



## SHORT REVIEW

In relation to the competition for holding the academic position *professor*  
In specialty 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language (Old Bulgarian language, History of the  
Bulgarian language)

According to the announcement in SG, issue 22/15.03.2019

Candidate: PhD **Ivona Velcheva Karachorova**, Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian  
Language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – BAS

Reviewer: DSc. Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova, Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language  
„Prof. L. Andreychin“ – BAS

In the announced competition for professor degree documents were received by the only candidate **Ivona Velcheva Karachorova**, a long-time member of the Department of History of Bulgarian Language at IBL, where she has a work experience of over 35 years. The candidate defended her PhD dissertation in 1985, and at the same place, she received her first habilitation for Associate Professor in 2000. Consequently, the reviewer has to deal with the career development and the scientific output of a well-established specialist in mediaeval studies, diachronic Bulgarian studies and Slavistics.

In the announced procedure Ass. Prof. Karachorova presents the following subjectable to reviewing materials, grouped in accordance with the scientometric indicators of the National minimum requirements for the position *professor*: a published monograph of habilitation rank; 2 studies; 45 articles out of print and 3 in print; 3 reviews and 3 personalia, bringing the total number of publications to 57. In addition, her scholarly output covers a long period since 2001, after the last academic competition for career development, until 2019; therefore, not all publications can be qualified according to the modern rating databases in international science. This fact does not at all prevent Dr. Karachorova's candidature from clearly exceeding the minimum requirements. The rich publication activity has led to a high number of citations - 65, among which 8 found in the prestigious European series *Studia Ceranea* of the University of Lodz, which is referenced in the WoS. The colleague registered 28 participations in scientific forums, of which 5 abroad and 23 in Bulgaria. She took part in 10 projects, 4 of which in the frames of European programs of Sofia University "St. Clement Ohridski"; she was the head of 2 projects in the Department of History of Bulgarian Language. It is obligatory for the candidate profile to include a very characteristic feature for her overall professional activity. This is the long-standing teaching of Old Bulgarian language, Historical grammar of the Bulgarian language with dialectology, Church Slavonic language, and a number of specialized courses for students in Bulgarian and Slavic languages studies at the University of Plovdiv, in the period 1997–2016. The teaching activity allowed the colleague to be

in constant contact with students and with the active teaching of the disciplines under the current competition.

The general characteristics of the presented scientific production should begin with the persistence and the high expert level with which Prof. Karachorova works in the field that made her internationally known and recognized scholar. This is the work on the history of the Psalter text in a number of works. Her contributions consist in the following: popularizing evidences from various written sources; textological studies; linguistic diagnostics of the database in the purpose of establishing a typological classification of the Psalter recensions from the earlier period of the Cyrillo-Methodian Glagolitic tradition to the manuscripts from the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries; commentaries upon the supplementary accompanying texts – Biblical psalms and prayers. The summarizing observations of our colleague in this field are a great contribution to the contemporary medieval studies in Bulgaria and abroad.

In 2017, prof. Karachorova published the monograph “Boyana Psalter. A 13<sup>th</sup> century Medieval Bulgarian Manuscript (Sofia: Chudomira, EOOD), 332 pages with illustrations. This work has a character of a professor habilitation. It is focused on the preserved fragment of a more voluminous manuscript which represents the oldest Psalter discovered insofar, kept in Bulgarian book repository. The work is based on a classical structure for manuscript edition and study. The introductory part of 111 pages presents the history of the monument's discovery, a full paleographic and orthographic description, the content, and the linguistic peculiarities. The detailed analysis and the precision of the description are to be outlined, because every single detail of such an ancient monument, as the diacritics for instance, is important for the Bulgarian language history. The author has worked in a beneficial cooperation with the National Historical Museum, to which the manuscript belongs; therefore, her personal merit is both the reproduction of the text and the possibility to phototypic visualization of the preserved part of the monument. In this way, the scholarly description and the color photograph are in unity, and contribute to the wider access of many specialists to Boyana Psalter.

A current Karachorova's project upon the Psalter of Tsar Yoan Alexander (1331–1371), carried out in the Cyrillo-Methodian center of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, should be obligatory mentioned, because she was invited especially for her outstanding expertise in the field of this type of liturgical production.

An important field of scholarly interest for Karachorova are the historical lexicology and lexicography, especially her work in the Old Bulgarian dictionary, over specific prayers, as well as over various word formation aspects of the Patriarch Euthymius' lexis. Her contributions are related to the registration of unregistered words in the most popular palaeoslavistic dictionaries, which are systematized by semantic and word-forming criteria. As an example, I would like to notice a new and mature work in the *Proceedings of the Institute for Bulgarian Language, 2018*, on the Kiril Turovski's prayers for every day of the week in the Bulgarian repositories, whereby the author joins a highly developed topic in international dimensions by summarizing the sources

tradition and its linguistic database in Bulgaria. It makes an excellent impression that in recent years Karachorova has focused on various prayers, including from the earliest Slavonic Euchologium, and has contributed with serious observations to their multiple studies. Her development continues in the field of early Cyrillic incunabula with the Psalter of Gurg Crnojevic.

The qualities of Karachorova's scholarly production are adherence to classic, well-established models of analysis; unchanging interest in manuscript heritage and the ability to work directly with it; excellent language training in Old Bulgarian culture; clear language and conclusions. It is undoubtedly an enrichment of the existing knowledge in the history of the Bulgarian language and the application of the scientific achievements in the practice.

Ass. Prof. Karachorova has an administrative experience as a scientific secretary of the Institute for Bulgarian language (2011–2014); a member of the General Assembly of BAS (2011–2014); member of the Mandatory Commission to the General Assembly of BAS (2011–2014); member of the Academician Vladimir Georgiev Foundation's Scientific Committee (2011–2014).

Because of getting familiar with the proposed materials of the candidate, I do think that the evaluated candidature meets the national standards and the requirements of the Rules of BAS, and the Rules of IBL for holding the academic post *professor*. I definitely recommend to the Scientific Council of the IBL to choose **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivona Velcheva Karachorova** for the academic position *Professor*, Specialty 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language (Old Bulgarian language, history of the Bulgarian language). Convincingly, I shall vote positively on this at the closing session of the Scientific Jury.

27.05.2019

Sofia

Signature:

/ Prof. Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova/