

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

to a competition for holding an academic position "associate professor" in professional field 2.1 Philology, scientific specialty "Bulgarian language", according to an announcement in the Newspaper of State, issue 36 of 3 May 2019

Applicant for the competition: Yoanna Hristova Kirilova from the Section for Ethnolinguistics at IBL at BAS

Author of the Attitude of Reviewer (member of the Scientific Jury): Luchia Stefanova Antonova-Vasileva – Prof. PhD in the Section for Bulgarian Dialectology and Language Geography at IBL at BAS

The applicant for the academic position "associate professor", Yoanna Kirilova, has graduated in Bulgarian philology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", she has worked at the Institute for Bulgarian Language since 1995, she defended a thesis for acquiring a scientific and educational degree "doctor" in 2004, since 2011 she has been an assistant professor in the Section for Ethnolinguistics. She has participated in the work of 11 scientific and educational projects, of which 3 international ones. Y. Kirilova submits for participation in the competition a total of 32 publications, of which 1 monograph, 1 published monograph on the subject of a defended thesis for a scientific and educational degree "doctor", 1 co-authorship in a collective bibliography, 2 studies, 27 papers, 18 participations in scientific fora after holding the position "assistant professor". Y. Kirilova also participates as a co-author in a collective monograph deposited at NACID, as well as in a compilation of a collection. The investigations published by Y. Kirilova have 32 registered citations.

From the review of the professional CV is evident that Y. Kirilova has acquired the necessary experience in the research work. The works submitted for participation in the competition meet and even exceed in terms of quantitative indicators the requirements adopted pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act by BAS and by the Institute for Bulgarian Language.

The first scientific merit that shall be noted about the publications of the author is the presence of extensive bibliographic reviews. This presents the competence of the author on the relatively newer field of linguistics, investigated by her. The work that serves as a habilitation one, *The Concept of Mind in the Bulgarian Linguistic Picture about the World*, Sofia, 2017, 201 pp., also contains a comprehensive review of the bibliography about the

notion of concept – mainly about the ethnolinguistic investigations. This allows the author making own justified observations and conclusions about its essence and structure. On the basis of lexicographic sources, investigation of dialectal material and of material from the Tihonravov Damaskin, not only synchronic, but also diachronic analysis of the main signs of the concept of *mind* in the linguistic picture of the world, according to the reflection of the picture in lexical and phraseological units of the Bulgarian language, is made in the work. Contribution of Y. Kirilova is the inclusion of paroemias as a subject of observation when determining the various characteristics of the concept. Her observations on the proverbial concepts on their part allow her making contributions to the cultural-anthropological characteristic of the world of the Bulgarians in this work, as well as in other publications (cf. Nos. 1, 5, 6, 9, 7, 20, 22, 24 of the bibliography). A specific approach is the use of tables to illustrate the observations of the metaphors for *mind* in comparison with the metaphors for the concept *heart*, investigated by her in previous publications. According to data of the *Bulgarian Dictionary of Associations*, an attempt is made at restoring the “sensual” image with which the concept *mind* exists in the naïve consciousness of the modern Bulgarian. In the conclusion, inferences relating to the differentiation of the *mind* as a quasiorgan have been formulated. The concept of mind is determined as belonging to the group of developing concepts, with newly emerged metaphors being produced as an evidence. This is an important observation that may be also extended in future on other concepts.

In this work, as well as in the other publications submitted for participation in the competition, the contributions of the author are orientated to the following fields: cognitive linguistics – covered in the scientific publications related to the concept *mind*, the concept *heart* (see No. 5 *The Concept of Heart according to the Bulgarian Proverbs and Sayings*, etc.). As a prototypical of the concept *heart*, the sign ‘*centre, focus of the vital functions of the man*’ is deduced. The correct conclusion that the paroemias do not mean directly physiological processes and anatomical organs, but have started to be perceived metaphorically – as related to the emotions and feelings of the man, has been formulated. In other investigations submitted for the competition, the concept *friend* (*companion*) is studied by analyzing why the lexeme *companion* has yielded in its role as a representant in the paroemias. Analyzed also are the main characteristics of the concept *old age* (24. *Old Age as a Final Stage of the Man’s Path of Life*). Having in mind the understanding of the polyconceptual nature of the linguistic realizations (lexemes, phrasemes, proverbs and sayings), the relationship between the individual concepts

(*mind, speech, woman, friend, old age, happiness, unhappiness*) in the proverbial fragment of the Bulgarian linguistic picture of the world, specific to the traditional Bulgarian, is shown (23, 29, 30, 32). The statement that the paroemias represent simultaneously several cognitive units from different levels, i.e. they can express different metaphors or metaphorical models, has been formulated (1, 7, 9, 11, 20, 25). Moreover, the relationship of the lexemes denominating specific concepts to the language units accompanying them in their participation in set phrases is also examined, hence original observations, e.g. on the category *manner of the verbal action* in the cognitive metaphor and the cognitive models realizing it, also follow (1, 7, 8, 10, 18, 25).

As already shown, the author develops her own methodology for tracing the investigated phenomena in diachrony, which is applied in the investigation of the concepts *mind, heart, friend*, etc. She aims at presenting in detail the specificity of the differentiation of the functions that the Bulgarian ascribes to those main, both to the human physical being and to the mental perception and rethinking of the world, concepts. As a whole, this approach is productive and it shall be extended in future investigations. In the publications presented here, in my opinion, some of the observations made may be made more precise in future. Thus for example, in my opinion, the differentiation of the paroemias containing the concepts *heart* and *soul*, in terms of realization of the model “brings man nearer to God”, deserves more detailed investigation and specification because according to the Christian concept God is perceived not only with the soul, but also with the heart (cf. 10. Ontological Metaphors Conceptualizing the Soul as a Value in the Bulgarian Paroemias (in comparison with the concepts *mind* and *heart*) and other publications. The possible making of future investigations in this respect may enrich the contributions of the author to reveal the ethnolinguistic picture of world of the Bulgarian, with the significance of the achieved in the publications presented here having not to be underestimated in the least.

Y. Kirilova has contributions in the field of dialectology, related to investigations of the pastoral terminology, of the denominations of the plant *dandelion* in the Bulgarian language in comparison with the Slavic languages, of works oriented to bibliography. The contributions in the publications in the field of ethnolinguistics and dialectology may be used not only in the respective scientific fields, but also in the process of the teaching of Bulgarian language due to the rich material of linguistic and sociocultural information that they give.

In conclusion, it may be summarized that the works that the applicant submits for participation in the competition have serious scientific

merits and significant contributions. As a whole, her scientific activity completely conforms to the scientific indicators determined pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act in the national requirements, the requirements of BAS and of the Institute for Bulgarian Language for holding the position of associate professor. That is why, I propose with conviction to the honourable jury to award an academic position “associate professor” to Yoanna Hristova Kirilova.

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Sofia

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