

OPINION

on the competition for the academic position of associate professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology, in the scientific specialty "Bulgarian Language," for the needs of the Section for the History of the Bulgarian Language at the "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" Institute of the Bulgarian Language, in accordance with the announcement in the State Gazette, Issue No. 33 of April 3, 2026.

Candidate: Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva

Author of the review: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Atanasov Mitrinov from the "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" Institute of the Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

According to the documents submitted for participation in the competition, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Abadzhieva has produced the following scholarly output: 3 monographic studies, one of which is co-authored; 7 articles and papers in scholarly journals, cited and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases; 17 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals; and 1 study in a non-refereed peer-reviewed scholarly publication. There are 8 citations or reviews of her publications in scientific journals that are indexed and cited in world-renowned scientific databases; 4 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed edited volumes; 16 citations in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals. She has participated in 11 national scientific and educational projects and is the principal investigator of the project "The Cultural Identity of the Banat Bulgarians and Bulgarian Catholic Literature," funded by the Scientific Research Fund (2022–2026). She has presented her papers (scientific reports) at 17 national and international scientific forums.

The scholarly output of Senior Assistant Professor Magdalena Abadzhieva primarily consists of studies on the literature of Bulgarian Catholics (Paulician

literature and the literature of the Banat Bulgarians). Her research on Paulician literature from the 18th and 19th centuries is related to Bulgarian historical dialectology. By examining the language of these written monuments, she sheds light on the distinctive features of the Paulician dialect in the Plovdiv region during those periods. This allows for comparisons with the contemporary state of this dialect and for tracing its connections to the Rhodope dialects, to which it belongs. A significant contribution in this regard is her study **The Manuscript Bulgarian-Italian Dictionary of Father Maurizio from 1845: A Study and Text** (Sofia, 2020, 327 pp.). The Catholic priest served in the villages of Duvanlii and Hambarlii (present-day Zhitnitsa, Plovdiv Province). The author examines the dialectal phonetic features reflected in the texts as manifestations of Old Bulgarian nasal and “er” vowels and the Old Bulgarian “yat” vowel. It includes data on the phonetic shifts $e > i$, $o > u$ under stress—a distinctive feature of the Pavlikian dialect; on the vowel shift $a > e$ under stress; on the phonetic shifts $t' > k'$, $g' > k'$, g' ; the reduction of vowels $e > i$, $o > u$, etc. The lexical material is divided into 12 lexical-thematic groups. It is examined in terms of origin (Ottoman, Greek, and Italian loanwords). Special attention is given to dialectal terms such as *bayšàk* ‘thick fog’, *gràppa* ‘wooden oar’, *halbìkane* ‘hiccup’, *kýrka* ‘turkey’, etc. The publication of the dictionary material, comprising 3,500 words, represents a significant contribution to scholarly discourse.

In her study **The Literature of 19th-Century Bulgarian Catholics and Banat Literature** (Sofia, 2024, 167 pp.), Senior Assistant Professor M. Abadzhieva also examines the phonetic features of the Paulician dialect, as reflected in four written monuments from the first half of the 19th century. She presents lexical material excerpted from three written sources dating to the 18th century and four from the first half of the 19th century, all related to Paulician literature. The lexical material from the Banat dialect is excerpted from three written sources dating to the second half of the 19th century and from three written sources from the 20th century. Data from St. Stoykov’s study **The Lexicon of the Banat Dialect** (1968) is also included. This makes it possible to compare and summarize the dialectal lexical material, highlighting the commonalities

between the Pavlikian and Banat dialects. The origin of individual dialectal words has been thoroughly examined, such as the verb **zafâlem** ‘to glorify, to praise; “thank,” for which some researchers suggest Croatian linguistic influence in Bulgarian Catholic literature, but data is also presented on its distribution in the Rhodope dialects with the meaning “to praise, to express gratitude,” which suggests that it is of indigenous, Bulgarian origin. In other publications, the author expands the scope of the dialectal vocabulary included in the written monuments, by adding new examples: *namàp* ‘a slice of bread’; *npeðòpa* ‘to persuade; ‘to reconcile (oneself)’; *stvar* ‘thing, object,’ and others.

At the same time, Senior Assistant Professor M. Abadzhieva also examines the current state of the Pavlikyan dialect. Several of her articles shed light on lexical features of the dialect spoken in the town of Belene, based on dictionary material excerpted from publications by local researcher Elena Vraikova. The included dialectal vocabulary is examined in terms of its origin, and its usage in other Bulgarian dialects is also presented. This makes it possible to identify the similarities and differences in the dialects of the various Catholic communities in Bulgaria and beyond its borders.

In her article, the author provides a critical review of the handwritten dictionary by the Banat-based Bulgarian local historian Perku Dupca, which describes vocabulary not included in St. Stoykov’s study of the Banat dialect’s lexicon. She concludes that, despite its shortcomings, the dictionary enriches our knowledge of the dialect of the Banat Bulgarians, as well as of their lexicographical publications.

The scholarly work of Senior Assistant Professor M. Abadzhieva focuses on studying the characteristics of the Pavlikyan dialect and the Banat dialect, as reflected in the material she has excerpted from written sources dating from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. She demonstrates a good understanding of the contemporary dialectal situation in the aforementioned regions. Her inclusion of lexical material from these dialects in scholarly discourse is a significant contribution.

Recommendations: Given that the written sources studied by Senior Assistant

Professor M. Abadzhieva contain a considerable number of dialectal features of the Pavlikyan and Banat dialects of the Bulgarian language, I suggest that in her future research she examine these features in greater detail at the phonetic, morphological, and lexical levels, which will allow for a more comprehensive picture of the dialects from a diachronic perspective. This will enable comparisons with their contemporary state, as well as a more comprehensive demonstration of their connections with the Rhodope dialects and other Bulgarian dialects.

I believe that Senior Assistant Professor M. Abadzhieva's participation in this competition for the academic position of "associate professor" meets the requirements for academic advancement as set forth in the Law on Academic Ranks and Academic Positions in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its implementing regulations, and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Awarding Academic Degrees and Appointing Academic Positions at the "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" Institute of the Bulgarian Language.

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I will vote in favor of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Abadzhieva assuming the academic position of "associate professor" in the Section for the History of the Bulgarian Language at the "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" Institute of the Bulgarian Language.

July 27, 2026

Signature:.....

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Mitrinov)