

SHORT REVIEW

for the competition of holding the academic position **Professor**
in speciality 2.1. *Philology. Bulgarian language*
according to the announcement in SG № issue 56/ 23.06.2020

with a candidate: Ana Ivanova Kocheva, PhD, Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. L. Andreychin" at the Bulgarian Academy of Science

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I. General characteristics of the submitted materials, of the scientific and applied scientific activity of the candidate

Associate Professor PhD Ana Ivanova Kocheva is the only candidate in the competition for holding the academic position **Professor** in speciality 2.1. *Philology. Bulgarian language* for the needs of the Department for Bulgarian dialectology and linguistic geography at the Institute for Bulgarian language "Prof. L. Andreychin" of BAS, announced in SG issue 56/ 23.06.2020.

The candidate has the educational and scientific degree "doctor (PhD)" since 29.09.2011. Her dissertation is published as a book "On the national basis of the Old Bulgarian language. Sofia: Bukvitsa, 2012, 200 pp. ISBN 978-954-92858-1-9". Her habilitation monograph for Associate Professor also has been published: "German lexical elements in Bulgarian dialects. Sofia: Multiprint, 2004, 228 pp. ISBN 954-981-169-7". Ana Ivanova Kocheva has the required length of service according to the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, (LASDRB). From 1996 to 1999 she is a Research Associate of III degree, from 1999 to 2011 she is a Research Associate of II degree, from 2011 to 2013 she is a Chief Assistant Professor PhD, and from 2013 and till now she is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Bulgarian Language "Prof. L. Andreychin" at BAS.

For participation in the competition for **Professor**, Associate Professor PhD Ana Kocheva has submitted the following materials: 1 main habilitation work-monograph "The mixed language of the Viennese Bulgarians. Sofia: Bukvitsa. 2017, 280 pp. ISBN 978-954-92489-0-61"; 4 articles, published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus); 2 studies (co-authored with I. Kochev), published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; 36 articles, published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; 2 reviews; 3 electronic and 7 popular science publications. The candidate has participated in 38 prestigious scientific conferences (25 of them abroad) and in 9 international and national projects (in 3 of which as a leader). 46 citations of her publications are noted (5 of which are in scientific journals, indexed in Web of Science and Scopus).

Assoc. Prof. PhD Ana Kocheva participates in the preparation of numerous atlases and maps. Of great importance for Bulgarian (and not only) linguistic geography is its personal study “The Bulgarian language in a new place in the world – a map with text. Sofia: BAS. 2016. ISBN 978-954-322-856-0”. She is one of the authors of the collective works “Map of the dialect division of the Bulgarian language - with text. Sofia: BAS. 2014. ISBN 978-954-322-763-1”, “Map of the dialect division of the Bulgarian language – with text. Second edition. Sofia: BAS. 2016. ISBN 978-954-322-874-4“, “Digital map of the Bulgarian dialects” (http://ibl.bas.bg/bulgarian_dialects/) and “Atlas Linguarium Europae (ALE). Volume I. 9, 2015 (motivation card). ISBN 978-606-16-0580-4”.

Ana Kocheva is a research supervisor of the full-time PhD student Aliza Khalil (study period: 01.10.2016 - 30.09.2019) with a dissertation on “Vernacular models for naming traditional types of alcoholic beverages in Bulgarian dialects” - successfully deducted for a dissertation defense on 24.10.2019. She is a member of 3 national councils, commissions, public organizations and of 1 editorial board (of a journal, referenced and indexed in Scopus). She has numerous (181) media appearances promoting the activities of BAS, of the Bulgarian dialectology and linguistics.

The materials, submitted by Ana Kocheva for the competition, significantly exceed the national minimum requirements under Art. 29, para. (1), para. (2) and Art. 29b of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB), respectively under Art. 60 and Art. 61 of the Regulations governing the application of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (RGALASDRB) and meet the requirements under Art. 3, para. (3), item 4 of Chapter Two of the Terms and conditions for the acquisition of academic degrees and positions at the Institute for Bulgarian language at BAS.

