

REVIEW

in relation to a competition for holding the academic post *associate professor*
under speciality 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language
according to the announcement in SG issue 22/ 15.03.2019

with a candidate: **Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva, PhD**, chief assistant at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – Bulgarian academy of science

Reviewer: Mariana Tsibranska-Kostova, PhD on philological sciences, professor at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – BAS

In SG issue 22/ 15.03.2019 was announced a competition for holding the academic post *associate professor* for the needs of the Department for ethnolinguistics at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ of BAS. The only one candidate in the announced procedure is **chief assistant Kalina Micheva-Peicheva, PhD**. The candidate has been a full-time PhD candidate in the same institution in the period 2003–2006, where she has obtained the scientific degree „PhD“ with a topic of the dissertation „The semantic opposition *pure-impure* in the Bulgarian language and its cultural connotations“. Since 2006 till now she has been working at the department, for which needs was announced the competition, holding consecutively the posts *researcher* and *assistant*. For the period of 13 length of service after the defense of her dissertation, K. Micheva, PhD has developed a serious publication and overall scientific activity, which logically leads to the advisability of her personal academic growth, part of the mandatory carrier development of the young cadres at the Department. These processes are in accordance with the statutory requirements of the LDASRB, the Rules on its implementation in BAS and the Rules for the conditions and order for obtaining scientific degrees and for holding academic posts at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin“. I shall observe the above-mentioned (documents) in my capacity as reviewer.

Chief assistant Kalina Micheva, PhD, participates in the procedure with materials due to evaluation, after the last competition for *chief assistant*, grouped under the science-metric indicators according to the National minimum requirements for the post *associate professor*, as follows: 3 monographs for the period 2013–2017; one of them reproduces an extended and processed variant of the dissertation and another one with a similar topic was published abroad in Russian; participation in one annotated bibliography with clearly formed author's share; participation in one dictionary with clearly defined alphabetic index; authorship of one school appliance; 7 studies; 24 articles, of which only one is in press, 6 are published in foreign publications, 2 were referenced in Scopus; 5 reviews and chronics. The colleague has registered 23 participations with reports on a scientific forums, of which 4 abroad. She has been or currently is a member of 12 projects as a total number, 4 of which are international. The information about

the quotations of her publications contains 43 positions, 5 of which are reviews of her monographic papers. The comparison with Appendix A of the Rules for the conditions and order for obtaining scientific degrees and for holding academic posts at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin“ at BAS regarding the academic post *associate professor* shows that the science-metric requirements are fully observed and in many indicators there is a definite excess. The candidate has submitted information for meeting the minimum national requirements with their quantitative expression in points. I have no notes to the proposed materials and I would like to note that the materials are presented in an excellent organized form.

The analysis of the specific scientific contributions of the candidate has to start from her monograph ***The ethno-cultural binary in the medieval Bulgarian literature. Publishing complex „Diomira“***. Sofia, 2017, 266 p., ISBN: 978-954-2977-45-2. This paper not only meets the requirements for printed monograph, but it appears a habilitation paper by virtue of the law not to be repeated the presented papers for obtaining the educational and scientific degree *PhD* and the materials, participated in the competition for a *chief assistant*. The paper is an original independent development of the author in the field, in which has been made significant precedent experience. It continues her achievements in the modeling the language picture of the world in the traditional Bulgarian culture, but this time attention is given to the Bulgarian medieval ages and its oppositions, the binary oppositions between categories of thinking, the cognitive and value experience of the person from the middle ages. Such interpretation has been made by our colleague using her serious experience of culturologist and philologist plus her knowledge of the classical languages from the secondary school. For proving her working theses the author has used material from the treasury-house of the medieval written heritage. K. Micheva places the ethnolinguistics in the diachronic perimeters of the knowledge, as considering that the modern terminology in the so called „texts of the culture“ and the proposed terminological definitions could not be limited only in synchrony, nor can they be fixed to modern definition categories. The power of a given method in the humanities category as much universal as extensive is its implementation in a system-structural context. The world-known developments on several European languages of I. Bartmsky, A. Vezhbitska, S. Tolstaya and etc. On the modern language picture of the world prevail as compared to more rare papers on diachronic ethnolinguistics and linguo-culturology. Therefore the work of Kalina Micheva has novation elements. The study is organized in introduction; general theoretic first chapter and four chapters, each of which reminds in a consecutive and purposeful way about the main subject of study *ethnocultural binary*, thus establishing particular fields of its implementation in the classical old-Bulgarian monuments (COM) at Patriarch Euthymius, the apocryphal prayers and the newly Bulgarian damascenes. The first chapter presents the inherent terminological language of the study. To the opposite from the other ethno-linguistic works, in which are compared definitions of main categories from different authors, the statement of K. Micheva is very tight, with moderate quotes and clear definition of the object and subject of study. It becomes clear that the main operational mechanism for access to the binary is its language image in structures, consisting from a core, close-to-core area and periphery of the language nomination. In fact the study shows how the linguo-culturological

