

# THESIS STATEMENT

by **Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva –**

**Associate Professor in the Preschool Pedagogy Department**

**at the Faculty of Pedagogy**

**of PU „Paisii Hilendarski“**

for awarding the educational and scientific degree „**doctor**“

by: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences

professional direction 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy in... (Teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of education)

**Author: Teodora Yankova Valeva**

**Topic:** „Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competencies among students at primary school age via modern children's literature“

**Scientific supervisor:** Ass. Prof. Dr. Neli Ivanova, Faculty of Pedagogy, SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“

## **1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student**

By order No. RD 38 227/03.05.2023. from the Rector of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for a provision of a procedure for a thesis defence on the topic: „Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competencies among students at primary school age via modern children's literature“ for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy in... (Teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of education). The author of the thesis is Teodora Yankova Valeva - a doctoral student in part-time study at the Department of Didactics with supervisor Ass. Prof. Dr. Neli Ivanova, Faculty of Pedagogy, SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

The set of paper materials presented by Teodora Yankova Valeva is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the SU and includes the following documents: application to the Head of the Department of Didactics of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the SU to disclose the procedure for the thesis defence; a CV in European format; a protocol No. 12/25.04.2023 from the departmental council related to reporting the readiness to open the proce-

ture and to a preliminary discussion of the thesis; a dissertation work; a summary; a list of scientific publications on the topic of the thesis; a declaration of a thesis authenticity.

The doctoral student has 5 publications on the topic of the thesis.

Teodora Valeva has a master's degree in two directions: Preschool and primary school pedagogy at the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ in Burgas and Slavic Philology at SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“. She has re-qualified at Sofia University as an English teacher in secondary schools. She received her IV Professional Qualification Degree from the Department at BU „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“.

Currently, she teaches Bulgarian language and literature at the High school for Latin languages „G. S. Rakovski“ in Burgas.

## **2. Relevance of the topic**

The developed dissertational work is extremely relevant because it is based on the concept of the complex of competencies necessary for the formation of literary and sociolinguistic skills via modern children's literature among students at primary school age. The described model guarantees permanent formation of reading interests and preservation of interest in the written speech.

## **3. Knowing the problem**

Doctoral student Teodora Valeva has made a competent analysis of the state of the problem, rounding out with grounded conclusions and a position on individual issues. This is verified by the approbation of a justified model, consisting of specific methodological ideas for the formation of the above competencies.

## **4. Research methodology**

The chosen research methodology allows achieving the set goal and the tasks solved in the dissertational work receive an adequate answer. Among the methodological ideas, the concept of formation of literary and sociolinguistic competencies, including the triad of teachers-students-parents, is particularly valuable. The doctoral student correctly determines that their continuous interaction is decisive and extremely important for the teaching effectiveness not only in the initial stage of education, but also in all subsequent classes.

The rich educational environment created implies stimulating young students to show an increased interest in reading, improving their reading culture and supporting the development of their skills in the field of literary and sociolinguistic competencies.

## 5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertational work and contributions

The proposed dissertational work „Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competencies among students at primary school age via modern children's literature“ is significant because it includes research on priority competencies in Bulgarian language and literature education - formation of reading culture; permanent maintenance of interest in reading; the establishment of modern children's literature as a source of values. The research work process is aimed at improving the skills of the adolescents for their better performance in the context of learning in all academic disciplines.

An indisputable contribution is the author's package, which includes the use of a variety of educational methods, approaches and teaching techniques, implying an active knowledge position and motivation of the students.

## 6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

On the topic of scientific research, 5 (five) articles have been published, which indicate the results of applied methodological options in the thesis and analyse the empirical data on the success of the educational process in the use of various means for the creation of sociolinguistic and socio-cultural competencies among students in the initial stage of the primary educational degree by using contemporary children's literature.

## 7. Summary

The summary is made according to the requirements of the regulations for the acquisition of academic degrees of SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“ and the Law regarding the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria. It has a volume of 58 pages and reflects the main results achieved in the thesis.

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

I advise Teodora Valeva to make the results of the scientific research available to a wider circle of teachers by publishing them as a monograph or teaching aid.

## CONCLUSION

Due to the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the conducted research, presented in the dissertational work, the summary and the achieved results and contributions, and I *propose to the honourable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ to Teodora Yankova Valeva* in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy in... (Teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of education).

14.06.2023

Statement given by: .....

(signature)

Ass. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva