

RECENSION

by **Professor Nadka Nikolova Nikolova, PhD**

under the procedure for taking up the academic position of *Professor*
in the field of higher education 2. Humanities,
professional strand 2.1. Philology
(Turkic languages – Historical linguistics of the Turkish language)
at Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen

The competition for the occupation of the academic position *professor* was stated by the Department of Turkish Language and Literature of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Shumen and was announced in no. 41 of the State Gazette dated 03.06.2022. When the competition is announced and in the course of the procedure, all regulatory requirements have been met so far.

The only candidate for the procedure is Associate Professor **Miyyam Nedzhib Salim-Ahmed**, PhD. The candidate has been a lecturer at Shumen University since 1993. The educational and scientific degree "Doctor" was acquired in 2008 and the title "Associate Professor" – in 2014.

The candidate is a university lecturer with long pedagogical experience, her **teaching activity** is intensive and diverse. She has developed programs for 7 lecture courses for bachelors in Modern Turkish (Morphology, Semantics and Lexicology, Syntax), Practically Turkish, as well as historical linguistics, Ottoman language and Ottoman legal and state documents.

In addition to these disciplines also she conducts courses of masters in the programs Language Service of Tourism and Business, Balkanistics and Linguistics and Translation, Contemporary Turkish Language, Development of the Turkish Literary Norm and Ottoman Language and Culture. It is seen that the spectrum of the disciplines taught is wide and covers basic shares of philological education.

Seven of the courses have been developed in recent years. M. Salim is the scientific leader of five PhD students and six graduates, one of them abroad. The candidate has also taught at foreign universities – she has been a lecturer in Turkish language, literature and culture at the universities of Istanbul (2016), Edirne (2015) and Tekirdag (2017). Everywhere she exhibited qualities as an experienced organizer of university education.

Her respectable pedagogical experience is well evident in both teaching aids she has prepared and published in 2022. They are extremely effective in view of the goals with which they are compiled; The theoretical material in them is presented accessible and examined, the practical exercises are purposeful and well combined. They look at the methodological and theoretical competences of an excellent university professor.

With satisfaction, it can be noted that from the attached reference for the acquisition of the academic position "Professor" Associate Professor M. Salim significantly exceeds the required number of points on three of the five indicators. The main **scientific spheres** in which there are publications are Historical Linguistics of the Turkish Language, Contemporary Turkish, Ottoman Art and Culture, Epigraphy.

For participation in the competition, Associate Professor M. Salim-Ahmed *has presented 36 developments* (without ignoring the fact that the candidate has a total of 61 scientific works in different fields of Turkology and Ottomanism.). The developments were published after the acquisition of the title "Associate Professor", were not peer-reviewed under a previous procedure and are allocated:

4 monographs (including a second revised edition of 2021 monograph for the Eski Dzhumaya Fair); 1 studio, 26 articles, 2 teaching aids; participation in the preparation of 3 vocabularies. All presented materials are in the direction of the announced competition. In co-authorship are 2 of the monographs, studios, dictionaries, one of the teaching aids and 12 of the articles. Nine (9) of the publications are printed abroad, one published in an indexed magazine abroad; 12 are in a foreign language.

Thirteen (13) of the publications can be found in the scientific periodicals; just as much are the studies published in peer-reviewed and referenced thematic collections or collective monographs. In terms of her lexicographic work (heavy, often underappreciated, but extremely useful) I can only express admiration. In summary, I can say that within the listed subject areas the author conducts an in-depth analysis, launches innovative ideas and summarizes credible-sounding conclusions. As a researcher, she is distinguished by serious theoretical training, clarity of staging, precision of scientific analysis, linguistic flair, accuracy and tightness of the exhibition.

Associate Professor M. Salim is recognizable as a researcher – a testimony to this is also the list of 18 *noted* citations by our and foreign authors, which speaks of her place in the Turkological scientific community during the peer-reviewed period.

Associate Professor M. Salim actively participates in scientific life not only with publications, with reports in numerous national and international scientific forums, but also in the organization of 6 of them. She is a member of 6 editorial colleagues, editor and reviewer is of 7 scientific publications. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

Since 2014, she has participated in 11 scientific projects – two national and 9 university, some of which are scientific leaders, as is the current project funded by the FNI, directly corresponding to her scientific interests in recent years: "Letters of the Bulgarian Revival as a source for the formation and functioning of the literary Bulgarian language".

