

OPINION

by

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Department of Bulgarian Language as a Foreign Language for the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position "associate professor" in Modern Bulgarian Language in the field of Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology,

announced in DV N 88 of 20.10.2023

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in Modern Bulgarian language in the field of Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology by order N 4389 of the Trakia University in Stara Zagora.

One candidate participated in the competition for associate professor, announced in DV no. 88 of 20.10.2023 for the needs of the Trakia University in Stara Zagora, - Dr. Teodora Ilieva. She is a full-time assistant at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University.

The evaluation of the materials for the competition, stated in this opinion, is based on the fulfillment of the conditions for holding the academic position of "associate professor", specified in Art. 24 of the *Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria* and Art. 53. of the *Regulations for the Implementation of ZRAS*. The list of scientific works of assistant professor Teodora Ilieva contains a published habilitation thesis, 4 articles published in scientific publications, indexed in world-famous databases, 10 publications in non-refereed publications with scientific review, and one studios.

Dr. Teodora Ilieva's habilitation thesis is dedicated to Stoyan Mihailovski - a bright, original and controversial figure in Bulgarian political and literary life. His activity in various spheres of the social and cultural life is reflected in his speech, which is a challenge for the researcher. Among Dr. Ilieva's articles, there are analyzes of idiolects of other authors such as Ilia Volen and priest-economist Dimitar Petkanov, which are evidences of the author's confidence to proceed with a large-scale presentation of the language of Mihailovski.

In the introduction of the work, the motives and objectives of the research are formulated and its sources are named. The latter contain not only published works, but also unpublished materials from the writer's personal archive stored in the National Library. It is impressive that the sources cover a significant time span - from the end of the 1980s to the first quarter of the 20th century. This is the time of establishment of the normative system of our language. The codification of the units of the different language levels proceeds through the opposition of views and in a heightened emotional degree.

The author chooses to start the first chapter with the viewpoint of Stoyan Mihailovski's contemporaries. Among their assessments of him, the contrasts are striking: a great thinker and writer, but a modest man, an active socialite with urges to solitude and penitent self-absorption, thoughtful and devoted to his pursuits, and a witty jovial in a narrow circle, harsh and gloomy in appearance, but responsive to the pain of the people. The tension between the poles "erupted" in a fiery and powerful speech.

In the second chapter, the linguistic analysis begins with the graphic and orthographic features of Mihailovski's texts. The chapter surprisingly ends after four pages and is perhaps better merged with the subsequent third chapter on the phonetic system for the sake of the compositional balance of the work. In the fourth chapter, morphological features of the writer's idiolect are traced for the main parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numerals, personal and impersonal verb forms and adverbs.

The main and most voluminous in terms of number of pages and presented studies is the fifth chapter - "Lexical system". It analyzes diachronic lexical layers from the Old Bulgarian and Church Slavonic lexical tradition, as well as units from the New Bulgarian period until the end of the 19th century, checked in a number of dictionaries. Words of foreign origin and dialectal units appear. Among the latter is the native Hellenic dialect of the writer (for example, *gizdavelek* 'who likes to dress well'). The synchronic parallels with Ivan Vazov's lexicon are also of interest.

A special focus of the work is the highlighting of Mihailovski's contribution to Bulgarian neology. 86 articles on words of single use (*hapax legomena*), those of rare or limited use (*hapax*) and 27 articles on semantic neologisms are presented. Among them are memorable hits such as: *gargle* (kidding).

My notes to Teodora Ilieva are regarding the organization of materials and its formal layout. It seems to me that the last paragraph of the first chapter on the language notes in Stoyan

Mihailovski's archive is not very well placed in the context of the general presentation of the writer and could be moved to an appendix. Also, the reader expects a summary paragraph at the end of the chapters, which I did not see. I think abbreviations like "p-n" (pronoun) don't save much effort or time, but can cause misunderstandings.

In conclusion, I can say that Dr. Ilieva's publications testify to the conscientious work of an observational analyst, capable of broad generalizations, especially in a diachronic plan, and at the same time of looking into the peculiarities of individual language units such as a *cross*, and a *finger* in a comparative plan. The work is built on a rich corpus of material and abundant examples. Dr. Ilieva's analysis of Mihailovski's idiolect in the stormy time of disputes and struggles on the way to shaping the modern Bulgarian language is a thorough and interesting work.

This gives me the reason to vote FOR and recommend with conviction the election of assistant professor Teodora Ilieva to the academic position of "associate professor" in Modern Bulgarian language in the area of Humanities, professional direction 2.1. Philology at the University of Thrace in Stara Zagora.

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