

REVIEW

by Irena Ivanova Levkova, PhD

Associate Professor at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski“

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences,

professional direction 3.2. Psychology,

Doctoral Programme in Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology

Author: Magdalena Milkova Gereva

Thesis Title: "Creative motivation, flourishing and psychological types in adults with occupation in the field of arts and culture"

PhD Supervisor: Associate Professor, Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD – Head of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

1. Overview of the presented materials

By the order No. RD-21-21-32 of 14.12.2022. of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "Creative motivation, flourishing and psychological types in adults with occupation in the field of arts and culture" for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Direction 3.2. Psychology, Doctoral Programme in Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology, with author Magdalena Milkova Gereva - full-time PhD student at the Department of "Psychology", with PhD Supervisor Dr. Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, Associate Professor at PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The dissertation presented by Magdalena Milkova Gereva consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography and is in a volume of 235 pages, where 205 pages - the main text, 13 pages - bibliography list (including a total of 171 sources - 46 in Cyrillic and 125 in Latin) and 16 pages of appendices. The volume includes 63 tables, 12 figures, 16 diagrams.

The set of paper materials presented by Magdalena Milkova Gereva is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Plovdiv University and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of the PU to disclose a procedure for the defense of a dissertation;
- CV in European format;
- Protocol from the Department Council related to the readiness for the opening the procedure and preliminary discussion of the dissertation work;
- Dissertation;
- Abstract;
- List of scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation;
- Copies of the scientific publications;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents.

The PhD student has attached 6 publications.

2. Brief biographical data for the PhD student

Magdalena Milkova Gereva was born on 18.11.1966. In 1990 she graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a Master's degree in Psychology, successfully defending a Thesis under the title "Changes in the value system and social ideas of the students". She completed the specialization in aviation psychology at the Military Medical Academy, specializations in military psychology and psychological operations at the Rakovski Military Academy, as well as the Institute of Positive Psychotherapy - Sofia in the period 2003-2006. In 2012 she received a Post-graduate qualification in "Cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy of depression" at the Military Medical Academy, Sofia and a Master's degree in Security and Defense Management at the Rakovski Military Academy with a Thesis title "The Multicultural Identity as a Factor behind the Societal Security". Since 2018 Magdalena is a PhD student at the Department of Psychology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Doctoral Programme "Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology". She currently holds the position of "Chief Expert" in the "Culture, Archeology and Cultural Heritage" Department of the Plovdiv Municipality.

3. Relevance of the topic and the goals and tasks set

The modern development of psychological science and experimental research is influenced by a "shift" of the focus from personality problems, their study, psychological regularities and outcomes related to them, to topics that are not entirely new to psychology, but their development is characterized by a greater professional interest, intensity and depth of research. Prosperity, creativity, development, flourishing, etc. attract the attention of researchers with the growth of the capabilities of the modern western individual, who into a fairly large extent successfully solves the material issues of his life and therefore has the opportunity to spend more time and focus on the harmony in his psychological experience. The dissertation is in line with this new trend and skillfully integrates the study of creative motivation, psychological types and flourishing. The chosen topic is relevant, the goal is adequately formulated, and the research tools used correspond to the topic and the goal of the dissertation work. The choice of research topics implies the realization of the study's applied results.

4. Knowing the problem

The theoretical chapter examines a wide range of topics related to the creativity, motivation and the psychological well-being, analyzed in the context of the 'flourishing' according to the Keys' model of personality development.

In compliance with the research topic, a broad analysis of the personality development during the adulthood was presented. Jung's idea of psychological types and its further experimental elaboration by Myers and Briggs into a system for an empirical study are presented.

The theoretical overview shows a comprehensive knowledge of the studied issues, on one hand - through a systematic examination of a sufficiently large range of theories, ideas, approaches and theoretical constructs related to the chosen topic and, on the other hand, in the depth of the applied analysis. The doctoral student shows a high level of knowledge both of the classical theories and ideas in the research field, as well as of the modern ones offering a sufficiently detailed analysis of the Bulgarian authors contributions along with the results of their research. This, in turn, is a prerequisite for the successful organization and implementation of a research activity that will further develop and complement what has been done by other local researchers and at the same time - to offer new theoretical and applied directions.

The second chapter describes the research design. The setting and the empirical study design are outlined in a clear, relevant and comprehensive way. The PhD student presents four hypotheses and elaborates the course of the research.

The results presented in the third chapter and their analysis lead the PhD student to the discovery of connections and confirmation of hypotheses, fully or partially, as well as to the relevant conclusions about the contributions and practical applicability of the research results.

5. Research methodology

The empirical research was carried out through appropriate scientific instruments. In addition to the methodology for studying the psychological types of Myers and Briggs, the research toolkit has been elaborated with two more questionnaires - Ed Diener's Flourishing Scale and Paul Torrance's Creative Motivation Scale for adults.

Four hypotheses were formulated in order the relationships between psychological types, creative motivation, flourishing and the respondents' activity to be examined.

The choice of research tools corresponds to the objectives, tasks and hypotheses of the presented dissertation work.

6. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The organization of the first chapter is focused on three areas of theoretical inquiry and analysis – the topic of creativity and creative motivation; the topic of psychological well-being and flourishing and an introduction to leading theories of personality in adulthood. In all three areas, the PhD student has selected advanced theories for the presentation and analysis of the research issues. The theoretical selection and analysis made are a convincing

justification and a theoretical basis for the chosen research methodology. The presentation of study results carried out by Bulgarian authors makes the connection and the transition from the theories in the thematic area of the research, the results of studies carried out in other countries, the Bulgarian contribution and the conclusions of the PhD student regarding the relevance and applicability of the results received as a continuation and upgrade of the already reached study level. It is followed by the design of the study and the argumentation of the selected research tools. From the theoretical analysis, the hypotheses and the purpose of the study the methods for research in the Bulgarian population are presented together with the results obtained.

The third chapter contains a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the empirical data and verification of the hypotheses outlined. Adequate to the set objectives, the obtained empirical results derived by statistical software are presented through numerous schemes, tables and figures. The analysis was conducted with the help of the methodology chosen and derived on the basis of the selected four groups of respondents (dancers, writers, musicians and singers and visual artists) and their comparative analysis.

7. Contributions and significance of the dissertation for the science and applied areas

The contributions of the dissertation work can be observed in several directions.

A theoretical analysis of the studied constructs was carried out. The PhD student offers her own interpretation of creative motivation, flourishing and psychological types concepts in the study of artists, whereas connecting assumptions on the interrelations found out.

In the context of the theories of Carl Jung, Otto Rank, Paul Torrance and Ed Diener, a 3-component model for the study of creative personality is proposed.

Research contributions of the dissertation work: an original empirical study in the scientific field of the studied constructs in Bulgaria regarding the correlations of the creative motivation, flourishing and personality types in adults engaged in art, as well as a comparative analysis of the results received.

The applied contributions are in two directions: enriching the content of the students' curriculum with the optional course in "Psychology of Art" within their Master's degree, and defining new approaches in counselling and educational fields working with representatives of the creative sector, parents and teachers of gifted children, business organizations and NGOs in support of creativity and thriving in adulthood.

8. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The publications that reflect the results of the dissertation are a total of six, five of which are Magdalena Gereva's independent work, and one is co-authored with the supervisor. They have been published in the magazine "Philosophy" (the publication in co-authorship), in the magazine "Balkansko nauchno obozrenie" (two) and in collections of reports from the Student Scientific Forum (three). The content of the articles consist of topics in the field of creative motivation, creativity and flourishing. Two of them are devoted in particular to the work of Otto Rank - the philosophical-aesthetic roots of his work and the creative impulse in Rank's therapeutic approach.

9. Abstract

The abstract is in accordance with the requirements of the Doctoral programme and reflects the main results outlined in the dissertation.

10. Critical remarks and recommendations

There is an impression about terminological confusion and ambiguity in defining the boundaries of the studied period and, respectively, of the choice of respondents participating in the study. The characteristics of the sub-periods and their peculiarities are not clearly and accurately described, focusing on a given sub-period of adulthood and systematically presenting its characteristics, taking into account the selected authors and theories. It is not clear why a description of late adulthood is included, since among the respondents in the selected sample there are very few surveyed individuals in this sub-period. It is necessary to distinguish more clearly the peculiarities in the development of early and middle adulthood as a basis for directing the scientific research (perhaps also in the formulation of hypotheses) and for an adequate analysis of the obtained results. Since the majority of the respondents are in the early adulthood sub-period and in the data processing the comparisons between the two groups are only according to the percentage share, it would be more appropriate if the study was focused only on the early adulthood.

It is not clear why the chapter about the multicultural identity has been included within the text of the dissertation work and the conducted research.

Regarding the structure of the dissertation - it would be more appropriate to include part 3.4. Otto Rank - the creative impulse and the development of the personality in item 1. Creativity and creative motivation and the derivation of Psychological types according to K.-G. Jung in a separate part of the theoretical chapter.

An inconsistency is noticed in the numbering of the tables, which makes it difficult for the reader to follow the text. For example, after No. 43 there is No. 17, several consecutive numbers and then No. 49, etc.

11. Personal impressions

In her studies as a PhD student, Magdalena Gereva established good relations with the members of the Department of Psychology and in cooperation with her fellow doctoral students. She successfully passed the training courses in the doctoral programme and performed brilliantly during the exams. In working with students, he shows organization, combined with creativity and a good knowledge of the taught material.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The presented materials and dissertation results fully correspond to the specific

requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the application of ZRASRB.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Magdalena Milkova Gereva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology, demonstrating qualities and skills for the independent conduct of a scientific research.

Due to the above, I am confident in giving my positive assessment for the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Magdalena Milkova Gereva in the field of higher education: 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Direction 3.2. Psychology, Doctoral Programme in Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology.

Date: 31.01.2023

Prepared the review:

(signature)

(Assoc. Prof. Irena Levkova, PhD)