

## **REVIEW**

**by Prof. Bozhidar Angelov, DSc**

**of the materials submitted for participation in the competition by Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**

**for the academic position "Associate Professor"**

**at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

**in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences**

**professional orientation 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Methodology of Mastering Bulgarian Language in Kindergarten) announced in the State Gazette, No 57 of 26.06.2020 and on the web page of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Preschool Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy**

To participate in the announced competition the candidate **has submitted documents as an only candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** from the Department of Preschool Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials presented by **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of PU, and includes the following documents:

- Application form to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- CV in European format;
- Diploma for specialization /educational and qualification Master's degree - original or a notarized copy
- Diploma for educational and scientific degree Doctor - original or a notarized copy;

- List of scientific publication;
- Reference for compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
- Annotation of the materials under Article 65 of the Regulations for the development of the Academic staff of PU, incl. self-assessment of contributions;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Work Experience Certificate;
- Documents of teaching activity;
- Documents of scientific activity;
- Documents in accordance with the additional requirements of the respective faculty;
- other documents;
- set of documents in an electronic form – all of them attached to the submitted materials for review.

**Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** has presented a **total of 26 scientific works:** publications related to her dissertation work - 3; habilitation work - 1; a book based on her dissertation work - 1; articles in textbooks and teaching aids for students - 3; articles in refereed journals - 1; articles in non-referred journals - 20. The distribution of scientific papers in the country and abroad is as follows: in the country - 1 monograph, 3 articles in a textbook for Master's students; 20 scientific articles in refereed publications. Of these, in foreign publications - 6 publications, and in connection with participation in international scientific conferences - 6 publications.

Teaching activity of **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** points at her active participation in the affairs with both Bachelor's and Master's students. She uses the results of her scientific research to justify the specifics of educational areas in the field of preschool education. **Ch. Assistant**

**Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** also holds qualification courses through which she contributes to the career development of preschool teachers.

In this regard, there is a need of a meaningful analysis to be made of the main scientific, scientific-applied, applied and methodological contributions in the scientific works of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**. In this way, they can be characterized as major achievements, contributions, relevance to science and practice, and prospects for development.

From this point of view, attention should be paid first to the monograph of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva, with which she** participates in the competition: "An educational model for the formation of the child's fine motor skills", published in 2020 by the University Publishing House of Plovdiv University. In this case, the qualitative and quantitative analysis of different options for test assessment of school readiness complement the overall convincing picture of the conducted research. Based on the results of her research, **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** builds an educational model for preparing the child's hand for writing, both for kindergarten and primary school. All this fits into the purposeful language training of the children in kindergarten, which is carried out in the pedagogical situations in the educational direction "Bulgarian Language and Literature". It brings to the fore the complex realization of the child's speech development from preschool age. Thus, the work of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** develops one of the main functions of education in this area, namely satisfying the child's need for speech activity, which causes positive emotions and becomes an incentive to build communicational and conversational skills: readiness for direct and adequate expression considering the situation, in this case, through *the system* for exercising and mastering the fine motor skills. The latter, based on the children's potential, may give grounds to find such approaches, which eliminate the negative trends in their

development without conflict. The better the sensitive periods in the child's development are used, the more effective this is. The speech apparatus in early and preschool age is most plastic, and the structural formations in the brain associated with it are most productive in terms of the interaction of the same and similar information, which comes in through *different sensor channels*.

Therefore, for **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, the children's potential in the form of mechanisms and processes needs to be presented as possible, interconnected occurrences and phenomena, as well as their characteristics, which help building the specific *system* for speech development.

The book "Pedagogical aspects of the values orientation of the child in primary school age" makes a strong impression - a publication based on the dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Unfortunately, this work cannot be a reviewed object in the competition.

Several articles can be related to the nature and the subject matter of the competition: "Innovative options for the development of phonemic hearing in preschool age", "Language teaching system in primary school", "System of training in related oral and written speech", "Alternatives for the formation of sound culture in preschool age", "Readiness for Literacy", "Basic components of school readiness in Bulgarian Language". All of them cover the parameters of the qualitative leap, made by children and students in mastering the various morphological, syntactic, phonological, etc. features of the native language. In our opinion, these publications of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** stand out with the opportunity for a new vision to be constructed, relating both to the conceptual idea of preschool education and to the mastery of language and speech development. For her, mastering the written speech is a long process and its success depends on the appropriate preparation of the child, and more precisely, on the fine movements of the hand and the

formation of motor memory. It is clear that the development of science and the universal computerization of society will begin in the preschool education. The importance of the problem is increasing due to the fact that modern technologies for transmission of information offer completely new opportunities in the field of education. The child enters the world of knowledge in preschool age. It constantly enriches its vocabulary, learns to retell and compose, compares objects by size, establishes quantitative relations, gets acquainted with geometric figures, learns to draw, accumulates information about the world around.

Hence, it is emphasized that in addition, the processes of memory, logical thinking, creative imagination and emotionality of children are intertwined in the artistic perception. It is necessary, according to **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, to put emphasis on something that is specifically related to reading, i.e. how the child's interest in a book would be satisfied in the spirit of artistic perception. She fixates the book because, in fact, children's interest in reading overlaps with their interest in it. The latter facilitates **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, because it simply makes it possible to use the book not only in its narrow understanding as a certain way of fixing the language (sound letter), but also as a carrier of a certain semiotics through its pictorial information.

