

## SHORT REVIEW

By Prof. DSc. Vera Naydenova Naydenova (professional field 8.4. Theater and Film Art), with regard to competition for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN STAGE SPEECH, Theater Studies and Theater Art scientific specialty, announced by the Stage Speech Department at NATFA “Kr. Sarafov” in SG No. 52, June 9, 2020

The only candidate in the competition is DR. TODOR DIMITROV-MECHKARSKI, CHIEF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE STAGE SPEECH DEPARTMENT.

I. I will remind you that the monographic work is traditionally the most appreciated one. The one Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Todor Mechkarski applies with is entitled “**TERMINOLOGICAL FRUNDAMENTALS OF STAGE SPEECH**”. Further in the text it is regarded also with another title as **GLOSSARY OF THE TERMS IN MODERN STAGE SPEECH**. The existence of two titles is justified by the specific character of the content: on the one side, the work is fundamental, it feeds, so to say, the stage speech science, participates in its systematization, and, on the other, is intended to be a tool for the work of the specialists who study and practice it. In other words, the monograph proposed by the candidate in the competition has the function of a bridge between science and practice; in future, it will be able to enrich scientific research in the field of stage speech and at the same time serve as a handbook in its study and practice.

We are prepared for this specific character by the author’s extensive introduction entitled “**INTRODUCTION OR INTENTION OF THE MONOGRAPH**” where the essence of the work is explained. (Coincidentally, at the time I acquainted with this introduction I was rereading the biography of the

ancient philosopher PLATO who explains the concepts of IDEA, THOUGHT and ESSENCE AS SYNONYMS). In this text, I was very impressed by the use of the term HOLISTIC APPROACH (used more often than INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH). The holistic approach (HOLISM, for short) is the more current approach in science today. It is activated in relation to the removal of the barrier between natural and mathematical sciences, and the humanities, between Western and Eastern philosophies, etc. It is also called multiple intelligence. Given the numerous specializations mentioned in the candidate's biography, I would call it multiple competence.

The statements in the introductory text are further confirmed in the proposed “*Glossary of Terms in Modern Stage Speech*”. It is accomplished with a broad knowledge of the matter reflected in the terms, with undoubted manifestation of self-initiative and innovation. And, since by nature such a “dictionary” is an open system, subject to addition and clarification, I will let myself make some suggestions. I stress that these are encouraged by the well-done work of the author. As is well known, good evokes desire for even better.

a). The major characteristic of the holistic approach ensues from the fact that it is **an organic whole of many sciences** – in this case, the sciences serving the numerous practical activities related to stage speech. At first, it may sound paradoxical but the application of this principle in the proposed dictionary would work better, in my opinion, if the terms suggested are arranged in groups.

b). Naturally, with so many terms, not all of them will be equally fully characterized. I shall give an example to suggest the problem to the author. Before becoming a term with a concrete-historical character, ABSURD is a concept with its own philosophical and philological characteristic which is missing here.

c). I have mentioned above that the holistic approach in science is also associated with the integration of Western philosophy, science, art practice with the Eastern one. So, in the future, the author could include terms of the stage

speech from the most famous Far Eastern theaters – the Japanese, the Chinese. All the more so that he is familiar with their theory and practice as can be seen from his CV. Also, elements of them have recently been applied in the curriculum and theatrical production of NATFA.

**II.** The second part of the competition includes information about the candidate's qualification, his lecture activity and scientific production, the citations by other researchers, etc. Relevant documents testify to the fact that the candidate Todor Dimitrov-Mechkarski has been a teacher at the Stage Speech Department since 2014, and has been a Chief Assistant Professor for a year and 26 days, that together with Prof. Veselina Raeva and Ch. Assist. Professor (now Associate Professor) Lora Mutisheva, he is the author of a four-semester curriculum. He has worked with almost all the tutors of classes in Drama Theater Acting and Directing. Sixteen citations from other authors are listed. The information under this part of the competition is crowned by a list of the scientific contributions and the sum of multiple points in connection to the requirements in Art. 26, Para 2 and 3 from the Regulations for Implementation of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

**III.** An author of a short review on the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor is also required to share personal impressions. I shall admit I have no personal impressions of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Todor Mechkaski but I trust the shared ones in the scientific reviews of his colleagues from the Stage Speech Department and believe that he is a creative and communicative teacher with his own personal behavior that brings him success among the students.

And, here I will allow myself to express my personal impression of the serious and responsible work the Stage Speech Department at NATFA conducts with its young staff. The case with Todor Mechkarski is another recent example which I have witnessed at first hand. And, in many ways, it raises the experience in question to a higher level.

With full confidence, I vote for Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Todor Dimitrov-Mechkarski to be awarded with the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Stage Speech Department at NATFA.

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