].

Scientific contribution are the conclusions about a high degree of establishment and stability of the literary norm in the categories of verb tense and aspect [11, 35] and about grammatical variation (synonymy) of the names [1].

Submitted for participation in the competition are 18 publications devoted to the codification of literary norms. The monograph "Codification in the Context of Language Attitudes" [2] presents an in-depth analysis of the results from the first in Bulgaria representative sociological study of the public attitudes of the functions of Standard Bulgarian today; the degree of obligatoriness of written language norms; the current state of codification. A number of important observations are made for the first time in Bulgarian linguistics. Some of them are highlighted in other publications. There is a high consistency between the instrumental and symbolic functions of the literary language [2, 6, 10], the attitude of linguistic loyalty is mostly associated with the distinguishing function of the literary language [2, 6], today's codification is balanced and

supports the unifying function of the literary language [2]. Bulgarians define the literary language as moderately conservative [2, 19] and as moderately susceptible to foreign influences [25]. Changes in the current literary norms would be perceived negatively [24].

The conclusions regarding the accessibility of today's codification [2] have a great scientifically-applied significance: 1) a revision of the meta-language of literary rules is necessary, 2) the creation of an official online resource presenting all literary norms is extremely important for the Bulgarian society.

The opinions about the obligation of literary norms in e-communication are being examined for the first time [5, 21]. The role of the school as a factor in the formation of language attitudes is analyzed [12, 13]. It is concluded that globalization has a significant impact on language attitudes [3]. The self-assessment of the language community for the mastery of the rule -йки-forms is low [7]. The comparison between self-esteem and language behavior speaks of a greatly increased self-esteem of the respondents in connection with the mastery of the rule for use of коро-forms [8]. The data unequivocally shows that the norm for writing full / short articles is hierarchized by native speakers as the most important [9].

The publications that are focused on Bulgarian grammar are 14. Stancheva's scientific contributions are related to theoretical clarification of the formal description of grammatical tools with a view to the development of normative grammar [15, 23, 27, 28], doublets which are necessary to reflect the dynamic character of the norms of the standard language [28], determination of the degrees of accommodation in the description of various simple syntactic groups [16, 17, 18, 26]. Assoc. Prof. Stancheva proposes a typology of grammar norms with deviations in oral literary practice [27] and a new formal classification of verb [14].

4. Critical remarks and recommendations with regard to the provided materials

My recommendation is about the digital language resource platform, which can probably be expanded and upgraded in the future.

5. Motivated and clearly formulated conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Ruska Sabeva Stancheva completely meet the requirements for the occupation of the academic position "professor" of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Implementing Regulations to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (IRDASRBA), the Terms and Conditions for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Positions at the BAS, the Terms and Conditions for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Positions at the IBL. Ass. Prof. Ruska Stancheva has significant scientific and scientifically-applied contributions in the field of grammar and the codification of the modern Bulgarian language. With complete conviction, I vote for Ruska Sabeva Stancheva to be elected to the academic position of "professor" at the Department of Modern Bulgarian Language at the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the BAS.

10.08.2022

Opinion drafted by:

Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Spasova Kostova