

## STANDPOINT

on a competition for fulfilling the academic position "associate professor" in relation to professional area 2.1 Philology, scientific specialty "Bulgarian language", according to the announcement in "State newspaper", issue 36/03.05.2019

with a candidate: head assistant Dr. Nadezhda Spasova Kostova, Division for Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin",

Standpoint provider: prof. Dr. Petya Nacheva Osenova, Division of Bulgarian Language, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

### **General overview of the provided materials**

Head assistant Nadezhda Spasova Kostova has completed her bachelor and master degrees in Bulgarian Philology, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". After that she completed successfully her PhD in the Institute for Bulgarian Language. In the same institution she traced her career up, starting from researcher and continuing with becoming an assistant and head assistant in the Division for Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography.

Head assistant Dr. Nadezhda Spasova Kostova has provided for the competition the following scientific materials: one monograph (205 pp.), two participations in dictionaries as a co-author, 4 long papers and 27 papers (4 of which are co-authored), one dictionary review and one bibliographical reference. Here the publication productivity of the candidate should be noted. Although she has not mentioned publications in refereed and indexed editions (such a publication however was mentioned in the scientometry reference for NACID), her surveys have a big scientific added value. 23 citations have been pointed out for 8 authored publications. I consider this number of citations as an indicator for the importance of the candidate's works for the scientific society.

### **General overview of the scientific, scientific-applied and pedagogical activities of the candidate**

The scientific activity of head assistant Nadezhda Kostova belongs predominantly in the field of Lexicology and Lexicography. This very field already provided her with the opportunity to work not only on the theoretical lexicology and lexicography, but also in the applied branch – through her participation in creating general and specialized dictionaries – mono- and bilingual – as well as with her using the corpus methods for discovering the tendencies within the contemporary lexical constitution of the language.

The candidate has actively participated in a number of projects. This fact demonstrates the scientific-applied aspects of her activity.

She has provided 12 projects, among which the following ones should be noted: the focused on corpus and computational linguistics and thus – on the application of new

technologies in the lexicography (for example projects 2, 9, 11 and 12). In addition, head assistant Dr. Nadezhda Spasova Kostova participated in the creation of bilingual lexicographic projects (Bulgarian and Slovak; Bulgarian and Polish). Last but not least, it is worth mentioning her contribution in the creation of the largest dictionary of Bulgarian language (project 1) as well as her projects with theoretical aspects (projects 3, 4 and 5).

The candidate has provided 12 scientific forums (from overall 18). All these forums are either international or with international participation. The topics are in the areas of lexicography and – more generally – in the area of Slavic studies.

Head assistant Dr. Nadezhda Kostova has pedagogical experience in the field of teaching Bulgarian language to foreigners in the Division “Bulgarian as a foreign language”, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. Also, she used to teach phonetics and lexicology from 2014 to 2017. In 2014/2015 she taught a practical course on using the lexicographic portal “Infoplex”.

#### **Analytic assessment of the main scientific and/or scientific-applied contributions of the candidate**

Since the provided monograph “Verbal neologisms in Bulgarian”, Sofia, 2018 is the main habilitation work of Dr. Kostova, I will focus on it. Another argument for my focus is the fact that this book contextualizes successfully part of the provided articles and papers.

The book contributes to the investigation of neological processes in the verbal lexica in the end of XX and the beginning of XXI century. Especially valuable are the descriptions of: the interaction between the lexical and semantic neologisms, the processes of integrating these neologisms within the Bulgarian lexical system, the processes of their origin – typically from names or simultaneously with them.

A method is proposed for describing metaphorical (presented in more detail) and metonymical (presented in brief) meanings of the verbal neologisms (the largest section of the monograph). The productive as well non-productive patterns are discussed. The definition types are introduced that have been exploited in the most frequent and less frequent neological occurrences. The literary sources that were cited are over 180. This number shows the good awareness of the candidate about the achievements in the specialized area that she works in.

In my view, regarding the object of investigation, candidate’s contributions can be divided into the following categories: theoretical topics (all publications without 6 and 16), and topics, related to specific verbs (6, 16). The majority of the publications focuses on problems with wider scope which demonstrates the analytical and predictive skills of Dr. Kostova with regard to the lexical and lexicographic tendencies in Bulgarian. From a thematic point of view the contributions can be divided into the following ones: investigation of the competition between lexical and semantic verbal neologisms (1, 16, 29); suggesting a typology of the neologisms with respect to their domain usage (1, 7, 18, 31, 34); research on the relations between the verbal neologisms and their noun counterparts (1, 6, 29, 30, 34); lexicographic presentation of verbal neologisms (1, 7, 13) and successful application of corpus methods in

research (5, 17, 25). Candidate's work in various areas of lexicography is really impressive: explanatory, bilingual and computational. The scientific activities of Dr. Kostova include diverse and important tasks, such as: the modeling of semantic structures of polysemous words, editorial work, the creation of electronic dictionaries and corpora, the analysis of Bulgarian phraseology.

I would like to stress Dr. Kostova's skill to create a scientific text that is not only logically sound but also easy to comprehend. Despite the fact that her research is mainly within the areas of lexicography and lexicology, it is to large extent connected to the grammar (morphology and syntax). Such an interaction entirely adheres to the contemporary linguistic trends where the dictionary and the grammar are always viewed as complementary entities. In relation to this I would like to mention the fact that the investigation on the deverbal nouns in terminology corresponds to my own and other colleagues' research on the syntax of complex words. Thus, from two different places there comes information that explains why the complex verbs (type \*паропропускам, 'steam-leak', steam leaks) are not typical for Bulgarian while the complex deverbal nouns are (паропропускане, steam leakage).

#### **Critical remarks and recommendations with regard to the provided materials**

I have some insignificant remarks and recommendations with respect to the monograph. They might be used by Dr. Kostova in the next edition of the book. In my opinion, the overview of the literature might constitute a separate section although at the moment the author cited correctly all the necessary sources in the respective sections throughout the book.

When using the corpus-based approach, it would be good to have supporting tables with figures for the occurrences (or rankings) of the respective verbs within the corpus (for example, pp. 58 and 59). Also, the conditional nature and the incompleteness of the corpora have to be taken into account. Needless to say, corpora are a valuable source of linguistic information and they make scientific research objective. However, it always matters what type of corpus has been used, how big it is, what the distribution of the running words is, etc.

When modeling of the verbal metaphora with the participants in the situation/event, in my view, a more precise syntactic-semantic instrument can be used. It can be developed on the basis of the current model, introduced by the candidate, in her future research. For example, for the verb *задръствам*, 'to jam' (pp. 99), the following model is suggested: activity with object that is a thing or a place -> activity with object: computer. However, the computer can also be subject: "The laptop got jammed with information".

It would be useful if a list of the verbs with new meanings was included after the text as an appendix. Last but not least, the author is too modest in her monograph and thus she did not present explicitly her contributions there.

#### **Motivated and clearly formulated conclusion with assessment**

All the formal requirements related to this procedure have been respected: the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), of the Regulations of LDASRB, of the Regulations of the terms and conditions for

acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, of the Regulations of the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Institute of Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”.

Having considered all the scientific and scientific-applied contributions as well as the pedagogical experience of the candidate, I give an entirely positive evaluation for her academic activity, and I propose to the members of the distinguished jury to select her “associate professor”.

Date 19.08.2019r.

Standpoint author:

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