



Short Review

by Prof. DSc Anissava Miltenova

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about the Associated professorship competition,

announced by the Institute for Bulgarian Language

the materials submitted by Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva, at the Institute for Bulgarian Language, BAS

I have been nominated as a jury member for the competition for the academic position 'Associate Professor' (Order No ПД 09-13 / 07.05.2019 of the Director of the Institute for Bulgarian Language 'Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin' – the field of education: Humanities, Professional Field 2.1. Philology 2.1., Specialty Bulgarian language) for the needs of the Department of Ethnolinguistics at IBL, announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 22 / 15.03.2019.

The only candidate in this competition is Kalina Stefanova Micheva-Peicheva from the Department of Ethnolinguistics, Institute of Bulgarian Language, BAS. The set of paper materials presented by the candidate Assist. Prof. PhD Kalina Micheva-Peicheva is in full compliance with the IBL Academic Staff Development Regulations and includes all the necessary documents. The procedure meets all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act.

The candidate has graduated in Pedagogy at the Sofia University (2001) and has successfully defended a doctoral dissertation on "Semantic Opposition 'Clean – Unclean' in Bulgarian Language and its Cultural Connotations". She has been working at the Institute for Bulgarian Language since 2006 and has been involved in Ethnolinguistics projects - both national and international. It has to be emphasized that she has actively participated in projects with practical application in education (the project 'The Written left. Write correctly', an annotated bibliographic project of Bulgarian ethnolinguistics and the reference book "Biographies of Bulgarian writers"). From her participation in scholarly forums (23 in number) it is obvious that there is an expansion of the problematic field of her scholarly interests and successful realization of her.

The materials presented for the competition by K. Micheva-Peycheva meet the requirements of the IBL under Art. 1a, para. 2 and the minimum national requirements under Art. 54, para. 1 of the ППЗРАСРБ, as well as the requirements under Art. 2. para. 4.3 of the ППЗРАСРБ of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and under Art. 3, para. 4 (3) of the ППЗРАСРБ of IBL, with indicators A and B showing the required number of points, and indicators D, E and F exceeding them: habilitation work on the theme: *Ethno-cultural binaryness in medieval Bulgarian literature* (Sofia, Saarbrücken, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2016) and *The Clash of Purity and Impurity in Bulgarian Culture and Language* (Sofia, Valentin Trayanov Publishing House, 2017), two monographs not presented as habilitation works: Saarbrücken, 2013), sufficient number of studies and articles in not referred anthologies and in scholarly journals, and journals that are published in publications referred and indexed in world-class databases (these are few for obvious reasons). Quotations meet the requirements (380 on the number 100 needed) and show the attention of the scholarly community and relevant evaluation of the applicant's publications.

At the heart of the scholarly issues, developed by K. Micheva-Peycheva, is the concept of ethno-cultural binaryness – a current trend in modern linguistics, combining knowledge from cultural anthropology with results of linguistic analysis. It is well known that the dialects derived from the ethno-cultural tradition give valuable data about human evaluation, as the metaphorical use of opposing concepts in different forms and content present different incisions in the perception of the world's picture. It is important to emphasize that the candidate has presented papers written in ten-year period, showing her consistency and constant interest, deepening and enriching the issues she has been developing.

The habilitation work presents the results of the study of the binary opposition in medieval Bulgarian literature in several directions: the canonical literature (Patriarch Evtimii's writings), the non-canonical tradition (apocrypha, apocryphal prayers), the Late Medieval preaching literary (damascene). The circle of texts studied covers both original works and a wide range of translated compositions of various layers - those that belong to the so-called 'base literature', as well as those that are intended for reading in the church space or are characteristic of monastic literature. The author has a good knowledge of the peculiarities of medieval writing, where the concepts of Christian ethics and the local folk tradition are overlapped, due to the deeply rooted folk beliefs.

The analysis is critical and cautious at the same time, with a convincing highlighting of the accents typical of each circle of texts. In a sense, the work of habilitation is a continuation of its previous work, devoted to the semantic opposition 'clean - unclean' in the Bulgarian traditional culture and in the language - dialectical and literary. The circle is expanded with the oppositions 'own' - 'alien', 'good - evil', and appropriate examples are found from the sources. Both the statistical data on the frequency of use of oppositions and their context are taken into consideration in the analysis. The results are supplemented with the ratio 'sacral - profane', supported by a material from folk culture. The observation of objects and phenomena from the history of folk culture, selection of well-grounded parameters and properties, according to the author, form substantial axiological signs. They are rated as markers in interpreting human attitudes towards reality. As a contribution of K. Mincheva-Peicheva's habilitation work, also present in some other of her publications, I appreciate the derivation of the essence of the metaphorical binary oppositions and the regularities in their use - and hence the mechanisms of evaluation through language expression, the specifics of thinking and the verbal behavior in different time periods and according to different sources.

Among the other publications, I would particularly like to highlight the analysis of the names of diseases, the lexemes that denote evil powers in apocrypha and apocryphal prayers, and the development of the concepts 'freedom' and 'people'. Skillfully finding and selecting source material, Mincheva-Peicheva outlines the combination of the specific meaning of the name and the abstract meaning, the process of disintegration of the object of constituent parts and the transformation of one of them into the leading sense sign. I can not ignore the appendices of the candidate's papers, the tables of language nominations that contain rich empirical material, and her translations in modern Bulgarian.

The contributions of Kalina Micheva-Peicheva's works proposed for this competition are easily visible. She approaches the mediaeval sources using an up-to-date methodology working in the still undeveloped field of Bulgarian ethnolinguistics, carefully assesses the facts, does not make hasty conclusions, her conclusions follow the sum of the collected arguments and theoretical comparisons.

I am convinced that I will vote for awarding the academic position 'Associate Professor' to Kalina Micheva-Peicheva. I recommend to the Honorable Scholarly Jury to submit to the

Scholarly Council of the Institute for Bulgarian Language this proposal that is fully in line with the applicant's scholarly work.

Prof. DSc Anissava Miltenova

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Sofia