

REVIEW

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On the academic output for participation in a competition for the position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Spanish), with sole applicant assistant professor Veneta Atanasova Sirakova, Ph.D.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and requirements of New Bulgarian University

The presented academic output by the applicant Dr Veneta Sirakova fully complies with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor".

II. Research and results

1. Veneta Sirakova's monograph Poetry and Translation. Pablo Neruda's Love Lyrics." Sofia: New Bulgarian University Publishing House, 2019. ISBN: 978-619-233-054-5 (187 pp) deals with some of the most complex aspects of translation of poetic text, such as its sound, metrics and rhyming. Starting from the concepts of the translation of poetry, the author analyzes those layers of poetic form that inevitably suffer losses in the process of translation, in order to establish certain regularities for their reproduction in a foreign linguistic, literary and cultural environment. The study is based on a comparison of selected poems from the love lyrics of Chilean Nobel laureate poet Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) with their translations into Bulgarian, performed by different translators over different time periods.

The main contribution of the book relates specifically to the analysis of the limitations in translating poetry from Spanish into Bulgaria owing to the differences between the two language systems and literary traditions in order to distinguish between those restrictions and the traditional concepts for the untranslatability of poetry. They are included in the newly created concept of the "inexpressibility " of a poetic text in a foreign language. At the same time, the monograph presents

previously unpublished in Bulgaria details of the poet's personal life, including the women who inspired him to write the poems, which makes the book an interesting read for lovers of Pablo Neruda's poetry.

The book is structured in five chapters, and the conclusion summarizes the problems that make languages, literatures, and cultures diverge.

2. Other publications after the PhD thesis defense

In addition to the monograph, Dr. Veneta Sirakova has submitted a published book based on the results of her dissertation thesis - a bilingual collection of poems by Gabriela Mistral: *Mistral, G. We would all be queens. Gabriela Mistral's poetry. Compiled and translated by Spanish V. Sirakova*, under the auspices of the Embassy of Chile in Romania and with the permission of the Franciscan Order of Chile, Sofia, 2015. The book is a valuable and innovative publication in which Sirakova applies the theoretical developments from her dissertation in the translation of Gabriela Mistral's works, and offers new direction in interpreting the poetry of the Chilean poet beyond the stereotypes imposed over decades, including through previous translations into Bulgarian.

Other publications include two articles in the field of foreign language learning, published in academic publications, referenced and indexed in leading world databases of academic information, which concern underresearched topics in the field of poetry translation training in Bulgaria, as well as issues connected to using poetry as a learning tool in contemporary Spanish textbooks. In addition, 13 other articles and conference papers have been submitted published in edited collections, covering various aspects of poetry translation or literary studies of Spanish-American literature, which have also not been studied in detail in Bulgaria. All publications are original and demonstrate the depth of Sirakova's academic endeavours.

3. Citations by other authors

The materials presented show that the publications by Dr. Sirakova have been cited by a number of authors in academic articles, in monographs and in peer-reviewed papers, as well as in academic publications, referenced and indexed in leading academic databases included in the NACID's National Reference List (eight citations).

4. Participation in research projects and evaluation of application of the obtained results in practice

Dr. Veneta Sirakova has participated in long-term research and scientific projects related to TRAD NBU Summer schools in Translation as project manager, organizer and rapporteur; in translation projects involving students from BA Spanish (with second foreign language English) and the minor program “Applied Spanish” as a reviewer and organizer and in the High school translation competition of the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures as an organizer and assessor of Spanish translations. Participation in these projects of NBU students and other universities, as well as high school students, is direct evidence of the applicant's research work being put into practice.

II. Teaching

Dr. Sirakova has duly fulfilled the standards for classroom and extra-curricular engagement; she has worked extensively with NBU's e-learning module Moodle, where she has uploaded author materials in all of the courses she has taught. Two of her courses merit attention - BCLB 777 Translation Science and ESPB 812 History of Spanish American Literature. In conjunction with S. Michev she has developed a complete e-learning course in Spanish at A2 level in the Moodle platform. She has actively participated in the development of the BA programme in Spanish and has developed numerous courses for over the years, mainly in the field of practical Spanish and practical translation. The average student satisfaction rating of Dr. Veneta Sirakova is over 4.50 out of a maximum of 5.00.

IV. Administrative and community service

Dr. Sirakova regularly participates in the meetings of the Department of Romance and German Studies (existing until the spring semester of 2017-2018 academic year) and of the current Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures. Over the years, she has held various positions in the academic administration: Erasmus / Socrates Program Coordinator 2005-2006; Director of BA Foreign Languages and Cultures - Spanish Studies 2006-2009; program consultant to BA German Studies, BA Romance Studies, BA Spanish Studies and BA Italian Studies, as well as of the Minor programs Applied German, Applied French, Applied Spanish and Applied Italian in the spring semester of 2018-2019; member of the Program Board at the Department of Foreign Languages

and Cultures also in the spring semester of 2018-2019. Veneta Sirakova is actively involved in the activities of the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, including those connected to attracting and enrolling students to the department's programs.

V. Personal impressions of the applicant.

I have known Veneta Sirakova for many years and my personal impressions are that she is a balanced, kind and positive colleague who is efficient and always helpful in contacts with students and colleagues.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the above, I believe that Dr. Veneta Sirakova fully meets the requirements for acquiring the academic position of associate professor in 2.1.Philology (Spanish) and I propose her admission for election by the Academic Council at NBU.

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Prof. Diana Yankova, PhD

