



EXPERT OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof. Sofia Angelova Angelova, Dr.,

member of scientific jury

appointed for conducting a competition for the academic position of an “Associate Professor” on the grounds of Order № PD-433/28. 12. 2023
by the Rector of Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas

about papers, submitted for competition for achieving the academic position of
Associate Professor
Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1 Philology, Scientific
specialty West European Literature

1. Summarized data about the competition

In the competition for the position of “Associate Professor”, Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1 Philology, Scientific specialty West European Literature announced by State Journal, issue 97/21.11.2023 and the internet site of Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas, for the needs of the department of “Bulgarian Language and Literature” at the Faculty of Social Science at Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas, chief assistant Elitsa Staykova Dubarova-Petkova, PhD – a lecturer at Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas, is a sole candidate. The submitted papers are in accordance with the requirements.

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Elitsa Dubarova holds a Master Degree in Bulgarian Philology, The Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, 1999. Between 1999 and 2003, the applicant worked as part-time lecture at Burgas Free University. In 2009 she defended her doctoral thesis “The Novel Heinrich von Ofterdingen by Novalis as an Alternative of the Didactic novel” and acquired PhD degree. Since 2010 she has been holding the academic position of “Chief Assistant” in the “Bulgarian Language and Literature” Department, at the faculty of Social Science at Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas. Since 2000 she has been a chief curator at Petia Dubarova House – Museum, Burgas

3. General overview of the submitted papers

Two monographs, 2 studies, 28 articles, 4 participations in scientific projects, 1 textbook.

4. Impact of the scientific publications of the candidate in literary sources (citations)

Citations – 16.

5. General overview of the work of the applicant

5.1. Teaching activity

I have known Chief Assistant Elitsa Dubarova since she first started work as assistant at the department and I have long-time personal impressions of the candidate.

We have jointly trained first-year students in Introduction to Theory of Literature. The candidate works as a lecturer and seminar teacher in a number of compulsory subjects – Introduction to Theory of Literature, Ancient Literature, West European Literature, as well as elective subjects in Bachelor and Master Degree. Her exemplary performance speaks of both high professionalism and teaching skills. Chief Assistant Elitsa Dubarova immerses the students into the world of literature consistently and meticulously, arousing their interest to the science of literary studies. She is committed to organizing extracurricular activities related to current projects and assignments, as well as attending various exhibitions and book readings.

Chief Assistant Elitsa Dubarova has always been exemplary in her teaching practice and scientific endeavours. She strictly adheres to the highest scientific criteria and follows the most modern teaching trends and requirements. She possesses highly valued personal qualities – the most outstanding being her vitality, industrious nature, responsibility, loyalty, integrity and motivation.

My evaluation of her teaching practice is exceptionally high.

5.2. Scientific and scientifically applied activity

The monograph “Metanarrative Techniques Applied in the Creation of the Novel A Man without Qualities by Robert Musil”, is an incredibly profound research, which transcends the boundaries of a “specific methodological approach, focusing on the narrative techniques, constituting the novel” (p. 19), and merges “the open” – the sociocultural context of the epoch, the biography and Musil’s overall work, with the “close” reading of the novel itself, labeling the idea of the irony as “epistemological and ontologically grounded form of reflection, simultaneously functioning as metanarrative overwhelming act of reconsideration and overcoming the chaos and life crisis (p. 17). Through the main “tools” of irony – essayism and use of quotations, the research masterfully reasserts the idea of the dystopian nature of the novel, coining a new term “deutopianization”, referred to the language. Dabbling not only in the purely literary, but also in the sphere of linguistics, science and culturology the monograph reveals the experimental nature of the novel as far as language, science and social environment are concerned. The elaborate research endeavour in “Metanarrative Techniques in the Novel “A Man without Qualities” by Robert Musil, contributing to the comprehensive study of Musil’s creative work, goes far beyond being monographic and can undoubtedly be recognized as a higher dissertation.

The monograph “Poetics of Accomplishment in the Novel “Heinrich von Ofterdingen” by Novalis”, is the core of Chief Assistant Dubarova’s interest towards romanticism and neo-romanticism, which is the main focus in a number of articles and her teaching practice – “Romantic Symbolism in 20th c. Literature”, which is a compulsory Master’s degree course.

A major impact in Chief Assistant Dubarova’s scientific, publishing and applied activities are her corpus of texts, dedicated to Petia Dubarova, as well as the scientific conferences, co-organized with the help of Burgas Municipality, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education and Science. Another acclaimed initiative is the organization of the annual young authors’ competition, bearing the name of the young poet.

Dr. Dubarova's published works in the field of literary criticism help to distinguish her as a prolific and competent writer for which she has earned my highest praise; the aforementioned output being an inseparable part of the work of every literary scholar as far as literary criticism is the third branch of literary science which, together with theory and history, delves into the most poignantly pertinent aspects of the contemporary literary process and keeps a firm mainmise on its pulse.

Multi-lingual, relevantly used citations and detailed bibliographic data define the candidate's research and publication activity as exceptionally meticulous. No plagiarism has been detected.

Taking into consideration all the above, my evaluation of Chief Assistant Elitsa Dubarova's research and scientifically applied work is very high.

5.3. Contributions

The main contributions of the candidate lie in her comprehensive adept research of the work of Musil, Novalis and Petia Dubarova, in the field of the *bildungsroman*, comparative literary science (Musil–Süskind, Musil–Chamisso, Musil–Čapek, Novalis–Dubarova), genre identification and its relation to the interpretation of the work.

6. Conclusion

The submitted papers are in accordance with the National Requirements of the Academic Staff Development Law in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Regulations for Application, as well as the scientific research and teaching activity inner requirements of Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

Based on **all the above**, I can fully claim that the submitted scientific publications and the scientific and practical experience of the candidate give me full grounds to recommend to the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to propose to the Department Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University – Burgas, to **elect Chief Assistant Elitsa Staykova Dubarova-Petkova, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor in Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1 Philology, Scientific specialty West European Literature at 'Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1 Philology, Scientific specialty West European Literature.**

Burgas, 18 March 2024

Member of Scientific Jury..

/Assoc. Prof. S. Angelova, Dr./