

OPINION

From Prof. Dr. Penka Kostova Todorova
VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius "

of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree " **Doctor** "
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences professional
field 1.2. Pedagogy doctoral program Theory of education and didactics

Author : Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon - PhD student in self-study at the Department of
Pedagogy and Education Management

Theme : "Theater educational strategies in specialized art schools"

Scientific adviser : Prof. Dr. Nelly Ilieva Boyadzhieva - Sofia University "Kliment
Ohridski"

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

By order № P33- 1306 from 19.04.2021 , the Rector of the University of Plovdiv
"Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I'm a member of the scientific panel to provide a procedure for de-
fense of the dissertation entitled "Theater educational strategies in specialist schools of arts
" for acquiring the educational and scientific degree ' doctor' in the field of higher education 1.
Pedagogical sciences , professional field 1.2 Pedagogy , doctoral program Theory of education
and didactics .

The author of the dissertation is Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon - PhD student of independent
training at the Department of Pedagogy and Education Management with supervisor Prof. Dr.
Nelly Ilieva Boyadzhieva from Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

The set of paper materials presented by Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon is in accordance with
Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of PU, includes the fol-
lowing documents:

- request to the Rector of the University of Plovdiv for disclosure of the procedure for
defense of the dissertation;
- CV in European format;
- Minutes from the department council, related to reporting on the readiness for opening
the procedure and to preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation work;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications;
- list of observed citations;

- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- reference for observance of the specific requirements of the respective faculty. The PhD student enclosed 5 independent publications - articles and papers in international scientific-practical conferences collections in e-magazine. The publications are original and are related to the topic of the thesis .

2. Brief biographical data about the doctoral student

PhD student Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon is suitable for doctoral theatrical education – she has completed a Master's degree in specialty Acting Theater. There are additional pedagogical qualifications and 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.

She has professional work experience of 29 years as an actress in the theaters in Plovdiv, Pazardzhik and Varna, a teacher at NGSEI - secondary specialized school of arts, teacher and assistant at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". Conducts educational and theatrical activities , develops and implements projects , organizes cultural events.

Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon is a doctoral student of self-training at the department "Pedagogy and Management of Education", supervised by Prof. Dr. Nelly Ilieva Boyadzhieva from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The education , additional qualifications and professional experience of the Doctoral candidate are adequate for the doctoral program and the topic of the thesis .

3. Relevancy of the topic

Developed in the thesis problem for the theatrical and educational strategies in the specialized art schools is current and significant in scientific and applied science tactical field regarding the following arguments:

- In modern literature the connections between the school and theater are not sufficiently investigated, between academic and theatrical activities; effective theatrical educational technologies are not developed, implemented and described effectively in secondary education;
- Empathy as a major component and core social and emotional competency has enormous significance in social relationships, in the formation and development of the value system in realization of personality in life and professional aspect ;
- The current competence pedagogical approach includes the formation of specific social competence for empathy and communication, necessary for the social development and realization of the student . The educational theatre school activity has the potential as artistic, aesthetic, educational and teaching activities have the potential for the formation of empathy by developing and implementing modern teaching model and effective theatrical education strategy.

4. Knowledge of the problem

The doctoral student Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon knows very well the researched problem in theoretical and practical-applied aspect. My reasons for this conclusion are the following:

- Her acting training in Master's degree in professional acting for dramatic theater ;
- The survey and competent analysis of the literature on the problem ;
- Additional qualifications and degrees;
- The solid professional work experience as an actress, a teacher in secondary specialized school of arts , lecturer and assistant professor at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" ;

- Creative approach and organizational skills for school training, theatrical education and implemented projects.

The educational, scientific and applied potential of the PhD student are adequate for the doctoral program and the topic of the thesis confirms knowledge of the problem and are an excellent prerequisite for competence scientific research work.