The contributions contained in the works are personal activity of the candidate. They can be reduced to the following:

1. For **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** value orientation plays a significant role in the personality shaping of the child of preschool and primary school age and has a direct impact on its behavior. She believes that the diagnostic results do not meet the expectations of a dynamic, flexible, open to change value orientation, formed in the process of interpersonal perception. This is due not only to methodological shortcomings. To a large extent, they are based on certain shortcomings in the training in general, which

stem primarily from the following reasons:

- in the modern idea of education, insufficient space is given to a generally accepted theory of human values and their formation;
- the curriculum is dominated by tasks, which reveal the first two levels of value orientation - knowledge of certain values and rational preferences, or choice of one or another value. The practical, effective nature of the value orientation is not formed, there is no pedagogical technology to provide diagnostics of the value orientation through the interpersonal perception and for the formation of a value orientation, adequate to the modern society. (Cherneva, 2020)

2. The offered by **ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** diagnostic tools include new, non-standard methods, which allow to focus the attention on more aspects of value orientation - dynamism, a sense of the new, interpersonal perception. The used tests provide rich information on the research problem and the school practice. (Cherneva, 2020)

3. Education in kindergarten and primary school is not aimed at forming a value orientation through interpersonal perception. The idea of forming a value orientation through interpersonal perception, adequate to the modern socio - economic realities for **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, can be successfully implemented on the following grounds:

- the purpose of the educational process to be linked to the construction of a socially necessary value system, including knowledge and skills, interests and needs, problems and contradictions, motivation of the individual for life and behavior;
- the training in the separate subjects should be organized in such a way, that the possibilities of the given educational content to be used to the maximum. In the experiments, group work has been used as a form of organization and without claiming to be

exhaustive, it can be used in most subjects and classes;

- the experimental verification of the variant training model and the final diagnostics prove the legitimacy of the stated grounds. (Cherneva, 2020)

4. The experimental course of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** gives grounds to claim that the formation of a dynamic, open to change value orientation is possible to commence from kindergarten and primary school. This also applies to those components, which are missing in the current educational activity - a sense of the new, adaptability, intuition, non-standard. **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** finds that students are able to organize their joint activities on the tasks set at the beginning with the help of the teacher, and then independently, to show resourcefulness, originality, speed and accuracy. In the process of interpersonal perception between them, a new type of communication appeared, built on mutual trust and full disclosure of personal capabilities. If at the beginning of the activity, the students show knowledge about the studied values, then at the end their cognitive skills show the presence of a more flexible orientation, aimed at fast interaction with others, with the close environment. (Cherneva, 2020)

5. The proposed by **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** pedagogical experiment is only one of the options for supporting and transforming the current model of educational activity. Probably, according to **her**, it can be applied not to the whole training, but to separate subjects or directions, it can be enriched with other diagnostic methods and forms of organization. Thus, the overall development of the problem of forming a value orientation through interpersonal perception can be a subject of research activity by a team of specialists from different fields of theory of education and didactics. (Cherneva, 2020)

6. A good option for implementing the activities on a digital basis is the game-based approach, which allows children to define their own, individual

manipulations, as they must be consistent with the level of their computer literacy. This approach allows development of skills for working with computer systems and software in an environment of active team cooperation and expanding opportunities for social interaction. This will lead to the dynamics and diversity needed for the education. For **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** the young child in kindergarten and primary school needs frequent changes of activities, fun and unusual game options, which will help not only the formation of its linguistic competences. So, the integration of information technology is important to be accepted, not as an alternative to modern training, but as the next level of its development. (Cherneva, IM, 2020)

7. Digital technologies have their place in education, both in kindergarten and in subsequent educational levels. They are particularly compatible with the development of fine motor skills, but their educational potential must be used with caution so that the given learning goal can be achieved. Through the use of technology, teachers have access to more innovative and improved teaching methods, which allow them to promote learning and to create an active learning environment for children. The integration of different types of digital resources in the planning of pedagogical situations and lessons enables teachers to have a more positive impact on the development and learning of each child, to differentiate the educational process, and to achieve complexity in implementing the expected results in the curriculum. (Cherneva, IM, 2020)

8. For **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva** the literacy process can start in kindergarten as the beginning of it is analyzed and the understanding of continuity between the training in the preparatory groups and the first grade comes to the fore. (Cherneva, Pedagogy, no. 6, 2015)

All outlined contributions find a practical-applied projection in the respective fields of the teaching activity of **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, and in due time lie in the updating by the



author of the curricula developed by her.

Based on all of the above, I can definitely say that **Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva**, as an only candidate in the competition for associate professor in a professional field **1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Methodology of Mastering Bulgarian Language in Kindergarten)** announced in the State Gazette, No 57 from 26.06.2020 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Preschool Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy, meets all the necessary requirements for holding this academic position and I strongly recommend her election to the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Sofia, 28.10.2020

Prof. Bozhidar Angelov, DSc