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To Whom It May Concern

Date: 20/03/2019

Re: assessment review on Dr. Alena Kačmárová

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Tatiana Larina, external examiner

I have known Dr Alena Kačmárová since 2014, when we met at the 6-th International Conference on Intercultural Pragmatics and Communication in Malta. She immediately impressed me as a highly qualified specialist with deep scientific knowledge and wide erudition.

As an external examiner in the procedure of Dr Alena Kačmárová's appointment as professor, I have been provided with the necessary documentation containing all the details of her pedagogical, academic and scholarly activities necessary for evaluation, as well as her main publications. I have thoroughly analysed the requirements for professorship, reviewed Dr. Kačmárová's pedagogical and scholarly achievements, and can state that for most of the criteria they exceed the required level.

The list of publications of Dr. Kačmárová is impressive. The total number of original scholarly publications amounts to 45. They testify to the fact that the scope of her research interests is quite broad, and I find it particularly important that her research has been mostly conducted within an interdisciplinary paradigm, which is one of the principle trends of modern linguistics. She addresses various aspects of English Linguistics, English-Slovak comparative linguistics, Intercultural Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Translation and Interpreting Studies as well as bilingualism, multilingualism, multilingual identity, and intercultural communication.

The publications amply demonstrate that she is an internationally recognised academic. In addition to Slovakia, her articles and book chapters have been published in the UK, Germany,

Japan, the Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Montenegro and some other countries. I am proud of the fact that two of her articles have been published in the *Russian Journal of Linguistics*, which I direct. She has been co-editor of several books published by such renowned publishing houses as Peter Lang and Cambridge Scholars Publishing, as well as prestigious Slovakian publishers. She has numerous articles published in the journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, and her citation index is above that required.

Due to my personal research interests, I was particularly impressed by her works dealing with intercultural communication, intercultural pragmatics and multilingual identity. In my opinion, it is extremely important to focus on research problems whose results have both theoretical and practical application, and can be used in second language teaching. A good example is the article *The development of the usage of address forms in a business conversation in American English* (Kačmárová 2017). This focuses on the differences between English and other languages in expressing social deixis, which may create the problem, for non-English speakers, of how to express formality and informality, to indicate more or less familiar relationships through linguistic means.

Acquaintance with Dr. Kačmárová's works shows that she applies relevant research methodologies and updated literature, and that her results and conclusions are well-grounded and based on thorough data analysis.

In addition to research papers, she has authored and co-authored four text-books and five practical workbooks for English linguistics studies. They include *A Concise English Grammar Course* (2008, 2011, 2013), *Academic English Grammar for Polish Students* (2013), *A Handbook of English and Slovak Linguistics Terminology* (2018), and among others.

As the documents amply illustrate, Dr. Kačmárová harmoniously combines research with teaching. She has extensive teaching experience and her career ranges from school teacher to assistant professor at the University of Prešov (1997 – 2013), then associate professor. She has been in the position of associate professor at the Institute of British and American Studies, the University of Prešov, since 2013.

Dr. Kačmárová generously shares her research experience and knowledge with her students. She has supervised four doctoral students in Translation and Interpreting, who have successfully defended their doctoral theses.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Kačmárová also has a wide experience in international education, as she has given lectures, undergone training and conducted research outside Slovakia – in Australia, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and other countries. In 2015, she was awarded a prestigious Fulbright scholarship, and was a Fulbright fellow at the State University of New York, Albany NY, USA.

She peer-reviews for a number of international and national journals and is a member of the editorial boards of three journals.

She has actively participated in research in international and national grant projects. Her current grant is European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) (2018-2020), where she is a member of the Management Committee.

Evaluation of the documentation provided allows me to conclude that Dr. Kačmárová is a well-trained, highly professional and internationally renowned scholar who meets all the criteria set by international standards for the position of university professor.

I am absolutely convinced that Dr. Kačmárová deserves to be awarded the title of full professor in Non-Slavic Languages and Literatures at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia, and express my complete support.

Kind regards,

Tatiana Larina

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