



## REVIEW

regarding the selection process to award the academic rank of *Professor* in the professional area *2.1 Philology*, scientific discipline Bulgarian Language in accordance with the announcement published in the State Gazette 56/23.06.2020 with a candidate Anna Ivanova Kocheva, PhD, associate professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lubomir Andreychin” at BAS, Department for Bulgarian dialectology and linguistic geography

Reviewer: Elena Todorova Nikolova, Doctor of Sciences in Philology, Professor at Plovdiv University "PAISII HILENDARSKI", Filial in Smolyan

Anna Ivanova Kocheva, associate professor, PhD is the only candidate for the selection process to award the academic rank of *Professor* in the professional area *2.1 Philology*, scientific discipline Bulgarian Language announced by the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lubomir Andreychin” (State Gazette 56/23.06.2020)

### **General description of the materials presented**

The overall scientific output by Anna Kocheva is distinctly rich and varied, and includes 118 publications: 5 monographs (two of which co-authored), 1 atlas in English in two volumes, 3 dialect maps (co-authored) and 1 linguistic map, 4 papers (3 of which co-authored) and 88 scientific articles (5 of which in electronic format), as well as 16 articles in popular science publications. She has served as the compiler of collections, editor of scientific monographs, translator from a regiolect (Macedonian) into standard Bulgarian. She has participated in more than 100 international conferences, round tables, and forums related to various linguistic and sociolinguistic projects, and for the period under evaluation she has presented 25 papers at international forums, and 13 at national forums (some of which had international participation). She has participated in a number of media and forum events aimed at popularizing the activities of IBL at BAS. In her capacity as an expert she has been a member of the Council for Work with Bulgarians Abroad with the Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria since 2017, of the Advisory Board of Bulgarian Memory Foundation (has worked on projects of the foundation concerning the reintegration of the Bulgarian diaspora) – since 2009, and of the National Council for Intangible Cultural Heritage working on the topic “Cyrillic – the Bulgarian alphabet” - in 2014.

## **Publications after the habilitation (after 2013)**

Anna Kocheva is participating in the competition with publications of her own and with publications of which she is a co-author, among which the most significant are the monographic description *The Interlanguage of the Bulgarians in Vienna* (2017) and *The Bulgarian Language in a New Place in the World. A Map and a Study* (2016). Of great significance are the linguogeographical publications which she has co-authored - A Map of the Dialect Division of the Bulgarian language (2014), Digital Map of the Bulgarian Dialects, A Map of the Dialect Division of the Bulgarian language (2016), as well as Atlas Linguarium Europae (ALE) in two volumes (2015). The author's maps and the author's comments on the maps have not been cited. Anna Kocheva is also participating in the competition for professorship with 2 papers and 45 scientific articles (3 of which in electronic format) as well as 7 articles in popular science publications.

## **General characteristics of the scientific research, practicable applications of scientific research and the pedagogical experience of the candidate**

### **1. Information about the candidate**

Anna Ivanova Kocheva earned her master's degree in Bulgarian Philology in 1989, and became a full-time postgraduate student in 1990. During her scholarships at the Institute of Slavic Studies at the University of Salzburg, awarded by the Austrian Ministry of education and science, she undertook two specialization courses - in Linguistics (1992) and in Slavic Studies and Medieval Studies (1994-1995). In 1996, she became research fellow (III degree), three years later she was research fellow (II degree) and in 2004 she became research fellow (I degree). Between 1998-2000 she was a Humboldt Fellow at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Marburg, Germany where she conducted studies within her own project *German Loanwords in Bulgarian Dialects*, and was an academic lecturer at the universities of Marburg and Giessen, Germany. In 2004 she earned a scholarship from the Herti Foundation at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Marburg, Germany. There, she completed her book *German Lexical Items in Bulgarian Dialects*. In 2011 she defended her PhD dissertation *About the Folk Basis of the Old Bulgarian Language* for which she was awarded the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' and became Chief Assistant Professor at IBL "Prof. Lubomir Andreychin" at BAS, where she has been an associate professor since 2013. She has been given various awards individually and as a team member for

her excellence and for her significant scientific achievements by the IBL and by other institutions and organizations.

