

## **Review**

**for the participation of Assistant Professor Veneta Sirakova in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Spanish Language)**

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maurice Fadel, Department of New Bulgarian Studies, New Bulgarian University**

The monograph by Assistant Professor Veneta Sirakova, PhD, entitled "Poetry and Translation: Pablo Neruda's Love Lyrics "(published by the New Bulgarian University Publishing House in 2019) is a study of translation that combines the practical knowledge of the translator's work with the theory of translation. It is a kind of continuation of the PhD thesis of Veneta Sirakova, dedicated to the translations of the so-called "mother poetry" of Gabriela Mistral. However, while in her PhD thesis Veneta Sirakova focuses on a more general theoretical problem (the topic of translation in general), the object of study in her monograph is the particular literary work.

Veneta Sirakova's work seeks to examine the extent to which translation can reflect the various semantic and formal layers that make up the poetic text. The author compares multiple translations of Pablo Neruda's poetic works to conclude that the translator always privileges one layer over another, that if, for example, the translator decides to make the rhythmic and rhyming structure of the translation to look like this of the original, he wouldn't give proper attention to the meaning and vice versa.

In my opinion, this conclusion is important both for the translation theory and the theory of literature. It leads us to understanding that a single concept for the translation does not exist,

that translation is always a translation of a part of the original, but not of the whole, because, in fact, this whole is a problem. The problem is how the poetic text is something integrated, since, in the translation process, some of its various elements can be privileged over others.

Dr Veneta Sirakova is an author of number of publications. They reflect her interest in the translations of the two authors to whom her PhD thesis and habilitation work are related: Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda. At the same time, V. Sirakova also analyzes other authors such as Rosario Castellanos and Delmira Agustini. A prominent part of her publications is dedicated to the translation theory and the education of young translators.

I strongly recommend that the distinguished scientific jury to propose to the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University to elect Assistant Professor Veneta Sirakova for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Spanish Lanuage).

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