

SHORT REVIEW

OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR COMPETITION FOR ACADEMIC POSITION ASSOCIANT PROFESSOR

SCIENTIFIC FIELD 2. HUMANITIES, PROFESSIONAL FIELD
2.1. PHILOLOGY (GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS)
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CANDIDATE:

Tsvetana Dimitrova, PhD
Department of Computational Linguistics
IBL "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin"

REVIEWER:

Prof. Yovka Tisheva, PhD
Department of Bulgarian
Faculty of Slavic Studies
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SUBMITTED MATERIALS

The competition for the academic position of associate professor in scientific field 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty General and Comparative Linguistics has been announced for the needs of the Department of Computational Linguistics at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" in "State Gazette", no. 102, 23.12.2022. One candidate submitted documents for participation in it: assistant professor Tsvetana Dimitrova PhD. She graduated from the specialty "Bulgarian Philology" (with a second specialty "Turkish Philology") at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2001. From 2003 until 2008, she was a PhD student at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. In 2008, she received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at the same university after defending a dissertation "The Old Bulgarian Noun Phrase: Towards an Annotation Specification".

In 2008, Tsvetana Dimitrova started working as a researcher in Department of Computational Linguistics at IBL. Since 2010, she has been assistant professor in the same section. She participated in more than 15 scientific projects of the section, including projects with international external funding, e.g. Horizon 2020 Program, UNESCO, Connecting Europe Facility Innovation and Networks Executive Agency, etc. She is the secretary of the Commission for Computer Processing of Medieval Slavic Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the International Committee of Slavists since 2018. She is a member of the Slavic Linguistic Society and the Global Wordnet Association. The review of the data on the professional development of Tsvetana Dimitrova gives reason to conclude that she has the necessary professional experience in the field of the competition announced. The documentation complies with all regulatory requirements and proves the validity and necessity of the procedure.

Tsvetana Dimitrova participates in the competition for the academic position of associate professor with one monograph, two studies and 20 articles in the field of computer modeling, historical corpora and the description of historical linguistic data. 15 of the presented publications are co-authored, and in seven of them, Tsv. Dimitrova is the first author. As issues, objects and goals of the analyses, the

monograph, studies and articles do not repeat the subject of the candidate's doctoral dissertation. One of the studies is in English, and the second is in Russian. Both are published in journals indexed in Scopus. 13 of the articles are written in English. Six articles were published in publications indexed in Scopus and four in publications in Web of Science. The candidate has ten citations in publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. This is indisputable proof of the value of her research in the field of computational linguistics, the compilation of historical corpora and the description of historical linguistic data. The review of the materials presented in the competition and the assessment of their metric parameters show that the national minimal requirements under Art. 2b, § two and three and under Art. 2b, § five of ZRASRB, respectively according to Art. 1a of the PPZRASRB, as well as the specific requirements according to the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions in the IBL at BAS.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S SCIENTIFIC AND SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED ACTIVITY