## 2. Participation in scientific projects and project management

Anna Kocheva has participated in 3 international and 4 national research projects, and in 3 of these she was the manager of the team of scientists. This proves her abilities to participate in teamwork and to manage research teams.

## 3. Main contributions in scientific research and practicable applications of scientific research

The candidate is participating in the competition for professorship with scientific output that highly valuable in its scientific research and practicable applications of scientific research aspects in several areas: examination of the language of the Bulgarian communities abroad; dialectology, linguogeography and ethnolinguistics; language history (with regard to historical dialectology); comparative linguistics and examination of the characteristics of the written regional norms of the Bulgarian language in the Republic of North Macedonia (RNM).

Her major study *The Interlanguage of the Bulgarians in Vienna* (2017) successfully combines the theory of colloquial language and the sociolinguistic methodological principles and on those foundations she has devised and implemented a comprehensive methodology for the study of an interlanguage. I have no reservations in accepting the contribution noted by the author, namely that for the first time in the Bulgarian linguistic science **a comprehensive description of an interlanguage** has been made (specifically, the language of the Bulgarian emigrants abroad, in particular in Austria), as well as the fact that for the first time such a significant **corpus** of samples from the speech of the Bulgarian emigrants has been published, which material was personally collected and unknown before the publication (publ. 5, 56, 70, 72, 76, 80, 81, 83). The overall coherent **terminological system** that was created constitutes a theoretical contribution, as it provides the tools for devising **classifications** for the description of bilingual practice (publ. 5, 7, 8, 80, 81, 83, 91, 93). The conclusions about **the written bilingualism** are also valuable contributions: the school and media-journalistic, as well as the colloquial character of this interlanguage.

The study has been reviewed in three prestigious scientific journals in Bulgaria.

The *Map* of the distribution of the Bulgarian language in new places in the world and the articles accompanying it are of scientific and practical application value (publ. 10, 73, 74, 91). The countries where there are earlier and recent Bulgarian emigrants have been presented, and the routes of the emigration waves have been outlined; information has been given as to the institutions supporting the Bulgarian language. Important from a sociolinguistic perspective is the suggestion of mechanisms for taking strategic decisions in the area of language policies.

The studies in which the candidate is a co-author are a significant contribution in the area of dialectology and linguogeography as they present a new linguogeographical classification of the Bulgarian dialects over the whole of the Bulgarian language territory – within and outside of the territory of the country (publ. 6, 7 and 9 – co-authored). The preparation of atlases and the creation of maps is a long and laborious collaborative effort. In the two editions of the *Map of the Bulgarian Dialects* (accompanied by commentaries) multicolored sections represent the boundaries between the major Bulgarian dialects and dialect groups; corrections have been made as to some dialect boundaries and some new and detailed terminology has been introduced which pertains to the classification of the Bulgarian dialects so that it is in alignment with the most recent dialectology data and publications. The interactive electronic version of the *Map* is a serious achievement for the contemporary linguistic geography, as it presents the opportunity to hear and read samples of the main dialects included. This makes this innovative interactive product interesting and useful not only for the scientists but also for the general public.

Volume I. 9 of the *Atlas Linguarium Europae* (ALE) is of utmost importance as it popularizes the peculiarities of the Bulgarian dialect language and contributes to the explanation of the interrelations between the languages of the peoples in Europe. The Bulgarian team consisting of three members has contributed by developing a precise map and supplementing it with comprehensive commentaries on the equivalents of “*shepherd*” in European languages (publ. 8 – co-authored). The articles Anna Kocheva published in foreign languages in Romanian and Bulgarian scientific publications (publ. 59, 61, 96) are also of theoretical and practical value.

Important for the Bulgarian dialectology is the new interpretation of the short objective case forms in a number of Eastern Rhodope dialects – through generalization of the pronoun stems *-ne*, *-me*, *-ce* after the dropping of the case endings in the singular and plural definite forms of the nouns. I consider this

explanation to be logical and justified. The full forms which are preserved in the Central Rhodope dialects are presented as the most notable evidence – with them the contractions (through dropping of vowels and consonants) are not only less frequent, but are of different nature and they do not impact the case versions of the article morphemes. Nowadays the two morphological processes are evolving independently from one another – the case system is disappearing, while the triple article system with its preserved formal differences is a living and stable characteristic in the speech of all age and social groups.

