



SHORT 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 36/ 03.05.2019 г.

With a candidate: **Yoana Hristova Kirilova, PhD**, Chief Assistant at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – Bulgarian Academy of Science

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

Chief Assistant Yoana Hristova Kirilova is the only one candidate in the announced procedure for holding the academic post *associate professor* for the needs of the Department of ethnolinguistics at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ of BAS. In 2004, at the same Department, the candidate has defended her PhD dissertation, on the base of which was published the monograph entitled *The Shepherd Terminology in Sofia Region* (Veliko Tarnovo: Znak'94, 2011, 274 pages.). The professional background of the colleague is closely connected to the Institute for Bulgarian Language, where she has successively worked in the Department of Bulgarian onomastics and ethnolinguistics, the Department of dialectology and linguistic geography, and since 2004 in the restructured Department of ethnolinguistics. Since 2011 she occupies the position of chief assistant on the same working place, where she conducts researches upon the contemporary linguoculturology, combining the new scholarly paradigm with her knowledge about dialectology, modern and diachronic lexicology and lexicography.

For the needs of the current procedure, Yoana Kirilova has presented the following materials due to evaluation, grouped under the scientometric indicators according to the National minimum requirements and the Rules of IBL in matters of obtaining scientific degrees and of holding academic posts, respectively for occupying the post *associate professor*: a published monograph of habilitation work status; 3 studies, one of them unpublished but registered in NACID (National Center of Information and Documentation) as a team work; 26 articles, of which only 2 under impression; 5 published in international miscellanies abroad; one article with WoS reference; she has been a participant into two co-authors annotated bibliographies. The reference of the quoted works shows 32 noticed quotations. Dr. Kirilova has taken part in 18 research forums after she occupied the position of chief assistant, 4 of which have been hold abroad. She has been a member of 11 scientific projects in the frames of BAS, BAS – EBR, and the European Structural Funds with the partnership of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The colleague is an active participant in two emblematic projects that enlarge the relation of IBL with the Bulgarian education and society, namely, “The Written remains” and “Together ahead”, since the very beginning in 2016 until today. She has also been a mentor of 50 students in the project “Students’ practices” in the framework of the European Social Fund.

At first place, an object of analysis should be Dr. Kirilova’s contributions in her habilitation work *The Vision on the Mind in the Bulgarian Linguistic World View*. Sofia:

Diomira, 2017, 201 pages. Two fundamental operative terms of the modern ethnolinguistics meet each other in it – the *linguistic worldview* and *concept*, the relationship between is illustrated by their projecting on the vision on the mind in the Bulgarian cultural space. The author sticks to a coherent methodology, in the grounds of which lay the revealing of the basic nature of concept in its tree constitutional parts – of notion, of image, and semantic – and the aggregation of linguistic means for its expression in synchrony and diachrony. The work consists of five chapters, in each of which the cognitive definition of the concept *mind* is build up by subsequent accumulation of information about the conceptual features through lexicographical database, paroemia, through metaphors about mind, anthropomorphic signs. The author sets herself some tasks that overcome the simple modeling by means of the basic linguistic evidences in paradigmatic and syntagmatic rows (hyperonymes, hiponymes, antonymes, synonymes, and etc.). She studies the paroemical markers from 530 paroemia and gender specificities leading her to the conclusion that the concept *mind* is among the developing ones, with strongly expressed axiological value and topicality. It acquires some semiotic density in multiple lexical units for persons, qualities, actions, which are revealed in comparison with other basic concepts, or semantic oppositions, as *mind – heart; mind – human being; heart– human being, up – down*, etc. The distinctive features of the work are the persistence in applying the supporting terminology; exhaustiveness of the used material; detailed and ingenious approach in interpretation. As an example, the metaphoric interpretation of the concept *mind* is presented by structural, ontological, and metaphors of orientation, according to the G. Lakoff and M. Johnson's classification, but the peculiarities of the Bulgarian damascenes lead to some untypical metaphors, like *mind– leg; mind–herd*, and others. The helper apparatus in the form of tables and the application of relevant paroemia make a very good impression. Last, but not least, the research language is very precise, clear, and terminologically adequate.

The rest of the evaluated publications continue the trend of the habilitation work in several directions. First, there are generalizing theoretical works, in which Kirilova not only analyses others cognitive definitions about concept, but offers her own theoretical reflections with the purpose of overcoming the interpretative multiplisism in the accumulated scholarly literature. In this way, she contributes to the terminology of the modern cognitive linguistics (as *Concept and Linguistic Worldview*, 2017 г.). On the second place, a group of publications represents works with the same sustained methodology about other concepts, as *heart, soul*, the opposition *friend– enemy*, only *friend* in diachronic prospective, the notion of *old age*. Third group of Kirilova's articles proves the frequent and entirely logical model of professional development from dialectology to ethnolinguistics. For instance, in the curious article *Metaphors in the names of the dandelion in the Slavic languages* (2016 г.) various types of metaphors towards the concrete object – biological, anthropomorphist, zoomorphic – are exhaustively analyzed, but the value of the material consists not only in the concrete object, but in the reconstruction of the nominative models in the Slavic world as regards the relationship between humans and nature. These are interesting psychological aspects. The author uses and summarizes database from the Common Slavic Linguistic Atlas (OLA) and the Dialectal Archives at the IBL. Kirilova's sources in all publications of her are abundant in number and various in content:

common dictionaries, corpora, specialized lexicographic tools, dialectal archives, written monuments, and others.

It cannot be overlooked that Dr. Kirilova is a regular participant in several team projects of the Department of ethnolinguistics. Among her most recent scholarly interests must be placed the *Ethnolinguistic Vocabulary of the Popular Medicine*, which is in process of being finished and subjected to a public discussion. The big team works in ethnolinguistics are a form of personal skill perfection, but as well, a way to establishing national research schools. Dr. Kirilova's place in them is a guarantee for an acquirement of increasing and valuable professional experience.

The qualities of Dr. Kirilova's scholarly output are a high theoretical training and the mastering of the scientific language of the ethnolinguistics; ability to works with various sources; basic dialectological preparation; analytics, methodological plausibility, capability of formulating clear conclusions; optimal balance between theoretical statements and their put into practice by using concrete material. A specific personal achievement of Dr. Kirilova is her active work with Bulgarian paroemical material which practically persists in every single article of her as a constant source of original ethnological interpretation. Therefore, I think that the sientometric compliance for occupying the post of *assistant professor* is combined with real research contributions. The candidate has a good collaboration with research teams from Poland, Russia, and Slovakia, where she popularized the achievements of the Bulgarian ethnolinguistics. I recommend this aspect of her activity to be enlarged as a positive practice.

Because of getting familiar with the proposed materials of the candidate, I do think that the evaluated candidature meets the national standards, 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. PhD Yoana Hristova Kirilova** on the academic post *associate professor* under speciality 2.1. *Philology. Bulgarian language*. I shall vote positively at the final session of the Scientific Jury.

Date: 29.07.2019

Sofia

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/ Prof. DSc. Mariyana ~~ISIDRANSKA~~ KOSTOVA