

OPINION

about competition for occupation of academic position "professor"
in professional area 2.1. "Philology", scholarly speciality "Bulgarian language",
for the needs of the Section for Bulgarian Dialectology and Language
Geography at the Institute for Bulgarian language at BAS, according to the
announcement in the State Gazette, No. 56 of (23.06.2020)
with applicant: Ana Ivanova Kocheva

Reviewer: Dr. Luchia Stefanova Antonova-Vasileva – Prof. at the Section for
Bulgarian Dialectology and Language Geography at the Institute for Bulgarian
language at BAS

For participation in the competition for occupation of academic position
"professor", Ass. Prof. Ana Kocheva submits 3 independent monographs, of
which 1 after the habilitation (after the occupation of academic position
"Associate Professor"); 1 participation in a two-volume collective language
geography work published abroad (after the habilitation); 1 independently
published dialect map (after the habilitation); 1 participation in a collective
publication of a dialect map in 2 book and one digital publication (after the
habilitation); 1 participation as a compiler in a collective of an encyclopaedic
work.

Ana Kocheva is also an author of studies – 4 in total, of which 2 after the
habilitation in co-authorship; 82 scholarly publications (including reviews), of
which 41 after the habilitation; 5 electronic scholarly publications, of which 3
after the habilitation; 15 popular science publications, of which 7 after the
habilitation. Out of her publications, 18 have been published abroad, 7 – in
publications with impact factor (EBSCO Publishing, Inc. – 3; **Web of science – 2; Scopus – 2**). Applicant's publications have 46 citations, of which 10 in
international publications or in publications included in the world databases
(Scopus, ERIH+).

A. Kocheva has 30-year length of service as a scholar at the Institute for
Bulgarian language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" at BAS, where since 2013 she
has occupied the academic position "Associate Professor"; she was a lecturer at
the South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, she specialized in
Salzburg, where she also delivered lectures; she was holder of a Humboldt
scholarship at the Institute of Slavonic Studies, Marburg, delivering also lectures
there and in Giessen. She worked in 7 scholarly projects, of which 3 international,
managed 3 national projects, since 2019 she has been a head of section. She
participated in more than 100 international and national scholarly conferences and
fora under various linguistic and sociolinguistic projects; she participated in 3
national seminars; she was a lecturer at 2 lecture courses. She was awarded a prize
for participation in 1 collective monographic work, has a total of 4 certificates of

achievement for participation in scholarly and public initiatives. The publication and scholarly activities of A. Kocheva amount to more than 1450 works, which exceeds the minimum national requirements pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) for obtaining the academic position “professor”.

As a whole, the publications of A. Kocheva are distinguished for originality in the selection of the subject of study and for the methods of study. Characteristic of her work is the interdisciplinary approach – a combination of dialectological and historic, as well as of dialectological and sociolinguistic or ethnolinguistic analysis, study of phenomena related to the interlingual interrelations – more specifically of the interrelations between Bulgarian and German language at different levels.

A. Kocheva conducted the first in our country overall description of the language of the Bulgarian immigrants in Austria (publ. No. 5, etc. according to the overall list of publications). She uses in her studies on this subject the definition “mixed language”. Taking into account her contributions to the introduction of terminology and construction of an orderly methodology of the study, the publication of a large amount of personally collected material from the speech of the Bulgarian immigrants (publs. 5, 56, 70, 72, 76, 80, 81, 83), I still accept with a certain dose of reservation the use of the definition “mixed language” as a term. In my opinion, from the questionnaires is evident that Bulgarian language, in which under the conditions of bilingualism different cases and degrees of interference with German manifest themselves, is analyzed. But, essentially, the observations of A. Kocheva on these phenomena are in-depth and correct. Of contributive nature are her conclusions about the written bilingualism (publs. Nos. 5, 56).

Of innovative nature are the studies by A. Kocheva, dedicated to the spread of the language of the Bulgarian immigrants in the world. On this subject, she published a map, with extensive textual part to it, confidently elaborating the problems of the language of the Bulgarian immigration from different ages. On the map, as well as in other studies dedicated to the subject (cf. publs. 10, 73, 74, 91), the migrant waves are also analyzed quantitatively because this is of significance in the preservation of the mother tongue, information is given and the problem spheres in the work of the institutions supporting the Bulgarian language are outlined, mechanisms for strategic decisions in the field of the language policy are examined.

A. Kocheva is also an author of a number of works in the field of Bulgarian dialectology. Here, she again shows affinity to language geography studies that present the spread of the Bulgarian language outside the modern state boundaries. In some of them, the newest approaches are applied – cf. the created digital interactive dialect map of the dialect division of the Bulgarian language (publs. 7, 6, 9 – in co-authorship). Among the language geography studies, there are also such in which the peculiarities of the Bulgarian language are examined in the

context of the dialects of the languages in Europe – cf. Atlas Linguarium Europae (ALE), Volume I. 9, 2015 – in two volumes (carte de motivations; commentaires – publ. 8 – in co-authorship). In connection with the work on this atlas, A. Kocheva also published individual independent articles dedicated predominantly to the relations of the Bulgarian dialects to the Germanic languages (publs. 59, 61, 96).

As already shown, in a number of her publications, A. Kocheva combines the dialectological and ethnolinguistic approaches in the analysis of the dialect material, which is an expression of the adopted approach for multifaceted analysis of the language phenomena. She acts in this way in the explanation of the mixing of denominations of some plants (publ. 97), where she uses original terminology – *номинат, метаноминат, семантичен срив*, in order to name the denominations, such as *къпина* ‘small grapes’; *магареишки кестен* ‘wild walnut’, *орешак* ‘the plant St. John's wort’, etc., which have emerged by means of transfer of meaning according to similarity of semantic signs. Characteristic is that also in these works of hers, A. Kocheva does not confine herself only to the Bulgarian language material, but also makes comparisons to other European languages. Such are her articles dedicated to the meanings of phraseological combinations with component *овчар* in the languages in Europe (publ. 61), on mythological and biblical phraseological combinations (publ. No. 71), structural models of derivatives with meaning *ръж* in the languages in Europe (publ. 88). During the work on the collective project dedicated to the contrastive study of Bulgarian and Slovene language at dialect level, A. Kocheva created articles in which she also uses own terminology – cf. *контрастносемантични компаративи, градуалносемантични компаративи, наративни компаративи* (publs. 62, 77, 94).

A. Kocheva is also an author of articles related to the history of the Bulgarian language, in which she examines mostly the subject of the relation of the Bulgarian dialects to the Old-Bulgarian language (cf. publs. 58, 60, 63). Some of these publications have been published abroad, which enhances their significance for the spread of the truth about the Bulgarian nature of the work of Cyril and Methodius. Of great public significance are also the publications of the applicant on the subject of the language norm in the Republic of North Macedonia (RNM), in which she accentuates the pluricentrism of the Bulgarian language, emphasizes the thesis of the development of RNM on the basis of recodification of the Bulgarian language, as well as on the use of internal translation in the creation of the official literature there (cf. publs. 13, 14, 82, 85, 92 – in co-authorship; publ. No. 89).

On the basis of the review of documents, the scholarly biography and the works of Ass. Prof. Ana Ivanova Kocheva, I can formulate the opinion that her

application completely meets the requirements of DASRBA, of the Implementing Regulations on DASRBA, of the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of the Academic Position “professor” in BAS, as well as of the Implementing Regulations on these documents in IBL. That is why, I confidently propose to award to Ass. Prof. Ana Kocheva the academic position “professor”.

14 October 2020
Sofia

Opinion prepared by:
(Prof. Dr. Luchia Antonova-Vasileva)