The ethnolinguistic issues are presented in an innovative way though the multifaceted analysis of the symbolic meanings of phraseological units (publ. 61) or abstract concepts (publ. 65). A new terminological collocation is presented to our linguistic literature – semantic collapse in relation to the names used in the colloquial tree taxonomy (publ. 97). On the basis of numerous examples from Bulgarian and from other European languages the occasions where a direct and an indirect semantic collapse occur are differentiated.

The contemporary dialect characteristics of the dialect in Thessaloniki (in the broader sense of the word) have been discussed from a purely scientific and from a civic and patriotic standpoint in order to confirm and defend the argument for the Bulgarian foundations of the language of Cyril and Methodius (publ. 58, 60, 63).

In the area of comparative linguistics Anna Kocheva has achievements of theoretical and practical value. Through a comparative analysis the similarities and the differences between Bulgarian and Slovenian have been identified using an extensive corpus of stable phraseological comparisons and in their classification new terminology has been presented (publ. 62, 77, 94). The common symbolic (mythological or religious) meaning of similar semantic items excerpted from multiple European languages has been indicated (publ. 71); common European structural models of stable nature have been described and the structural differences between the European languages have been pointed out with regard to the character of the model – basic or non-basic (publ. 88).

The last research area was defined by the candidate for professorship in the following manner: *The plural centrality of the Bulgarian language and the peculiarities of the regional written norm of the Bulgarian language in the Republic of North Macedonia (RNM)*. In two papers and three articles (co-authored) the argument that the so-called official Macedonian language has some

distinct dialect foundations has been refuted (publ. 13, 14; 82, 85, 92). The authors prove that this is a written regional variant of the official Bulgarian language as it has as its foundations the normative Bulgarian language as it has evolved through the centuries. With the Aegean and Macedonian re-codification apart from Serbian and Greek loan words, regionalisms have been deliberately added in order to achieve a greater departure from the official Bulgarian language. The evolution of the plural centrality of the official Bulgarian language (with its six written regional norms in addition to the major one) has been delineated.

#### **4. Pedagogical experience**

During her scholarship of the Austrian Ministry of Education and Science at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Salzburg, Anna Kocheva conducted seminars in sociolinguistics – the course “*The language of change*” during the academic year 1994/1995. She conducted seminars in Bulgarian Dialectology (1996/1997) and in *Ethnolinguistics* (1997/1998) at the Southwestern University “N. Rilski” Blagoevgrad. Since 1997 she has conducted seminars with students from the Bulgarian diaspora organized by the *Bulgarian Memory* Foundation within the Spring and Autumn Seminar. Besides, Anna Kocheva conducts lecture courses for teachers of Bulgarian Language and Literature in the secondary schools, organized by IBL and the Az Buki Publishing House.

#### **Impact of the scientific publications of the candidate on national and international level**

The candidate has discovered 46 citations of her works in national and international publications, which testifies to the wide impact of her scientific output both on national and international level. All her major works have been reviewed in scientific publications.

#### **Additional notes**

I have known Anna Kocheva since she was a university student, from the student dialectological expeditions in the 1980s. As a research fellow (and later as an associate professor) at the IBL at BAS she has always been an erudite scientist and a passionate advocate for the Bulgarian cause in the science of linguistics.

#### **Conclusions**

On the basis of the review performed and on the evaluation of the scientific research, practicable applications of scientific research and the pedagogical experience of Anna Kocheva I can conclude that the candidate is a scientist who is highly competent, she has a solid scientific output and has participated in significant scientific forums, as well as having worked on a substantial number of

projects. This gives me the confidence to recommend that the distinguished scientific committee support awarding the academic rank of Professor to Anna Ivanova Kocheva, Associate Professor, in the professional area *2.1 Philology*, scientific discipline Bulgarian Language in the competition announced by the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lubomir Andreychin” at BAS.

16 September 2020

Reviewer:  
/Prof. Elena Nikolova, Doctor of  
Sciences in Philology/