

OPINION

by assoc. prof. Milena Levunlieva PhD

Faculty of Pedagogy, South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad,

included in the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Children's Literature, area of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, announced for the needs of Trakia University - Stara Zagora in State Gazette No. 88/20.10.2023.

This opinion is written in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for Academic Development at Trakia University - Stara Zagora and in implementation of Rector's Order No. 4381/06.12.2023.

The set of materials presented for review by senior asst. prof. Plamen Penev PhD complies with the requirements of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Trakia University - Stara Zagora. The report on the fulfillment of the minimal national requirements under Art. 2b of the Law concerning area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, and for the fulfillment of the additional requirements of Trakia University for the academic position of Associate Professor shows that the applicant:

- holds PhD degree Diploma № 32550/29.07.2008 in Bulgarian Literature, issued by the Higher Attestation Committee on the basis of a successfully defended dissertation on "The Poetry of Ivan Tsanev in the Context of Contemporary Bulgarian Literature" (50 points);
- has submitted a habilitation monograph (100 pts.);
- has presented 22 independent publications (220 pts.) and books and monographs (450 items)
- has indicated 3 citations in publications refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases (45 pts. – 2 in WoS and 1 in Scopus) and in monographs and peer-reviewed collections (70 pts.), which exceed the required minimum of 50 pts.

1. Biographical details of the applicant

There is one applicant participating in the contest - senior asst. prof. Plamen Penev PhD, He graduated from St. St. Cyril and Methodius University - Veliko Tarnovo, majoring in Bulgarian Philology and History in 1996. After defending his dissertation on "The Poetry of Ivan Tsanev in the Context of Contemporary Bulgarian Literature" he was awarded the educational and scientific degree Doctor in Bulgarian Literature, Diploma № 32550/29.07.2008, issued by the Higher Attestation Committee.

The applicant's academic career, which began in 2020 at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Trakia University, is a natural continuation of his editorial and research work in the field of literature as text and art, but also as a personal experience and creative act. As a specialist in the theory of literature, Plamen Penev PhD reviews articles, books and collections. He edits the texts of young authors and publishes reviews in specialized periodicals. He participates in

collections of studies and anthologies devoted to Bulgarian literature and its dialogue with European literatures through time and space.

Since October 2020, Plamen Penev has been a senior assistant professor at the Department of Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

Given his sustained literary interests and research skills, the candidate meets the requirements for participation in the contest for the academic position of Associate Professor in Children's Literature, area of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

2. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results of the production submitted for the contest

The research output, submitted by Dr. Plamen Penev for participation in this contest, includes:

Habilitation monograph	1
Book published on the basis of the PhD dissertation	2 volumes
Monographs	3
Articles and papers published in peer-reviewed journals and collections	22

The monograph proposed for review (listed as habilitation) "The Child and the Childhood. The Evolution of the Child-Self in Bulgarian Poetry. Between Children's Literature and the Other Literature (1950s-1990s)", Leni An, ISBN 978-619-7616-41-5, (2023) highlights **thematic fields closely associated with contemporary education and the role of literature as art, but also as a medium for learning and education.**

(1) The author identifies a number of important names in children's literature and delineates areas of intersection, intertextuality, and co-being between children's literature and literature mean for other audiences.

(2) In the personal style and voice of each author, Plamen Penev PhD discovers those details, thematic, artistic, or stylistically reimagined, that not only connect the two literatures but also prove their specific, dual existence both in the context of European humanism and values and in the new contexts of meaning continually created by each reader.

Within these **thematic fields**, the following **results** stand out:

(1) Dr. Penev goes beyond the double addressing typical for children's literature, which invokes both the child reader/listener and the adult reading to them, and places the child-self in the context of the European value space thus making sense (through the analysis of stylistic, ideological and thematic continuity between the authors) of the objective trends in the social and historical development from the mid-1950s of the 20th c. to the postmodern era;

(2) by adopting Roland Barthes's notion of modeling systems and Manfred Hardt's conception of literature as a secondary modeling system (pp. 20-21), the applicant is able to extract, analyze, and present, from the perspective of the Child-Self in world and in Bulgarian children's literature, his view of the temporal and spatial, conceptual and ideological, cultural and social phenomena re-created and related through the image of the child in literature;

(3) creates conditions and prerequisites for the application of children's literature, and in particular children's lyrics, in education both as a product - the text in all its dimensions, but also as a catalyst and a medium of dialogue between generations and their cultural and spiritual values.

The same focus emerges in the book based on the dissertation (Two Volumes on Ivan Tsanev. Volume 1. Lenny Ann Publishers, (509 pp.). ISBN: 978-619-7058-34-5 and Penev, Pl. (2015). Two volumes on Ivan Tsanev. Volume 2. Leni An Publishing House, (408 p.). ISBN: 978-619-7058-35-2) and in a number of articles published in scholarly edited volumes and journals. This sensitivity of the applicant to the dialogue between the artist as part of a community and the culture of that community, but also of the world literary space, makes it possible for him to identify the avenues for significant, meaningful interactions between generations, values, and ideologies that are feasible in and through the literary text - another opportunity to use literature not only as an object of analysis, but also as part of an educational environment that stimulates and facilitates dialogue with the past, and with the future, across generations and cultures.

The citation record presented (8 in number, one of which is in a journal indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information), satisfies the minimum required by the indicators in Group E of the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

The additional requirements stipulated in the Regulations for the Academic Development of Trakai University - Stara Zagora (Group G) related to the curriculum design/disciplines taught in educational and qualification forms are also satisfied.

No plagiarism was found in the research output submitted for peer review. In terms of content and form, it meets the requirements of Article 2b of the Professional Development Act for professional area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, and the additional requirements of Trakia University for the academic position of Associate Professor.

3. Scientific contributions

In addition to the theoretical and practical-applied contributions described by the candidate, I would add the author's undeniable contribution to the fusion of the theory of literature and the methodology of its teaching through an in-depth study of the child-self in Bulgarian literature and its emergence both as a hero, as a reader, and as a participant in the creative act, which is in fact a guarantee of both success and motivation in the teaching of literature.

In addition, 22 more publications (1 of which in a Web of Science indexed edition), 3 monographs and a book based on the dissertation for the award of the PhD in 2 volumes were submitted for the competition, which add to the overall positive impression of the evidence of scientific achievements of As. Dr. Plamen Penev.

4. Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by the head as. Dr. Plamen Penev meet the requirements of the Academic Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADA), the Implementation Regulations of ADA and the relevant Regulations of Trakia University - Stara Zagora. After familiarization with the materials and scientific production presented in the contest, analysis of their significance and scientific and applied contributions, I find it

reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a proposal to the Pedagogical Faculty at Trakia University - Stara Zagora for the election of senior assistant professor Dr. Plamen Penev for the academic position of Associate Professor in area of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Children's Literature).

January 02, 2024

Written by:

assoc. prof. Milena Levunlieva PhD