In this aspect, the decision of Associate Professor Miyryam Salim, PhD to apply for the position of Professor is perfectly motivated by proven qualities, experience and results. Their numerous administrative commitments should be added – head of the Department of Turkish Language and Literature (from 2017); Chairman of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Humanities to the University of Shumen (from 2020); Director of the Scientific Center "Turkological Research and Intercultural Communication", the formation and detection of which was initiated by the candidate

this year. To them should be added her membership in numerous structures and committees at faculty and university level, internship as a quality officer, preparation of curricula, master's and doctoral programs, accreditation materials, etc. All these difficult responsibilities, full of awareness of their seriousness, prove her rich administrative experience, the assessment of the college and her respect.

Central to the publications of Associate Professor Salim is the monograph "On the trail of the Ottoman epistolary art *Ilm-Yu Insha*"-specially prepared as a **habilitation work**, which at the same time marks a logical stage in the activities of the author with problems in the field of Ottoman culture and the Ottoman language as a base of this culture. The idea for the study of the Ottoman collections "Insha" and "Munsheat" has been the result of the scientific curiosity of Associate Professor M. Salim for several years.

The text proposed in the monograph is timely and necessary, as the topic of the place and role of lettermen in Ottoman culture and their influence on the formation of linguistic consciousness and on the attitude of the language user in particular and society as a whole to cultural processes is relevant. In this sense, labour has an interdisciplinary character that fits into the imperatives of modern science of 21. century.

The monograph has a classical structure, which includes information shaped and presented according to classical academic standards – with a specific research subject, with clearly defined objectives and tasks, with very conscientious reviews and supports on foreign studies in the field, with understandable and fascinating language, with the aim of a balanced use of special terms, with a visible prominence of the already known by the new author's interpretations of theoretical and factual positions.

It is composed according to the canons of scientific research: after the *introductory part*, which protects the development and introduces the reader into the world of written communication in historical and socio-cultural terms, following four chapters, which are arranged and balanced according to the importance of their content. *The first chapter* has a theoretical and historical-cultural character – it

introduces in the emergence of epistolary culture before Ottoman Muslim cultures and Ottoman society.

Its importance is emphasised for the formation of notions of the role of language in Ottoman society, for social communication and for the structuring of society as a whole. The concepts and terms in the Ottoman letters, the presentation of famous authors of handwritten and printed manuals in the history of Ottoman society are the theme of the *second chapter*, richly supplied with illustrative material.

This historical excurs reveals the broad awareness of Associate Professor M. Salim as a scientist turkologist and could be useful to current and future specialists of his encyclopedic nature. *The third chapter* has as its object the collections munshaat and insha in the history of Turkish literature. The author made a detailed classification, presented their type content and analyzed their specific structure.

Handwritten and printed letters are presented separately. Classification of letters has been made- the official (letters of administrative-business and legal-commercial nature) and the private ones (between family members, between friends and etc.) has been made, describing their specificity and comparing them. The language and style of epistolary works are the subject of *the fourth chapter*.

Attention is paid to grammatical, lexical and terminological features, which – along with the Turkish language base – are a product of the influence of the Arabic and Persian languages, which took an important place in the creation and functioning of the Osmanoturkish language idiom. An essential place is the interpretation of etiquette and courtesy in correspondence as a marker of the hierarchy in Ottoman society and in the culture of communication. *The conclusion* presents a qualitative summary of the ideas in the text, a comparison of the forms and functions of the Osmanotourian epistolary literature.


The research was done expertly, with professional manner; racourses are appropriately selected, the interpretation is reliable and logical. The text is distinguished by a clear structure, with rich informativeness, with objectivity in the evaluation of the scientific opinions of the different researchers, with accessibility in

explaining complex scientific concepts and terms – all requirements specific to high-quality text for scientific purposes.

All the work is published by a mature researcher, who has deeply reconsidered the problem of the formation of written communication historically, socio-culturally and linguistically. It should be noted the appropriate technical and font shaping of the text, allowing key positions to be highlighted and better perceived. The performance is fine in linguistic and stylistic terms. A comprehensive assessment of the monograph cannot be given without mentioning the rich specialized bibliographic apparatus, further convincing of its scientific value. Monograph in itself is an incentive for further research.

On the basis of the observations made, I find that the scientific and pedagogical qualities of the candidate are undoubted. She is a competent and reliable researcher and a proven university lecturer. Her contributions to science, her teaching experience and her teaching activities satisfy the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the accompanying regulations, as well as my personal expectations as a member of the scientific jury.

*In conclusion, to the high appreciation for the research, audience and teaching work of Associate Professor Miyryam Salim, PhD I can only add my confidence that she is a worthy candidate for the academic position of professor in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional department 2.1 Philology (Turkic languages – Historical linguistics of the Turkish language) in the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Shumen. Therefore, I am convinced that she **should be elected professor of Turkish language** at the University of Shumen.*

Signature:.....
(Professor N. Nikolova, PhD)

10. 10. 2022