

OPINION

by Docent Dr. Dimka Dimitrova Nikolova-Ivanova

VTU "St. st. Cyril and Methodius", Faculty of Modern Languages, Department of
Methodology of Linguistic and Literary Education

on a dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "**doctor**" at
Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences
professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ... (Methodology of teaching Bulgarian
language)

doctoral program *Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature*

Author: Nataliya Ivanova Matseva

Topic: Developing of the key competence "Learning skills" when working with text in
Bulgarian language education (5th - 7th grade)

Research supervisor: Docent Dr. Fani Evgenieva Boykova

1. General presentation of the procedure and the PhD student

By order No. P-21-541 dated 15.03.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for ensuring a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ..., doctoral program *Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature*. The author of the dissertation is Nataliya Ivanova Matseva, a part-time doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory with research supervisor Docent Dr. Fani Evgenieva Boykova from PU.

The set of paper materials, presented by the PhD student, is formed according to Art.36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU and includes the necessary documents: a request to the Rector of the PU to disclose the procedure for the defense of a dissertation work; a CV in European format; protocol from the departmental council related to reporting the readiness to open the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the dissertation work; dissertation work; abstract; list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation; copies of the scientific publications; declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents. The doctoral student submitted a dissertation with a total volume of 207

pages, of which 152 pages are the main text, 50 pages are the appendices; abstract with a volume of 34 pages, as well as the texts of 7 publications.

2. Topicality of the subject, knowledge of the problem and research methodology

The dissertation examines an actual problem related to both the modern trends in education in general and the processes in education in the Bulgarian language as an undivided system. The researched topic is placed in the context of the key competences concept and the communicative orientation of the education in Bulgarian language and literature. From the bibliography and the text of the dissertation, it is clear that the doctoral student is familiar with the studies on the problem and knows how to synthesize information from various scientific sources.

In the introductory part, the object, subject, purpose and tasks of the research, as well as the hypothesis to be proven, are precisely and clearly stated.

The chosen research methodology allows to be achieved the set goal and to be obtained an adequate answer to the tasks specified in the dissertation work. Recommendation: to use a more precise term for the name of the fourth criterion (p. 9) in order to distinguish between the activity and the speech act of *presentation* and *self-presentation*.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and the contributions

The dissertation presents issues that are poorly researched in Bulgarian language learning and offers forms and means for solving the existing problems in view of the changed educational context.

I accept the listed contributions except for the first one. The study is especially valuable with its practical and applied orientation. I can single out the following as important achievements in it: 1) operationalized presentation of the learning skills construct through the created map (p. 21); 2) development of tools to diagnose the level of mastery of the skill in view of the created model; 3) creation of methodological options for complex and interdisciplinary development of the learning skills with an emphasis on reflection and self-reflection in their application; 4) a detailed description of the algorithms for implementing the proposed ideas and their testing in practice. I believe that the mentioned contributions can be applied in the teaching of the Bulgarian language and make it more effective. Therefore, I recommend to the doctoral student to prepare a methodological aid to enable more teachers to apply the ideas in their practice.

The very naming of the key competence - "Learning skills" contains a certain contradiction, since the more general concept (competence) is equated with the more specific one, which is one of its elements (skills). The correlation between these concepts and analysis of whether it is skills, whether it is an ability, or whether it is competence (and what else it includes besides some skills) would enrich the contributions of the research in a theoretical aspect and would motivate, condense and refine some of the methodological ideas. This is one of the possible perspectives for further research development.

The text of the dissertation is well structured, clear, stylistically homogeneous, enriched with various graphics and diagrams. I would recommend clarifying the terms in some places (only the first is a skill, and the rest are qualities; when introducing the use of Kahoot, it is sometimes referred to as a quiz, sometimes – as a game).

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

The articles presented in the procedure significantly exceed the required number and testify to Nataliya Matseva's deep, consistent and purposeful interest in the individual aspects of the subject under consideration. It is evident from the bibliographic data that the articles have been published in established scientific and specialized publications, which is a sign of their value.

Both the text of the dissertation and the articles testify to the clearly expressed personal contribution of the doctoral student towards the research of the topic, the generation of original ideas and their approbation in their own pedagogical practice. I believe that Nataliya Matseva deserves the credit for the successful implementation of the ideas and for the greater effectiveness of the Bulgarian language education when applying the prepared resources.

5. Abstract

The abstract is made according to the requirements of the relevant regulations and correctly reflects both the conceptual framework of the research and the main results achieved in the dissertation.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law of the Development of the Academic

Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), The Regulations for the application of LDASRB, and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The dissertation displays that PhD student Nataliya Matseva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in a scientific specialty *Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature* by demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

It is for this reason that I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented in the above-mentioned dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose that the honorable scientific jury award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Nataliya Ivanova Matseva in the field of higher education: *1. Pedagogical sciences*; professional direction *1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...*, doctoral program *Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature*.

25.05.2023

V. Tarnovo

Reviewer:

(signature)

Docent Dr. Dimka Dimitrova