approach on medieval text is in a natural connection and continuity with the traditional language-textological approaches. In the theoretical part are established two types of terms: linguo-culturological and general medievistic. The next statement proves one of the most contributive conclusion of the whole book not only about the dependence between *culture* and *language*, but also for sustainability of the values, which change their particular realization, but not the cultural model itself, within the frameworks of which they exist. The author implements a coherent methodology. Her intention is to present the functioning of the chosen oppositions in works, different in genre, different in their perception for the medieval authorship and not last– different in time of origin. Thus this three dimensional difference in the sources allows „to be rearranged“ the hierarchy of the language facts. Within the frameworks of the diachronic study they have the nature of main system data, because as known, in the diachronic ethno-cultural study some methods of the synchronous are missing, for example the inquiry data or the data from the national language corpuses. The medieval text establishes rich lexical-semantic networks in the paradigmatic (hyperonyms- hyponyms; antonyms, synonyms, derivatives) and the syntagmatic axis (collocations and complexes, phrasemes). In the section about the apocrypha K. Micheva has reached a center of attraction of her book not because of the fact that it is placed in the center of the volume, but first of all because the originality of the interpretation. Special attention deserves *the Appendix* at the end of the study with a new text of composition and partial translations to new Bulgarian of some of the used apocryphal prayers. This section of the work of K. Micheva is her personal contribution for showing her own theoretical views, but also it is an indisputable actualization of medieval texts in the Bulgarian scientific field. The author has reached a high extent of generalization, applying an appropriate single-type structure of each chapter: *introduction in the source– analyzed material in paradigmatic and syntagmatic lines – generalization of the empiric material – conclusions*. K. Micheva has experience in the creational implementation of the established ethno-linguistic terminology. The analysis of the language units as cultural signs in each particular text or group of texts is made with skills and with no repetitions, with intention to be outlined new moments because of changes in the historical chronotope or genre. The development is a contribution to the diachronic lexicology and semantics, because it deals with the original language material, realizing succession with the modern equivalents of the examined terms. The long chronological period from X till XVII century allows to be built the historical idea for the ethno-cultural and language dynamic of the values amongst the Bulgarians as Christian people, to be piled layers of knowledge through the language for the religious Christian and traditional culture.

Significant place in the research work of k. Micheva in the last yers is her fruitful cooperation with European schools and centers of the ethno-linguistics. On the first place I shall put her participation in the project EUROJOS (European language picture of the world), developed at the University in Lublin, Poland. In the material on the concept *freedom* (published essay from 2019) have been applied the modern methodological approaches based on three types of main data – system, enquiry and text data. The author proved the knowledge of the operational language of the ethno-linguistic and her work obtained an international acknowledgment as an element from

the comparative study of the terms – mental constructions and the way for their language reflection in the different national languages. Such interpretation has received also the concept *nation* (an article in the press in Scripta @e-Scripta, 2019) from the ideas for language, people, nationality in the Middle ages till the formation of pre-national and national identity in the New time. Regardless which concept is examined, K. Micheva is able to follow at one and the same time in details and generally the semantic wealth of the words, which name the studied terms; to start from clear cognitive definitions and to present the Bulgarian contribution in the knowledge about the world, established in the culture and public conscience of the Bulgarian during the ages. Currently the author is working under Russian-Slovak-Bulgarian project in ERA-NET program and focuses on the dynamics of the traditional and non-traditional values in the Slavonic world. In it she has chosen the concept *love*, which again is developed on a broad background from the old-Bulgarian age and the Christian spiritual paradigm through the folk and traditional Bulgarian culture till our modern times and the changes in the interpersonal relations because of the globalization and internet communication. In the period 2015–2017 the colleague has participated in a similar project with the Slovak academy of science, devoted on the comparative study of fragments of the folk culture. In all publications of this field can be seen the mastered terminology and the persuasive order in the particular steps – placing the issue, study on the networks from lexical-semantic connections both in paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes of the lexis, from the synonyms and antonyms to the paremia; the formulation of clear and objective conclusions.

Another aspect from the research activity of K. Micheva is her participation in some emblematic works for the whole Department on ethno-linguistics. First place according to the chronology is for the project, headed by ass. Prof., M. Vitanova, *The musical world of the Bulgarian in the lexical system of the Bulgarian dialects (ethno-cultural aspects)*, completed in 2018 with monograph, accepted for publishing. Under this project, K. Micheva is co-author and she has realized 3 independent author's publications about the names of the musical instruments in the old Bulgarian language, about the names of the bagpipe in the dialects, about the percussion musical instruments and one publication in co-authorship over the stringed musical instruments. The project has contributed for purposeful development and acknowledgment in the team practice of skills for work with written sources of any nature, dialect records and inquiry data from informers. Such studies are more and more frequent in the Bulgarian and international scientific field and with their interdisciplinary nature they serve different fields of public interest, professional and amateur. *Ethno-linguistic dictionary of the Bulgarian folk medicine* is a large current project of significant interest for any ethno-linguist and philologist. The opportunity to be systemized and processed the various information for one of the most important biosocial universal values, namely the health, to the opposite of the sickness and its multi-aspect connotations is definitely actual. The activity of K. Micheva in the project is connected with the study on the names of children's diseases and evil forces according to the mythology, the apocryphal prayers and the folklore. Under this project have been made two participations on scientific forums and 4 articles.

Attention deserves also the work of K. Micheva under two more projects: „The written

shall remain“ and „Together ahead“, because they present her as an active and loyal member of the young institute community, which is building a continuous connection of the IBL with the Bulgarian school and education and popularizes its language resources. Both institute projects provide P. Micheva the chance to participate in quizzes, preparation of test materials for students, in review of elaborations of teaches and online courses. This applied activity is an excellent addition to the scientific activity and is completely in favor of the public. In the same context has to be stressed on the expert activity of the colleague as a tutor of students; practices in the period 2013–2017 with the preparation of 47 students as a total number. In connection with the same applicability of the scientific knowledge for educational purposes I would like to draw the attention on the scientific-popular educational appliance, drawn by K. Micheva, „Biographies of Bulgarian writers“ (2005, 251 p.), which for its clarity and high functionality remains useful reference book for teachers and students regardless of the changes in the educational contents on literature in the secondary school of general education.

The additional data about the colleague include also the fact that K. Micheva has the award of the IBE for a young scientist in 2012. She is for many years a secretary of the Ethno-linguistic department.

The generalization about the scientific contributions of the candidate in the competition for *associated professor* ass. PhD K. Micheva can be structured in the following main conclusions:

- The candidate has indisputable theoretical contributions in the Bulgarian ethno-linguistics with the creational implementation of modern models for ethno-cultural analysis on a various Bulgarian material from the past and nowadays;
- Her elaborations prove with new language data existing scientific hypotheses for the cultural identity and historically formed mentality of the Bulgarians during the ages;
- In most of her works the author presents non-processed new material or systemizes the collected data base under new classification principles
- Advantage of her creational profile is the combination of skills for work in synchrony and diachrony, which attains thoroughness of the studies and expands their scope;
- Integrality of the scientific and scientific-practical results because of the participation of the author in theoretical monograph studies and in dictionaries and reference books.
- A complex research profile in one modern discipline – the ethno-linguistics, which is not studies in the universities and therefore requires both independent work and work in a team for improvement and development.

Chief assistant Kalina Micheva, PhD is one of the young representatives of the ethno-linguistic school, established in the last 20 years at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ of BAS. She is a successor if her scientific head Prof. M. Kitanova and follower of her recognized colleagues, some of which have started academic carrier in the mandatory fields of the philological Bulgarian studies and mostly in the dialectology. While being aware on the basic knowledge for the Bulgarian language – its history, dialectology, synchronous and diachronous lexicology, phraseology, grammar, all they are building over the new culturological and anthropocentric knowledge, typical for the modern scientific paradigm. The habilitation of PhD

K. Micheva may objectively contribute for its preservation, for continuing the succession in the disciple and I believe that as associate professor she shall devote part of her inherent energy for the preparation of new cadres for the Department on ethno-linguistics.

As a result 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 *associate professor*. I definitely recommend to the Scientific council of IBL to choose **ch. ass. Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva, PhD** on the academic post *associate professor* under speciality 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language. I shall vote PRO about this on the final session of the scientific jury.

Date: 30.05.2019
Sofia

Reviewer:
/DSc. Mariana Tsibranska-Kostova, Professor /