

## OPINION

by Prof. **Natalia Ivanova Vitanova-Marinova**, member of the scientific jury of the University of Sofia “Bishop Konstantin Preslavski”, of the dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics), developed by **Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov**, on the topic: "**PEDAGOGICAL IDEAS IN THE WORK OF IVAN VAZOV**", with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Kosta Gerdjikov**

**Structure and content of the dissertation.** A well-organized package of materials is presented for an opinion: dissertation work, applications, abstract, publications. The dissertation has successfully defined parameters: total volume - 202 pages, of which the main content is 194 pages; used literature (102 sources) in Bulgarian, incl. archival materials, published documents and electronic resources. The dissertation is formed according to the canons of academic architecture: introduction (research), three chapters, conclusion, literature.

The dissertation as a style and language is precise, has a rich and accurate scientific style. The technical implementation is correct, it meets the requirements for the development of such scientific work.

The dissertation is located in a complex research field and in this context the main subject lines of the research can be commented, which mark the strengths of the dissertation.

**First**, the topic is relevant in general. It is interdisciplinary, as on the one hand it intertwines questions arising from the humanities, in particular literature and seeking answers in the context of pedagogical science, and on the other it is in the research field not only of Pedagogy but also of History of pedagogy. It is also relevant in the context of the modern world, a contradictory, uncertain, rapidly changing world. This is a world "flooded" of changes, marked by deep conflicts,

tensions and social divisions, as well as the destructive impact of modern technology on the environment. As the doctoral student accurately notes in the introduction, "such a relentless clash of ideas, values and way of life can be fatal to the hopes of all human civilization" (p. 5). At the present stage of development, society is "absorbed" by the problems of market relations, the instability of economies, political difficulties that violate social relations and moral norms. This leads to intolerance and ferocity of people, to the destruction of the inner world of the individual. Modern children are "overwhelmed" by a huge array of information - media, school, movies, Internet. All this contributes to the "blurring" of moral norms and to greater erosion of moral standards. Literature is one of the ways in which significant and influential examples can be given to children / students to help them form and establish themselves as valuable and worthy individuals.

**Second**, the object, subject, goal, tasks and methods of the dissertation research are precisely defined.

**Third**, the topic is presented in depth and analytically, the pedagogical ideas of Ivan Vazov are traced in different discourses. The interpretation covers a wide range - from the New Bulgarian education during the Enlightenment, through the factors of upbringing and the role of the family, etc., to Ivan Vazov's views on Bulgarian education in the novel "Under the Yoke". Demonstrated sense and ability for multi-layered analysis of the presented ideas and views, not only in the context of pedagogical science, but also in the context of philosophy, psychology.

**Fourth**, there is an in-depth knowledge of the literary work of Ivan Vazov as a basis for building the research procedure and the subsequent punctuation analysis, in order to derive his pedagogical ideas.

**Scientific value of the dissertation - contributions and critical notes.**  
**Contributions:** pedagogical ideas of Ivan Vazov for education and training, respectively. for education; In the context of pedagogical science, Ivan Vazov's views on Bulgarian folk psychology, the development of the Bulgarian and the process of the Bulgarian revolution are presented in the novel "Under the Yoke" and their contemporary reflections are sought.

### **Critical notes:**

- Many pedagogical ideas of Ivan Vazov are presented in each of the chapters, but the feeling of “blurring” of these views remains, as they are not generalized and systematized at the end of the chapter;
- to further improve the quality of the text it is recommended not to use 1 l.ed.h. and to avoid parasitic words (of course, of course, in this line of thought, etc.), as they do not carry any information and unnecessarily burden the text.

**Questions:** 1. What are the three most significant, according to the doctoral student, pedagogical ideas of Ivan Vazov?

2. Purposefulness, patience, perseverance, consistency, etc. personality traits or qualities are?

3. Vazov is convinced that hard work is a national virtue. What does the doctoral student think, if Vazov lived today, would he confirm this conviction?

**Publications on the dissertation. Abstract.** The submitted publications are subordinate to the topic and are a definite contribution to the popularization of the results and conclusions of the research. The list includes 5 publications, 1 of which is co-authored - a textbook on the History of Pedagogy, 1 of them is published in a specialized edition of the Ministry of Education, Pedagogy, which is indexed in a primary world database - WoS, 3 in yearbooks and collections . The following facts can also be pointed out as positive: 1. the articles submitted for review do not repeat the content of the dissertation; 2. a reasonable balance between language accessibility and scientific style has been found in all publications.

The abstract projects the content of the dissertation and follows its logic, objectively reflecting the theoretical, research and practical aspects of the problem.

**Recommendations for promoting the results.** In connection with the promotion and dissemination of the results, it is recommended that they be published in the form of a separate monograph.

**Conclusion.** In general, the dissertation meets the requirements for this type of research. It defends the criteria of heuristic significance, structure, scope

capacity, allows affirmations to be derived, has internal coordination and is balanced in sequences.

- In its structure and content, in its conceptual design, scientific breadth and depth, the work of Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov is an independent and original scientific work.
- The results achieved in the dissertation research can be considered as scientific contributions of the doctoral student.
- The foundation of the substantiated conclusions is the results of the research, which are inherently reliable and relevant.
- The dissertation meets the technical standards for the design of this type of research.
- The author can independently conduct research, present and analyze the results correctly and accurately.

The doctoral student meets the minimum national requirements for ONS "Doctor". I have no doubt about plagiarism in scientific work and publications. Based on the demonstrated qualities and skills for independent research, proven scientific contributions and original achievements, I give my **positive assessment** of the research presented by the above peer-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and offer to the esteemed scientific jury. to award **the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov** in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics).

Date: 16.11.2020.

Signed by: .....

(Prof. Natalia Vitanova, DSc)