II. Main scientific and applied scientific contributions

The long-standing research activity in the Department for Bulgarian dialectology and linguistic geography and the rich scientific production of Assoc. Prof. PhD Ana Kocheva in the field of dialectology, linguistic geography and sociolinguistics allow the emphasizing and summarizing of many scientific contributions of the candidate. Some of them are:

1. The monographic work is an up-to-date and in-depth study of the language of Bulgarian immigrants. This is the first comprehensive description of the linguistic features of Bulgarians living abroad. The candidate uses an original methodology, developed by her, in analyzing the problems of bilingualism. She uses many new scientific terms – phonolexical interferences (e.g. *перзона*), morpholexical interferences (e.g. *коректур*); derivative-lexical interferences (e.g. *нормал*), accent lexical interferences (e.g. *хълбитѐле*); lexicosemantic interferences (e.g. *кърхенитойе*), etc. The empirical material (significant in quantitative terms and personally collected by the author) is considered both from the point of view of the theoretical statements about the nature and specifics of colloquial speech, and from a sociolinguistic point of view. Important are the conclusions and the scientific contributions about the degree of penetration of foreign elements from different language levels (phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical) in the Bulgarian immigrant speech and their classification according to their permeability; for the code switching and recoding methods; about the similarities and differences of the mixed language of the Viennese Bulgarians with other similar mixed languages; for the national character of this mixed language, etc.

2. The innovative linguistic-geographical researches of Assoc. Prof. PhD Ana Kocheva on the spread of the Bulgarian language in a new place in the world are of high scientific value. They provide information not only about the places where it exists and the way the Bulgarian language is used among the old and new emigrants, but they also contain very valuable information about its degree of prestige in the foreign language environment, the number of Bulgarian-speaking migrants, the need of support from state (administrative, cultural, etc.) institutions for its preservation, etc.

3. In her studies Ana Kocheva concerns also the problems of the history of the language in view of historical dialectology. Extremely valuable for Bulgarian linguistics are the evidences, reaffirming the Bulgarian national character of the Cyril and Methodius language, with emphasis on the importance of the Thessaloniki dialect and the numerous (phonetic, grammatical and lexical) features of this Bulgarian dialect, which are the basis of the Cyril and Methodius language norm.

4. The candidate's researches on rich material of phraseological units for comparison in Bulgarian and Slovenian and on the mythological and biblical phraseological phrases in European languages gives a new look on the close semantic and structural differences between Bulgarian and Slovenian, as well as in juxtaposition with other European languages.

5. The publications of Ana Kocheva on the issue of pluricentrism and the written-regional codifications and pre-codifications of the Bulgarian language have an extremely significant scientific contribution. They are especially relevant with regard to the written regional norm in the Republic of North Macedonia. In addition to the numerous linguistic examples, they include historical evidence of a common national identity, a common name, a common language, a common history and common holidays. The notion that the so-called Macedonian literary language has its own dialectal basis is refuted for the first time. Scientifically substantiated and of great value is the Kocheva's conclusion that the entire linguistic history of the Macedonian written-regional version is only Bulgarian and that its official appearance is built on the literary Bulgarian language with additional, quickly superimposed separate dialectal (and regional) features aimed at to cover up the literary Bulgarian original source.

III. Conclusion

Associate Professor PhD Ana Ivanova Kocheva meets all requirements of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, (LASDRB), the Regulations governing the application of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (RGALASDRB) and the Terms and conditions of the Institute for Bulgarian language for the acquisition of the academic position of *Professor*. The candidate's scientific output is thematically relevant to the profile of the competition and contains significant scientific and applied scientific contributions. I strongly support the conferment of the academic position of *Professor* to Assoc. Prof. PhD Ana Ivanova Kocheva, I give my positive vote and recommend her election by the honorable Scientific jury and by the Scientific Council of the Institute for Bulgarian Language.