

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Zhivka Stoyanova Ilieva, PhD,
College – Dobrich, Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen,
Associate professor in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences,
Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education ... (Methodology of English language
teaching)

Concerning materials submitted for participation in a competition for academic position
"Associate professor" at New Bulgarian University
in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences,
professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education ... (English language),
published in „State Gazette” issue 62/06.08.2019,

with an only candidate chief assistant professor Mariya Todorova Neykova

I. Evaluation of the correspondence to the minimal national requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University (NBU)

Mariya Todorova Neykova has defended her PhD thesis for the educational and scientific degree of doctor on the topic of Developing Strategies for Reading a Scientific Text in 2010.

Mariya Neykova submits for participation in this competition a monograph entitled Action Oriented Approach to Foreign Language Learning in the Context of Electronic Blended Learning which consists of 146 pages, with reviewers prof. Dr hab. Pavlina Stefanova and associate professor PhD Yordanka Simeonova, 2015, Farago Publishing, Sofia, ISBN 978-619-206-020-6.

Neykova presents another monograph entitled Foreign language teaching. Active learning. Online interaction, which consists of 92 pages, LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2018, ISBN 978-613-9-57543-5.

For participation in this competition Neykova presents 22 articles, 5 of which are published in Bulgarian journals indexed and listed in databases with scientific information. There are 17 articles published in reviewed journals or volumes. 12 have Mariya Neykova as an only author, 3 of them are written by a team of two authors and 2 are written by a team of 5 authors.

Mariya Neykova submits 16 quotations for participation in this competition.

The materials submitted correspond to the minimal state requirements and the requirements of NBU for the academic position associate professor.

II. Research activities and results

1. In her monograph Mariya Neykova presents an in-depth study of the activity-oriented approach as a natural development of the communicative approach in foreign language teaching. She develops a structural model for applying an activity-oriented approach in the context of blended foreign language learning. She also presents three variants of an organizational pedagogical plan for work on the suggested structural model for applying an activity-oriented approach in the context of blended foreign language learning depending on the language competence of the trainees and whether they are specialists or non-specialists. The author applies the model in her practice, thus demonstrating its effectiveness.
2. The other publications of Mariya Neykova, presented for the competition, emphasize the applicability and the effectiveness of the activity-oriented approach, blended foreign language learning, e-learning, case studies, projects and drama, use of mobile applications. The presented publications outline her scientific interests in the following fields: blended foreign language learning using mobile devices, e-distance learning, English language teaching through drama texts, specialized language training.

Five of the articles have been published in journals indexed in Web of Science; 13 of the articles have been published in journals indexed in secondary databases and 4 in reviewed journals. All of them were published after obtaining her PhD (2011) and her appointment as a Chief Assistant Professor (2003).

3. 2 of the 16 quotations are in Foreign Language Teaching magazine which is indexed and listed in:

- Web of Science: Emerging Sources Citation Index
- European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS)
- E-library.ru
- Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL)
- EBSCOhost Research Databases
- Google Scholar, Primo (Ex Libris), Summon (ProQuest).

The other quotations are in journals that are indexed in secondary databases or in reviewed volumes.

4. Mariya Neykova takes part in the following projects:

EU YOUTH POWER; Project: KA 202/VET-54/03.10.2017. Erasmus+;

She is a coordinator of the contract of 2017 between NBU and KazHJIU, Semey, Kazakhstan for education of students. 4 students of NBU have studied there.

Participant in КЈаДЈА-БГ – National interdisciplinary research e-infrastructure for resources and technology for Bulgarian language and culture heritage, integrated in CLARIN and DARIAH. ДО01-164/28.08.2018.

E-platform aiding teaching general and specialized foreign language – 2017/2018, 2016/2017, 2015/2016. In this project Mariya Neykova has used the E-platform to develop e-materials and tests and to import them in the comprehensive English, ESP, topics "BIOLOGY. ECOLOGY AND PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT" and "CIVIL AND CORPORATE SECURITY. POLITICAL SCIENCE. LAW".

III. Teaching activity

1. Mariya Neykova teaches 8 courses. According to the information presented she has her own author's materials for 11 courses in "MOODLE – NBU". She has taken part in the programme for education of the administration at NBU.

She has taken part in travelling seminars with the students to Gabrovo and Pernik; she made a seminar „WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD“. She has taken part in Literature contests for students at secondary schools studying English: 2017/2018, 2016/2017, 2015/2016.

In the period 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 she has taken part in 35 state exam commissions; in the period 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 she has prepared 10 reviews of graduate theses.

Mariya Neykova takes part in the organisation of students' practices and internship (observation, pedagogical internship, pre-graduate internship, current pedagogical practice). She took part with students from NBU in the XXVIIIth Annual International BETA (Bulgarian English Teachers' Association) conference.

Her average mark from the students' questionnaires is 4.74 (max. 5) as of 05.09.2018.

IV. Administrative and social activity

1. Mariya Neykova takes part in the programme council of the departments she works for. She is a member of the committee for evaluating projects part of the fund Syllabi. She is part of the accreditation committee since October 2017.

2. Social activity.

Mariya Neykova is a member of BETA.

3. Attracting students to the programme.

The applicant organizes travelling seminars with students, she took part in BETA 2019 conference together with students.

V. Personal opinion

Mariya Neykova takes part in the annual BETA conferences.

VI. Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the candidate's achievements

I have no critical remarks to the scientific production submitted for the competition.

Conclusion

The submitted documents and materials comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for the implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of NBU. The minimum required points from the scientific metric indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor" are fulfilled. On the basis of the results of the research and teaching activity, I give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to select Chief Assistant Professor Mariya Todorova Neykova in the academic position of "Associate Professor" at NBU in higher education area: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of education ... (English language).

27.12.2019 г.

Signature: 