

STATEMENT

by Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva –

**Associate Professor at the Department of Preschool Pedagogy of the Faculty of
Pedagogy**

at „Paisii Hilendarski“ University

on a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree „**Doctor**“

in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences

professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in...,

doctoral program Methodology of teaching in Bulgarian Language and Literature

Author: Gergana Georgieva Komsijska,

Topic: „Project oriented education in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of primary education“

Scientific supervisor:

1. Prof. Dr. Pedagogical Romyana Tankova – Faculty of Pedagogy at „Paisii Hilendarski“ University

2. Prof. Dr. Pedagogical Georgi Ivanov - Thracian University – Stara Zagora

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

By order No. PD-22-1621 of 11.07. 2025 from the Rector of Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“ (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for ensuring a procedure for the defence of a dissertation on the topic: „Project oriented education in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of primary education“ for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in..., doctoral program Methodology of teaching in Bulgarian language and literature. The author of the dissertation is Gergana Georgieva Komsijska - a doctoral student in part-time study at the Department of Primary School Pedagogy with scientific supervisors: Prof. Dr. P.S. Romyana Tankova - Faculty of Pedagogy of the „Paisii Hilendarski“ University and Prof. Dr. Georgi Ivanov - Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

The set of materials submitted by Gergana Georgieva Komsijska is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Plovdiv University, and includes the following documents: a request to the Rector of the Plovdiv University for the opening of the procedure for the defence of a dissertation; a CV; a report from the departmental council, related to reporting the readiness to open the procedure and to a preliminary discussion of the dissertation; dissertation; an abstract; a list of scientific

publications on the topic of the dissertation; a copy of the scientific publications; a list of noted citations; a declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents.

The doctoral student has attached 11 independent publications on the topic of the dissertation and one in co-authorship.

Gergana Komsijska has a multi-layered professional background. In 1996, she graduated at Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“ with a degree in „Primary School Pedagogy with a Psychology Profile“, with a specialization in Fine Arts. In 2003, she obtained a second master's degree in „Applied Social Psychology“ at the same university. She completed a one-year professional-pedagogical specialization at the Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ (2017–2018), organized by the Department of Information and Teacher Improvement. The training was in the field of „Development of Communication Skills“, and her diploma thesis was dedicated to the topic „Interactive Approach to the Formation of Key Competencies in the Education of Man and Society at Primary School Age“. This work marks the beginning of her targeted research on the interdisciplinary and interactive approach in primary education. In 2019, she was awarded a second professional-qualification degree, also at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

2. Relevance of the topic

The developed dissertation is extremely relevant because it is based on the concept of project-based learning as an innovative teaching approach that stimulates students to acquire knowledge and skills through the development of projects related to real problems or authentic research questions, which helps develop the student's creative competencies, as well as the ability for interdisciplinary thinking.

3. Problem knowledge

Doctoral student Gergana Komsijska has made a competent analysis of the state of the problem, concluding with reasoned conclusions and a position on individual issues. The created technological model for studying the communicative and speech skills of students at the initial stage in the conditions of project-oriented learning, including independently developed methodological algorithms and worksheets, proves this.

4. Research methodology

The selected research methodology allows achieving the set goal, and the tasks solved in the dissertation receive an adequate answer. Among the methodological ideas, the algorithms ranked according to the complexity of the verbal basis, the specificity of the visual material and the levels of complexity and execution are particularly valuable. Six types of worksheets with varying degrees of complexity have been created and used for these purposes. They are intended for Bulgarian language and literature classes, as well as for independent work: *perception, analysis and interpretation of a literary or popular science text; understanding and analysis of content – recognition of facts, comparison, language skills; retelling by using information from verbal support to structure content; analysing and interpreting, formulating direct conclusions on a given topic; forming an emotional-evaluative attitude towards a hero or historical figure; integrating knowledge and creative potential – creating a creative project.*

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertational work and contributions

The proposed dissertational work „Project oriented education in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of primary education“ is significant because it includes research on priority integrative competencies in education – development of reading literacy; building historical awareness; civic and ecological culture; scientific thinking.

An undeniable contribution is the technological model, which includes the use of various educational methods, approaches and teaching techniques, which assume an active cognitive position and motivation of students.

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

On the topic of the scientific research, 11 independent publications and one co-authored publication have been published, which show results of applied methodological options in the dissertation and analyse empirical data on the success of the educational process when using practical activities to make sense of scientific material by the child in primary school.

7. Abstract

The abstract is prepared according to the requirements of the regulations for acquiring scientific degrees at „Paisii Hilendarski“ University and the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is 32 pages long and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

8. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

I recommend that Gergana Komsyiska support the results of the scientific research by citing sample responses of students on the following expected results: *Development of argumentation skills; Creativity and expression of opinion; Retelling by using information from verbal support to structure content.*

CONCLUSION

Due to the above, I confidently give my ***positive assessment*** of the conducted research, presented in the dissertational work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and ***I propose to the honourable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ to Gergana Georgieva Komsyiska*** in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ..., doctoral program Methodology of teaching in Bulgarian language and literature.

01.09.2025

Statement by:

(signature)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva