

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dafina Yanorova Kostadinova, PhD,

Professional field 2.1. Philology

Department of Germanic and Romance Studies

Faculty of Philology

South-West University "Neofit Rilski"

on the academic output submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements for participation in the competition

for the academic position of Associate Professor,

in the Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities,

Professional Field 2.1. Philology,

Scientific area "Specialized English"

A sole applicant, Ivaylo Yordanov Dagnev from the Medical University – Plovdiv, submitted documents to participate in the competition for Associate Professor, published in State Gazette, issue 71/02.09.2022 and on the website of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development – Plovdiv, for the Department of Language Teaching, Specialization and Training, UARD.

1. A brief biographical note

Ivaylo Dagnev completed his secondary education at High Language School "Plovdiv" (the former English Language High School), his higher education at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski", majoring in "English Language and Literature" - Master's degree. He specialized in linguistics at SU and at the British Council, obtaining a second Master's degree. Since 2007, he has been a teacher at the Medical University - Plovdiv. In 2013, he was enrolled as a self-studied PhD student at Sofia University, Department of English and American Studies. In 2017, he defended his dissertation thesis and obtained the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy".

Dr. Dagnev has rich teaching practice and experience due to his work in public and private schools, at the Medical University, the Medical College and the Plovdiv University as a part-time lecturer.

Dagnev has administrative experience as head of a section at the Medical College; he has scientific research experience because of his work in a language laboratory; he has worked as an editor in 2 prestigious scientific journals; he has extensive professional experience in written, simultaneous and consecutive translation, he is a sworn translator; has excellent digital competencies.

2. Outline of the academic and applied output, submitted by the applicant:

- Monographs - 2;
- Articles – 18;
- Textbooks - 1;
- Manuals - 1;
- Books - 1;
- Other publications – 1 book of poetry.

Ivailo Dagnev submitted a declaration confirming the authenticity of his works and lack of plagiarism.

3. Main contributions, attested in the academic publications of the candidate

Ivailo Dagnev has presented 16 citations of his works according to the minimal national requirements: 1 citation in a monograph and 15 citations in publications in non-refereed editions; some of Dagnev's cited works are co-authored.

4. Outline of the applicant's work experience

4.1. Teaching activities (work with students and PhD students)

The wide range of Ivailo Dagnev's pedagogical work is impressive - in various educational institutions, in which the age of the learners, as well as the level of their competence, vary widely, which testifies to his professionalism and rich practical experience. It is significant that he works as a methodology specialist at the "Lingua Mundi" Language Center. His many years of work with students at the Medical University, the Medical College and Plovdiv University are also reflected in the candidate's scientific output.

Another proof of the indisputable and large-scale pedagogical activity of Dr. Dagnev's are the textbook "ENGLISH FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: A COURSEBOOK FOR THE MEDICAL COLLEGES" and the study guide for PhD students in Medical universities: "Comparative linguistic issues of the medical text in Bulgarian, English and German".

4.2. Academic and applied activities

The candidate's declaration of fulfillment of the minimal national requirements shows that he not only meets the relevant minimal national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, but he exceeds the requirements, thus emphasizing his achievements as a highly qualified lecturer, as a researcher-scientist in a number of areas of theoretical and applied linguistics. His scientific articles are in the field of academic writing, semantics of medical text, foreign language and specialized foreign language teaching, in general and specialized translation, comparative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, terminology. His publications are in respected Bulgarian and foreign academic journals. Dagnev has also presented his

dissertation thesis, as well as a list of publications that discuss the topic of the dissertation thesis. He also published a book based on this thesis.

His main monograph is in Bulgarian, and the second monograph is in English. This approach to writing and publishing in both languages is particularly useful through the prism of the comparative analysis of the topics under consideration and the terms used in English and Bulgarian. In general, the contrastive approach is the basis of a large part of Ivailo Dagnev's academic works, which is one of his main contributions to contrastive linguistics in Bulgaria.

4.3. Implementation and application activities

In fields of study such as linguistics, translation studies, foreign language teaching and teaching foreign languages for specific purposes both theory and practice go together. Dr. Dagnev's publishing and teaching activities testify to the applicability of his research work: through his knowledge of Bulgarian and English languages, he researches and describes a number of phenomena in specific research fields and puts into practice his discoveries and conclusions - each Dagnev's piece of work proves it.

4.4. Contributions (attested to academic, applied and teaching activities)

Dagnev's contributions fall into several research areas. For me, his most significant contribution is in the field of contrastive linguistics in comparing English and Bulgarian on several linguistic levels.

The candidate's dissertation is as follows: "METAPHORS AND SHELLS IN ANATOMY: BULGARIAN-ENGLISH CROSS LINGUISTIC STUDY"; the aforementioned guide for doctoral students: "Comparative linguistic issues of the medical text in Bulgarian, English and German" presents another scholarly perspective; the monographs "THE GENRE *RESEARCH MEDICAL ARTICLE* IN THE BULGARIAN AND ENGLISH ACADEMIC DISCOURSE" and "MEDICAL DISCOURSE - IMPLICATIONS OF INVERSE TRANSLATION FOR THE MEDICAL RESEARCH ARTICLE GENRE" also make a contrastive analysis at the text level, while the English-language monograph examines the problem through the prism of translation. A large number of the articles presented by the candidate are also devoted to the contrastive analysis of specialized texts in English and Bulgarian.

Another contribution of Dagnev is in the field of teaching English for specific purposes, as he works in two directions - medicine and economics, which also led to his application for this competition at UARD.

One should not miss his contribution to terminology, his research on metaphor, teaching specialized English in an online environment.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

So far, I have communicated with the candidate only via mails and I find it difficult to comment on and assess his personal skills and his contributions to the process and way of work of the Medical University - Plovdiv and UARD. However, my correspondence with Dr. Dagnev, as well as his academic output, work experience, and the details from his biography make me feel confident that he is the right candidate for the competition for an Associate Professor in the scientific area of "Specialized English".

6. Critical remarks

I will express my critical remarks to Dr Dagnev as recommendations and wishes: I hope that your publications will be cited in refereed publications in Bulgaria and abroad, and I suggest that your monographs and textbooks be distributed in other universities in Bulgaria, so that more lecturers, scholars and students have access to your valuable pieces of work.

7. Conclusion:

Taking into consideration the above stated, I suggest that Ivailo Yordanov Dagnev's application be approved and be appointed as Associate Professor in the Field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1. Philology, Scientific area "Specialized English".

12.12.2022

Member of the scientific panel:

/Assoc. Prof. D. Kostadinova, PhD/