The most complete idea of Tsvetana Dimitrova's scientific interests is given by her habilitation thesis "Bulgarian Clitics: History and Present", Sofia: Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", BAS, 2023; 256 pp. ISBN 978-619-908-845-6. This is a complete monographic study on an important issue for Bulgarian linguistics, related to the historical development of clitic elements and the formation of one of the specific syntactic phenomena - the clitic cluster. The author strives to combine the approaches of modern formal syntax with the methods of classical comparative historical linguistics, and in the analysis of data from the three periods in the development of the Bulgarian language - Old Bulgarian, Middle Bulgarian and Early Modern Bulgarian, she applies a complex methodology, current and adequate to the chosen object. The question of the nature and syntactic realization of clitics in a number of Romance and Slavic languages has been the subject of in-depth diachronic or synchronic, typological, comparative, theoretical or practical studies. Contributions of Tsv. Dimitrova's habilitation work are related to the systematized parallel presentation of data from the three periods in the development of Bulgarian language and on this basis - expanding the knowledge about the processes that led to the modern state in the syntax of pronouns, verbs and some sentence clitics. The hypothesis of the relative stability of the syntactic positions of clitics relative to the left sentence boundary and relative to the verb is confirmed. The dynamics in the system is related to the dropping of elements (the discourse clitics *же* and *до*) and the expansion of the composition of pronouns with the development of dative and accusative clitic pronouns, as well as clitic verb forms. During different periods, variants in the word order of clitics are observed for some functional elements (e.g. the negation marker) or for complex verb forms. The author draws motivated conclusions about the presence of prevailing positional models, related both to a matrix common to the Balkan languages, and to specifics in the derivation of clitic elements in different positions in the syntactic structure. The analyses held by Tsvetana. Dimitrova confirm the hypothesis of the unity of the Bulgarian language through the various stages of its historical development. A significant practical contribution is the compilation of a corpus of examples from various written monuments, which is publicly available and can be used for new grammatical projects.

Issues related to the topic of habilitation work are also discussed in five of the presented publications (#16, 17, 18, 19, 20). The conclusions in them present stages preceding the summary in the monograph. The object of analysis are the relations between the elements of the clitic system and their syntactic behavior, with special attention to the data elements operating at the sentence level. It is concluded that the initial changes are observed at the appearance of pronominal clitics outside the noun phrase in the dative case in the so-called constructions with external possessor. One article (#18 of the list) comments on the development of the future tense marker (the particle *will*) from the so-called verb quasiclitic

elements. An interesting perspective on discourse clitics (Article #22). According to the author, if they are used as a marker for the left border of the sentence, they can help the segmentation of early texts into sentences.

The second group of papers submitted for the competition are in the field of computational linguistics and language resource. These publications are part of the work on two projects of the Section of Computational Linguistics: "Semantic classification of adjectives in the Bulgarian WordNet" and "Semantic network with a wide range of semantic relations", and are related to the enrichment of the two large language resources - the Bulgarian WordNet and The Bulgarian National Corpus. Within the framework of the first project, three articles were published (# 6, 7 and 8, prepared in co-authorship with V. Stefanova), in which the semantic classes of Bulgarian WordNet adjectives were described and a classification was developed to be applied to the resource for the purpose of enrichment with additional information about the concepts and the relationships between them.

Four of the presented articles reflect the work of Tsv. Dimitrova on formulation and attribution of additional semantic relations between nouns and verbs, between nouns and between participles, adjectives, nouns and verbs in WordNet. In article #9, additional morphosemantic relations for verb-noun pairs are derived, reflecting the semantic roles of arguments in the predicate-argument structure of verbs. Another publication (No. 10, co-authored with V. Stefanova) presents a strategy for transferring word-formation and morphosemantic relations between noun and verb and noun and adjective. Relations between nouns of different semantic classes are formulated, connected indirectly through morphosemantic and derivational relations with verbs, as well as through derivational relations with adjectives. In these publications, a theoretical-applied contribution is claimed through the semantic classification of elements from different parts of speech, the development and testing of a methodology for enriching the attributed relations in WordNet.

CONCLUSION

After reviewing the submitted materials for this competition, I can confidently conclude that all the requirements of ZRASRB, Regulations for its implementation, Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions in Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lubomir Andreychin" are fulfilled.

Tsvetana Dimitrova is a competent specialist with enduring interests in the field of historical and computational linguistics. Her research is relevant, necessary and with proven popularity among the academic community. Her publications have a theoretical and practical contribution to diachronic linguistics, as well as to the practice in the field of corpus linguistics. Based on the presented scientific works with proven scientific and applied contributions, I support the choice of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetana Dimitrova and I strongly recommend to the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote FOR her election to the academic position of associate professor in professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty General and Comparative Linguistics.

April 18, 2023

Prof. Yovka Tisheva, PhD