5. Research methodology

Adequate and reliable research methodology was chosen - phenomenological, theoretical analysis and synthesis, historical-pedagogical description, analysis of good practices and personal experience, modification of methods from other fields, observation, didactic experiment, model construction, diagnostic tools and instruments, methods for data processing and analysis, etc. The applied methodology provides reliable and truthful information for achieving the set goals and objectives of the dissertation work.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The dissertation consists of 187 pages, of which 181 pages are the main text. Bibliography includes 150 sources - 139 sources in Cyrillic and 11 Latin sources, presented are 84 tables. The structure of the dissertation, the language and the style correspond to the academic standards.

The thesis examines and proves the compelling possibilities in theatrical education these strategies in learning experience and training of students in secondary art school of acting. It clarifies the essence and distinguishes basic terms - learning and teaching, theater and theater activities, formal and informal learning, competency approach and social competency, empathy and types of empathy, strategies and theatrical education strategies. The relations between theatrical activity as an aesthetic artistic activity and as an educational activity are analyzed, as well as the possibilities of the educational theatrical activity for the professional preparation of the students in acting.

An in-depth theoretical analysis of the nature of empathy as an emotional and cognitive phenomenon, its main functions in interpersonal relationships, its role as a factor in enriching knowledge about the Other and the Self and the overall development of the child. Empathy is logically seen as a basic element and core of emotional and social intelligence. Affective and cognitive empathy in the context of school theatrical activity is justified as one of the key competences for the development of social relations, for the construction of identity and increase the motivation of the students.

Designed, piloted and verified a didactic model for the development of empathy through theatrical education in the specialized art school environment for students from 8th, 9th and 11th classes, which allows the developed by the PhD student educational resources and criteria to track personal development of empathy and differences in its manifestations by gender. Empirically validated the capabilities of a model for the development of empathy as a major component of the social competence, necessary to form a core of personality and of acting skills.

Presented positive results from the application of the model based on selected theatrical educational strategies in the school theater activities for preparation and development of students in the specialized art schools.

Applied scientific contribution of the thesis is formulated and reasonable topic for the development and applicability of theatrical educational strategies formation and the development of empathy in students as core social competence.

The modern role of theater and theatrical educational activities for the creation of innovative school practices in theatrical and non-theatrical learning environment has been proven. The theatrical educational and development tools are applicable both in the specialized art schools and in other high schools in informal education.

The research and the dissertation have interdisciplinary character and significant contributions to the pedagogical science and to the educational practice with the specific methodology of theatrical educational activity, with the development of theatrical dramatic methods and means, with the humanistic and aesthetic content orientation, with the direct connection with the emotional and social intelligence of the student.

7. Assessment of the doctoral student's publications and personal contribution

All 5 publications of the doctoral student are independent and are related to the topic of the dissertation. The results are reflected in participation in scientific conferences and seminars in articles in paper and electronic format, projects and artistic activities .

The publication in Russian at the International Scientific-Practical Conference on Innovative Approaches in the Field of Art Education presents a good pedagogical practice - a lesson with exquisite stage speech and organic acting presence.

Two articles in proceedings and journals from conferences and seminars and two articles in e-journals analyze problems of educational and theatrical activities, the means of expression on stage and communicative competence.

8 . Personal participation of the doctoral student

The PhD student personally conducted its theoretical and empirical research into the natural school environment at secondary specialized school of Arts, where the candidate is teaching. The obtained results are subjected to quantitative and qualitative analysis and are the basis for the derived reasoned contributions, which I accept.

9 . Abstract

The abstract of the dissertation of Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation and meets the requirements of the relevant regulations on content and quality.

10 . RECOMMENDATIONS

The doctoral student should continue and deepen the work on the problem of the dissertation. The developed didactic model and the methodology of theatrical educational activities for the formation of empathy and social competence to be applied and researched with students in mainstream schools and with students-future teachers.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to the pedagogical science and meet all the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for application of ZRASRB and the respective regulations at PU "Paisii Hilendarski". The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Rules of the University of Plovdiv for application of the ZRASRB.

The PhD thesis shows that doctoral student Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon possesses extensive and deep theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty Theory of education and didactics, and demonstrated qualities and skills to independently conduct research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and ***I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"*** to Zoya Nedelcheva Kapon in higher education. Education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy doctoral program Theory of education and didactics.

21. 05. 2021

Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Dr. Penka Kostova Todorova