

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER
of Prof. Nadka Nikolova Nikolova, PhD



**Under the procedure for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology
(Bulgarian language) at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lubomir
Andreychin"**

At the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - Sofia

1. Competition details and opinion on the course of the procedure so far

This competition was announced by Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lubomir Andreychin" at the BAS – Sofia and was also announced in the Official Gazette, issue 36 as of 03.05.2019. In my opinion, in the course of the announcement of the competition and the procedure itself, all regulatory requirements related to deadlines and stepwise actions have been complied with. There is a candidate, who meets the requirements under the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff Act and the Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute for Bulgarian Language, adopted on 22.04.2019.

2. Candidate details

The only candidate for this procedure is e *Assistant professor Maya Dimitrova Vlahova - Angelova*. She meets the above requirements, and she has submitted all the required documents, as well as the relevant procedure papers. From the presented CV it is evident that she has earned a master's degree in Slavic philology - Polish language and literature and Bulgarian language and literature. She obtained a doctor's in 2010. The candidate has been an assistant professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language since 2011, with a little interruption.

Maya Vlahova Angelova has been working for the Institute for Bulgarian Language since 2008. She has participated in 8 scientific projects, one of them is international, and she is the project manager under The Young Scientist Program. She has presented her papers at 14 scientific forums in Bulgaria. Her work in the editorial board of the Balkan linguistics is significant. "She has been a PhD supervisor and has played an active role in the organizational, scientific and administrative activities of the Institute.

To participate in the competition, Maya Vlahova-Angelova has submitted 30 scientific papers, published after she had obtained the doctor's degree, which were not reviewed under her defence procedure. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that the candidate has a total of 35 scientific papers in various fields of linguistics. The evaluated 30 scientific developments are categorized in the following way: 2 monographs (one of which is a variant of her thesis and the other is her habilitation work), 1 paper, 22 articles (in 6 of them she is a co-author), as well as 5 publications from other genres. The research work has the necessary reviews to be published in prestigious publishing houses, specialized periodicals and thematic collections (anniversaries, conferences, etc.). Some of them have been approbated at scientific forums. Referring to the attached table for the number of points received according to the minimum requirements in the field of Humanities, in accordance with the Rules for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions in the IBL at BAS, adopted on 22.04.2019, Dr. Maya Vlahova -Angelova has received **725 points**, which exceeds the required by the Regulations minimum of 595 points.

3. Evaluation of the scientific activities and the works submitted for evaluation

The candidate's *scientific contributions* are in the area of her scientific interests: *onomastics* (toponymy, anthroponymy), to which she approaches from various aspects, *etymology*, *sociolinguistics*. Her developments are interesting with the problems she deals with and with the applied research approaches; they have been conducted with the appropriate methodology for the specific purposes. The contributions to the works are both theoretical and practical (*corpus*, *lexicographic*).

Among the *current scientific achievements* of Assistant Professor Maya Vlahova-Angelova, it could be highlighted those on Bulgarian toponymy in the ethnolinguistic aspect. Her *habilitation work*, published in 2018: "Onomastics and Ethnobotany: Fruit names according to toponymy data in Western Bulgaria", is on this topic. A number of toponymic studies are known to the Bulgarian scientists. However, this work is placed in a still poorly researched niche because of its unconventionality: the names of fruits in toponyms as a source for folklore biosystematics. The ethnobiological knowledge of the Bulgarians, based on toponymic data, is part of their cognitive perceptions and is an important aspect of national psychology. Thus, this work should be considered a valuable contribution to anthropology. At the very beginning of the study, it becomes apparent that there is excellent knowledge of two things: the problem (both in bibliographic and interpretative terms) and the methodology of the study, with the principles of folk taxonomy being the main method.

The research of M. Vlahova-Angelova proves that toponymy offers reliable information about naive knowledge about biodiversity, and hence - about the world perception and taxonomic thinking of Bulgarians. The most valuable in my opinion in this respect is the fourth chapter of the monograph – "Models of folklore phytotaxonomy based on toponyms from Western Bulgaria", in which the huge material for the 20 fruit concepts is classified, arranged, explained and illustrated in the most successful way possible. The bibliography used also makes a great impression - in terms of quantity and selection of titles relevant to the research, it respects the reader. Most of Maya Vlahova-Angelova's articles also gravitate towards her interest in *onomastics*: not only related to fruit names but also colours. Bulgarian toponymy is full of names containing names of colours. Her research on it reveals many interesting aspects of Bulgarian culture.

Another part of M. Vlahova-Angelova's articles refers to *urban toponymy* (so-called urbanonymy). The names of the streets in Sofia and the public opinion of the Sofia citizens' attitudes to the names are commented based on an interesting experiment and the data obtained from it. These studies of hers are also interdisciplinary - something very relevant to modern linguistics.

Scientific curiosity about the *origin of toponyms* is a natural consequence of the colleague's work with them. This is the topic of her research on the etymology of the Galata toponym („Галата"). She also has a strong interest in the *dialect vocabulary* in toponyms. M. Vlahova-Angelova has become a specialist in the field of toponymy throughout her career, devoting her energy to various aspects of it: ecolinguistic, ethnolinguistic, phytotaxonomic, sociolinguistic and others.

Another lasting interest for her is the personal name system and its lexicographic representation. There are four articles on this issue. She critically interprets current trends in giving a personal name in different locations around the country.

In all of Maya Vlahova-Angelova's scientific work, her skills and critical insight, experience, and sophistication are evident. The descriptivism adopted by the author helps to study completely and systematically, in a synchronous-diachronic plan, the linguistic data and phenomena in the traditional culture, to organize, classify and dissect them to reveal the linguistic picture of the world of the Bulgarians.

A review of Maya Vlahova-Angelova's scientific publications shows that she is a reliable and established researcher. The candidate's contribution to science and her unquestionable experience meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff Act and the accompanying Rules. On this basis, I propose surely and unreservedly **Assistant Professor Maya Vlahova-Angelova to be elected Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. L. Andreychin” at the BAS**. All I can do is wish her a bright career in linguistics and to stay true to herself.

04.08.2019

Prof. Nadka Nikolova, PhD –
The Constantine of Preslav University of Shumen