

OPINION

**By Prof. DSc Rumyana Dimitrova Tankova – Plovdiv University " Paisii
Hilendarski"**

on a dissertational work for awarding the educational and scientific degree „doctor“
by: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences
professional direction 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy in...,
doctoral program Teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature at the
"Elementary School Pedagogy" Department of the Faculty of Education.

Author: Ralitsa Zivkova Koleva

Topic: „The comic book and the literary teaching of bilingual students in the 4th
grade“

Research supervisor: Prof. *DSc* Margarita Todorova Terzieva from University
"Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, PMO department.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Doctoral Candidate: By Order
No. RD-21-634 of March 19, 2024, of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski," I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure the
procedure for the defense of a doctoral thesis on the topic "The Comic Book and Literary
Education of Bilingual Students in 4th Grade" 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 education in..., doctoral program "Methodology of
Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature." The author of the doctoral thesis is Ralitsa
Zhivkova Koleva - a doctoral student in a part-time form of education at the Department
of Primary School Pedagogy, with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Margarita Terzieva. The
set of materials presented by doctoral candidate Ralitsa Koleva on paper is in accordance
with Article 36 (1) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU.

2. Relevance of the Topic: The relevance of the conducted scientific research is
indisputable. On one hand, it is related to the necessity of expanding the developments in

the field of education in Bulgarian language and literature under bilingual conditions. Despite the publication activity in this direction, there are still no comprehensively developed and approved didactic technologies that correspond to the diversity in the educational environment of bilingual classrooms in Bulgaria. On the other hand, the significance of the researched problem pertains to an insufficiently utilized tool in educational practice – the comic book, which contains great potential not only from the perspective of the literary and language development of young students but also with regard to the improvement of their reading technique.

3. Familiarity with the Problem: A visible indicator of the doctoral candidate's scientific awareness on the research topic is the rich bibliographic material used in constructing the theoretical foundations of the study. It consists of 137 sources in Bulgarian and other languages, of which 23 are from the Internet. These sources cover various areas of knowledge directly related to the researched problem. However, a more important indicator is the quality of the created concept, which is the result not only of good information but also of the skillful interpretation and creative solutions of the doctoral candidate under the guidance of the scientific supervisor.

4. Research Methodology: The adopted research methodology provides the opportunity for a full-fledged construction of both the theoretical analysis, which presupposes the shaping of the author's idea and reveals the grounds for its implementation, and for a good organization of the experimental work, through which the realization of the two author's hypotheses is checked. Adequate methods and research procedures have been used, which ensure the achievement of good results and contribute to the reliability and validity of the approved models for working with comics for the initial literary education of bilinguals. Undoubtedly, the used methodology is based on high professionalism and ensures depth and scientific precision in conducting the experimental work.

5. Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation Work and Contributions:
I am fully satisfied with the dissertation work provided by doctoral candidate Ralitsa

Koleva, developed in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Margarita Terzieva as the scientific supervisor. Firstly, I fully support their idea that the comic book is one of the best tools that aids the understanding of reading in students who have a weak command of the official language. The visualization of the setting through comics guides children not only in the imagery system and the plot of the literary work but also in the specific communicative-speech situation, which significantly facilitates the understanding of dialogic speech characteristic of this genre.

The construction of the first chapter of this scientific product shows not only a wide range and diversity of bibliographic sources on the issue but also a skillful interpretation of the author's viewpoints. They are presented systematically in their sequence and mutual connection. The chronology of the creation and establishment of the comic book as a form of art is thoroughly outlined, its specifics are analytically presented in comparison with cinema and literature, and its educational potential in primary school age is convincingly proven.

An adequate methodological framework has been found in which to fit the conducted experimental work. The composed diagnostic toolkit corresponds to the goals of the research. The methodological model is clarified in detail and contains elements that are a kind of evidential material not only for the application of the proposed didactic technology but also for the research precision of the doctoral candidate.

I also positively evaluate the correctly conducted diagnosis, which allows for a clear distinction between the results of the experimental and control groups not only as a momentary state but also as a pace of language and literary development. Of course, the clear and precise formulations of the criteria and their corresponding indicators, by which the students' achievements are tracked, are of key importance in this case.

A good decision is the preliminary survey conducted to determine the attitudes of teachers and students towards activities with comics, which largely predetermines the success of the experimental work.

6. Assessment of the Publications and the Personal Contribution of the Doctoral Candidate: Ralitsa Koleva has presented 13 of her publications, which are on the topic of the dissertation work and which represent her as a young scientist with many and varied appearances at a number of scientific forums. The doctoral candidate has very clearly and precisely defined the contributions in her dissertation. They are not only scientific but also practical-applicable, as the created technological model can be transferred to a variety of classrooms with a bilingual educational environment.

7. Abstract: The abstract of the dissertation work fully meets the requirements for synthesizing the entire development in a smaller volume. It presents the main theses of the research, their justification, and realization through the conducted experimental work.

8. Recommendations for Future Use of the Dissertation Contributions and Results: Considering the significance of the conducted research, it is important to popularize it among a wide audience. Therefore, my recommendation is to print the dissertation as a separate book in a large circulation, so that it can be used as a scientific and educational resource in school practice.

CONCLUSION Overall, I believe that the dissertation is a significant step forward in methodological interpretations on the topic of educating bilinguals with a dominant mother tongue. In view of this, I give my positive evaluation for the presented scientific work and propose the conferral of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” to Ralitsa Koleva in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences; professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in...; doctoral program “Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature”.

Date: May 3, 2024 Opinion prepared by: ... (prof. DSc Romyana Tankova)