

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: Maya Dimitrova Vlahova-Angelova from the Section for Onomastics 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

Maya Vlahova-Angelova has graduated in Slavic philology at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In the period 2005-2008, she was a PhD candidate in the Section for Onomastics at IBL at BAS. She defended a thesis for awarding a scientific and educational degree “doctor” in 2010. Since 2013 M. Vlahova has been an assistant professor in the Section. She has participated in 8 scientific and educational projects, of which 1 international one. M. Vlahova is an Editorial Manager of the Balkan Linguistics Journal of IBL. She is a member of UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms. She participates actively in the organization and the overall work of the campaign “The written remains, write correctly!” of IBL.

The applicant for academic position “associate professor” submits for participation in the competition a total of 30 publications: 2 monographs – a habilitation work and a work published on the basis of a defended thesis for acquiring a scientific and educational degree “doctor”; 1 study; 2 independent papers and 3 papers in co-authorship in scientific journals, reviewed and indexed in world-famous databases; 13 independent papers and 2 papers in co-authorship, published in unreviewed publications with scientific reviewing and editing. She has 2 registered citations in scientific publications in reviewed and indexed publications; 24 citations or reviews in unreviewed publications with scientific reviewing. She has participated in different scientific fora – 4 abroad, 17 in Bulgaria.

From the short professional CV and from the works submitted is evident that Maya Vlahova-Angelova has the necessary scientific experience and covers the quantitative indicators pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, adopted in the national requirements, the requirements of BAS and of IBL for holding the academic position “associate professor”.

The habilitation work of Maya Vlahova-Angelova, *Onomastics and*

Ethnobotany: Denominations of Fruit according to Data from the Toponymy in Western Bulgaria, was published in 2018. The monograph is not only a description of toponymic material, but an investigation directed to the revealing of the mechanisms and paths of emergence of toponyms from denominations, representing an important share of the folk terminology. The author reaches important conclusions about the possibility by means of toponymy for investigation of the folk notions and concept of the world, which is an essential part of the manifestations of the national identity in the language. An important place in her investigation is taken by the analyses of as to what extent the ethnobotany in the toponymy has been transferred “purely mechanically”, by repeating in a reflex way a number of folk taxonomies. In this case, she has established that the denominations used to form toponyms have no symbolic meaning. The toponyms containing names of fruit almost without exception are really motivated descriptive denominations and reflect the nature of the folk biological taxonomy of the plant species. The work has also contributions to the revealing of a number of forgotten terms related to the denominations of fruit. By means of them, the knowledge of the useful plants, of the biological species and the practices for their cultivation, which can lead to solution of some of the ecology problems most important today, is revived.

The contributions in the investigation of the toponymy in ethnolinguistic aspect are also covered in other investigations of the author (see the bibliography Nos. 7, 10, 13, 17, 20, 21, 22). M. Vlahova examines also the Bulgarian toponymy related to the folk denominations for colour – see *The Colours in the Bulgarian Toponymy (on Material from Western Bulgaria)*, etc. Here, naturally, local names formed from dialectal and rare names of colours, which M. Vlahova diligently analyses, are also examined. She reaches the conclusion that unlike the toponyms formed from denominations of fruit, the toponyms derivative from the denominations for colour are not only related to the direct meanings and the objective characteristics of the object, but also to secondary metaphorical meanings that have emerged on the basis of different associations and analogies. Other papers are dedicated to the local names motivated by folk geographic terms, reaching also here important conclusions about the specificity of the Bulgarian folk taxonomy reflected in the language – cf. *Vlahova-Angelova, M. & A. Choleva-Dimitrova. 2017. Archaic Toponymy from Western Bulgaria: The Local Names as a Source for the Folk Geographic Notions*.

Besides in terms of ethnolinguistics, M. Vlahova also examines the toponymy in socioonomastic aspect – an approach that has been applied in her monograph *The Streets of Sofia: Mapping of the Urban Identity*. 2013, published

on the basis of the habilitation work, and in other publications. In 2 papers in co-authorship, she also examines the Bulgarian toponymy in view of the effect of the modern demographic processes, which represents a new approach in the toponymic investigation (cf. 19, 23).

Important are also the contributions of M. Vlahova in the works dedicated to the investigation of the traces of Thracian language in the Bulgarian toponymy – cf. *Choleva-Dimitrova, A., Vlahova-Angelova, M., Koilov, Kr. 2017. Traces of the Thracian language in the Bulgarian Onomastics*. A new approach in the investigation, in the first place, is the direction of the attention to the microtoponyms. The competence of the applicant in the field of the etymological investigations, which also manifests itself in other publications (cf. *To the Etymology of one Name in the Bulgarian Toponymy – Galata*), is also evident in the paper. Contribution in this work is also the direction of the attention to the family names. The interest in the anthroponymy is obvious from a number of publications of M. Vlahova, in which the new trends in the Bulgarian name system (see 12, 14, 15, 24), as well as problems of the lexicographic presentation of the personal names – see *The Proper Names in the Linguistic Dictionaries – Trends in the Modern Lexicographic Practice*. 2016, are investigated.

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. They have been executed competently, revealing excellent abilities for systematization and analysis of the linguistic material. 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 Maya Dimitrova Vlahova-Angelova.

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Sofia

Prepared by:
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