

OPINION

by Dr. Vladimir Vassilev Monov,

Professor at the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies - BAS

ABOUT

dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**"
field of higher education: 4. *"Natural Sciences Mathematics and Informatics"*
professional field: 4.6. *"Informatics and Computer Sciences"*
doctoral program: *"Informatics"*

Author: Mag. Tsvetomira Ivanova Kazashka

Topic: "Creating an ontology of Bulgarian dance folklore"

Scientific supervisors: Prof. Dr. Stanimir Stoyanov and Prof. Dr. Daniela Dzheneva,
Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

1. General description of the procedure and the submitted materials

By order No. ПД-22-487 of 21.02.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University (PU) "Paisiy Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for conducting the defense of the dissertation. By decision of the Scientific Jury at a meeting held online in the period 24-25.02.2025, my participation in the work of the Scientific Jury was determined by the preparation of an opinion on the dissertation.

The set of materials submitted by Mag. Tsvetomira Kazashka is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes the following documents:

- application to the Rector of PU for opening a procedure;
- CV in European format;
- protocol of a preliminary discussion in the Department of "Computer Systems" of the dissertation and opinions of the scientific supervisors;
- dissertation work;
- abstract in Bulgarian and English;
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- reference of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor".
- official notes for participation in scientific research projects.

The attached documents comply with the regulatory requirements set by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation work is dedicated to the creation of an ontology of Bulgarian folk dance within the framework of Bulgarian folk choreography. The topic of the dissertation is relevant and prom-

ising in view of the growing interest in the digitization of the cultural and historical heritage of Bulgaria in the field of systematization, classification and interpretation of the various folk dances in our country and their presentation in an accessible digital format.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The introduction and the first chapter of the dissertation contain a detailed overview and substantive analysis of basic concepts and approaches related to the digitization of Bulgarian folklore and, more specifically, Bulgarian folk dance. The conceptual apparatus used is explained in detail, including the categories: ontology, semantic model, semantic web, semantic modeling through ontologies, as well as the languages and standards for cataloging cultural objects. The concept of virtual physical space (ViPS) is also examined as an environment for structured and effective presentation of the dance heritage of Bulgaria. The review and analysis show a thorough knowledge of the subject and current problems in the researched area, on the basis of which the research hypothesis, the goal and the tasks of the dissertation work are formulated in an argumentative manner.

4. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation has a volume of 155 pages and consists of an Introduction, 4 chapters, Conclusion and Bibliography. Lists of tables, figures, publications and projects, as well as photo and video material are presented as appendices. According to the requirements, a Declaration of originality and authenticity of the obtained results is attached to the dissertation. The list of bibliographical sources includes 164 titles, including sources from the fields of computer science and music and dance art. The list of publications on the dissertation topic contains 2 titles.

The problem area of the dissertation is thoroughly and competently analyzed and presented. The individual chapters are developed in detail and systematically and present the author's solutions to the tasks set. The conclusion systematizes the obtained results and lists the contributions of the dissertation work. Guidelines for future development of the topic are outlined.

I accept and positively evaluate the contributions noted in the dissertation and the abstract. In my opinion they can be defined as scientific and scientifically applied, as the following results can be distinguished from them:

- A characteristic of Bulgarian folk dance has been developed, enriching the existing knowledge in the field of national folklore;
- A qualification framework of folk dance has been proposed according to basic features such as: ethnographic area, artistic and social function, composition and number of participants, musical accompaniment;
- An ontology of Bulgarian dance folklore has been developed using the method of semantic modeling, allowing automated data processing and dissemination of information.

The contributions of the dissertation work are specifically related and fully meet the set goal and tasks of the study.

5. Opinion, recommendations and remarks

As a whole, the dissertation is distinguished by a thorough analysis of the research problems and the use of an interdisciplinary approach to their solution. Original scientific and applied scientific results have been obtained, which expand the application of information and computer technologies in the field of arts, culture and education.

My recommendation to the doctoral student is to continue research activities, prepare independent publications, as well as further improvement of the developed prototype of ontology with applications in the field of education and the digitization of cultural heritage.

6. Assessment of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

Two publications on the dissertation topic are presented, published in 2024. The publications are co-authored, in English and are in editions indexed in the Scopus and Web of Science databases. The publications reflect essential parts and main results of the research conducted and meet the requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Getting acquainted with the dissertation and the publications on the dissertation topic, gives me reason to believe that the dissertation work and the contributions therein are the personal work of the doctoral student. I am not aware of any evidence of plagiarism.

7. Abstract

The abstract is 32 pages long and meets the requirements for its formatting. Its content corresponds to the content of the dissertation and accurately presents the main results of the dissertation work. An abstract of the dissertation in English is also presented in a volume of 31 pages.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and applied scientific results that 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, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". The doctoral student Tsvetomira Ivanova Kazashka possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Informatics", demonstrating qualities and skills for conducting scientific research.

I confidently give my positive assessment of the presented dissertation and the results obtained in it. I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to grant the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Mag. Tsvetomira Ivanova Kazashka in the field of higher education: 4. "Natural Sciences Mathematics and Informatics", professional direction 4.6. "Informatics and Computer Sciences", doctoral program "Informatics".

12.03.2025

Opinion prepared by:

/Prof. Dr. Vladimir Monov/