

STATEMENT

From Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.

on procedure for election and appointment of “**professor**” in professional field
3.2 Psychology,
New Bulgarian University, Master's Faculty, Department of Cognitive Science and
Psychology, announced in State Gazette N 87 from 17.10.2023

Basis for preparing the statement: 3-PK-50/30.11.2023 of the Rector of the NBU.

1. GENERAL

There is one application for the abovementioned position – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova from NBU.

Elena Andonova graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English Philology from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1985 and obtained a Master's degree. In 1999 E. Andonova defended her doctoral thesis on the topic: 'Strategies of euphemizing 'death'' at the University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom, confirmed by the Higher Attestation Commission (Diploma No. 52/13.05.2005, approved by Protocol No. 15/27.04.2005) for the scientific and educational degree of 'Doctor'.

From 1985 to 1987, E. Andonova worked as a teacher at the National High School for Ancient Languages and Cultures, Sofia. From 1987 to 1990, she was an assistant lecturer at the Department of English Studies at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". From 1990 to 1994, she taught at Atlantic College (United World Colleges), and from 1995 to 2005, she worked as an assistant and senior assistant at the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology at NBU. Since 2002, she has been an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA. From 2005 to 2010, she was a research associate and lecturer at the Institute for Spatial Cognition at the University of Bremen, Germany. Since 2011, she has been an assistant professor and currently an associate professor in the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology at NBU.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova has conducted numerous lecture courses part of the undergraduate program in Psychology at NBU in both Bulgarian and English, as well as in the master's programs in Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Science. From the provided

workload reference for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andonova, it is evident that the lecture disciplines she teaches are entirely relevant to the theme of the competition.

2. HABILITATION PUBLICATION

For her participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova has submitted a monograph: "Early Language Development. Grammar." The work meets all of the requirements for a monograph and fully aligns with the theme of the announced competition. This leads me to conclude that Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova meets the requirements of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Obtaining Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at NBU, according to which candidates must present a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific journals in the field of the competition, which do not repeat publications for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor."

3. FULFILMENT OF THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF PROFESSOR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova has submitted a statement along with relevant supporting material. From the statement, it is clear that Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova meets the minimum national requirements according to ZRASRB (amendment and supplement DV No. 15 of February 19, 2019, table 1, Area 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, 3.2. Psychology). Specifically: for groups A, B, and C, respectively indicators 1, 2, and 3, she has the necessary points, as she holds a doctoral degree, which carries 50 points, and also presents a monograph, which carries 100 points.

For group G (P4 to P10), the Regulation for the Application of ZRASRB sets a requirement for publications for a professor, according to which the candidate must have at least 200 points. Based on the statement provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova, her publications score 247.78 points.

Regarding Group D (P11 to P13), according to the same Regulation, a candidate for a professor must also have 120 points from citations. The citation reference presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova shows citations equivalent to 555 points.

Group E requires a minimum of 100 points, and the statement presented by the candidate - Assoc. Prof. Andonova, shows a total of 470 points.

For Group H, the minimum number of points is 70, and Assoc. Prof. Elena Andonova's statement shows a total of 150 points.

The data for the indicators in Group I, the statement indicates 120 points with a minimum of 70 points.

For the indicators in Group J, a minimum of 70 points is required, and in Assoc. Prof. Andonova's statement, 100 points are reflected.

4. PUBLICATIONS

The statement provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova regarding scientific works on the theme of the competition shows the following: one independent monograph on the theme of the competition; 10 articles in journals indexed in WoS and SCOPUS - 2 independent and 8 co-authored; 20 articles and reports in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review, of which 8 are independent and the rest are co-authored; 1 study in a refereed journal co-authored.

The scientific works presented by the candidate do not repeat those from previous procedures for obtaining a scientific degree and an academic position. Plagiarism has not been detected in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

5. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The scientific publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova are entirely focused on the issues addressed in the announced competition. The main monograph, "Early Language Development. Grammar," focuses on our understanding of the mechanisms and context of early childhood development. It examines approaches and concepts related to the assumptions, goals, methodology, analyses, and findings from studies in the field of developmental psycholinguistics. The theoretical part presents the nativist (biolinguistic) approach of Noam Chomsky and others, and the usage-based approach of Tomasello, Bates, and MacWhinney, as well as an overview of various research methodologies in the field of early language development, with a focus on the methodology of parental reports such as MBCDI and the Bulgarian adaptation VERBA. The work describes data from conducted research and reviews foreign studies and analyses of data on various aspects of the grammatical development of the Bulgarian sample. Practical suggestions are made regarding establishing typical development for the Bulgarian language and individual differences in the timing and development of specific language skills. Practical proposals are also made regarding the planning of psychological, educational, and other interventions that may be beneficial to various specialists and consultants. The main contributions of the monograph relate to the development and application of a new methodology for early language development in Bulgarian sociocultural context for children acquiring the Bulgarian language.

The presented publications address issues of early language development in children acquiring the Bulgarian language. Based on data from the author's own empirical research, methodologies for studying early language development in Bulgaria for scientific and practical purposes have been developed. Additionally, the publications present the trajectory and stages of typical lexical and grammatical development of large samples of children in Bulgaria, cross-cultural and cross-linguistic comparisons are made, and socio-demographic factors reflecting on the early language development of children in Bulgaria are studied. I especially want to note the original study on the needs of Bulgarian families of children with autism spectrum disorder and other disorders, which contributes to supporting families and integrating children. Another original contribution of Assoc. Prof. Andonova's scientific research reflected in the publications relates to the psychology of language information processing by adults. The results show an interaction between the grammatical gender of the word in the Bulgarian language and the gender of the participant in experimental tasks for repetition and classification of nouns, adjectives, and verbs in Bulgarian, as well as in a task for spatial perspective and comparison of visual stimuli with sentences that correctly or incorrectly describe them.

I believe that the publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova are entirely within the scope of the announced competition and reflect ideas related to the issues in the field of psycholinguistics of early childhood development. I fully accept the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova, which can be further complemented and summarized as follows.

1. From the presented scientific works, it can be concluded that Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Andonova is an established researcher who has a strong interest not only in theoretical analyses and empirical studies but also in practical applications.
2. A common characteristic of the scientific publications is the interpretation of ideas and concepts in three meta-objects of psychological knowledge: theory, method, and experiment in terms of practical action.
3. The presented publications are related to real and existing significant objects or principles of psychological science. An important criterion for the methodological competence of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andonova is the integration of theoretical knowledge not only in research activities but also in consultancy practice.
4. The accumulated factual knowledge in the studies reflects various areas of psycholinguistics of early childhood development."

6. TEACHING

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova teaches mandatory courses in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in Psychology at the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology, and in other specialties at NBU. All of these lecture courses are in the field of the announced competition.

CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Petrova Andonova meets all the requirements of the Higher Attestation Commission and the regulations for its implementation both in the country and at NBU. She has extensive experience and tenure at NBU. She is the author and instructor of some of the lecture courses that are subject to the current competition. The overall body of work by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andonova offers a thorough, systematic, and in-depth analysis of achievements in the field of psycholinguistics of early childhood development, refracted through the author's original interpretation. She possesses a rich research experience accumulated through her participation in various research projects.

As a result of the high assessment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova's scientific and teaching activities, I strongly support her appointment as a "professor" in professional field 3.2. Psychology at NBU.

10.02.2024 г.
Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:
(Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.)