

REVIEW

of dissertation for awarding 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 (Theory of education)

Author: Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov

Topic: Pedagogical ideas in the work of Ivan Vazov

Scientific adviser: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kosta Gerdjikov

Reviewer: Prof. Klavdia Sapundjieva, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski"

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

Valentin Vergilov was born in 1977. He works as a primary school teacher in the town of Dupnitsa. He is a doctoral student in independent training at the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work. He graduated from SWU "Neofit Rilski" - a bachelor's degree in preschool pedagogy with a foreign language and a master's degree in pedagogical interaction with children with problem behavior. All stages of the procedure have been complied with, and the submitted documents are in compliance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of Sofia University.

2. Relevance of the topic

The topic of the dissertation is important not only in a pedagogical context, but also in a broader cultural and educational context, as it

provides an opportunity to reveal specific topics and problems in the work of Ivan Vazov. The main thesis of the research shows the possibility to find the application of the educational ideas from Vazov's works in our time. In this sense, the choice of topic is original and with strong research potential.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The dissertation presents Ivan Vazov as a thinker of education and in particular - his views on education and training. This allows the doctoral student to present not only the main works of the writer's work, but also unknown works that have not been the subject of research from a pedagogical point of view. This is a real contribution to pedagogical theory and practice. Work is the result of a serious and emotional attitude. Sufficient volume of literature is presented, which presents the current state of the problem. The dissertation is a complete and independent research on the topic, which shows the knowledge and theoretical training of the author on the researched problems. The doctoral student showed diligence, scientific reflection and responsibility in the development of the work and the corrections that were necessary during the different stages of the research.

4. Research methodology

The overall research concept is consistently outlined, structured and substantiated. The purpose and objectives of the study are clearly stated. Principles of work are derived, which facilitate the research and show the

ability for theoretical analysis and synthesis. The main idea takes Vazov's work beyond the literary categories - in the field of education and enlightenment, which allow us to see him as a modern educator and national educator.

The dissertation is theoretical in nature and this predetermines the difficulty of the analysis. The methods used are appropriate and allow for a comprehensive presentation of the problems related to the topic. It should be noted that the topic requires a broad culture, analysis of the socio-cultural and historical environment and understanding of the artistic language. I must immediately say that the author has succeeded.

5. Structure and characteristics of the dissertation

Structurally, the dissertation consists of a study statement, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography - 202 pages. The literature contains 102 sources, 97 of which are in Cyrillic and 10 in Latin. The layout and language of the work are accurate and precise.

The three chapters of the work are devoted to different research fields on the topic, which together give a complete picture of the pedagogical ideas and educational work of Ivan Vazov. The first chapter reveals the position and role of Vazov in the era of the Bulgarian Enlightenment, as well as his contributions to the school. The second chapter is the core of labor, because it reveals the main parameters of the study related to the spheres of education - the family, the moral and value system, labor education, art education, religion. Numerous works from different literary genres are analyzed and pedagogical generalizations, approaches, views are derived. This is a real contribution that gives a new perspective for understanding Vazov's work. The third chapter is devoted to the novel "Under the Yoke"

and the artistic image of the modern Bulgarian school, education and their role in the national revolution. The purposeful pedagogical analysis of the novel is a real contribution, as it presents the picture of education, upbringing and educational work on the eve of the Liberation on the basis of various plot lines and literary texts.

The conclusions and summaries made follow the analyzes in the text and have immediate pedagogical significance. They are aimed at understanding the meaning of: education, moral behavior, humility, kindness, love, pedagogical mastery of the teacher, art, work, etc. The role of Vazov's life and work for the national prosperity, for the connection between the school and the national liberation struggles, for the formation of the national character of the Bulgarian and others is presented.

6. Assessment of the doctoral student's contributions and authorship

The dissertation is a personal work of the doctoral student, and the text correctly presents authors, views, literary and scientific research on the topic. The presented contributions are correct and follow both the main idea of the author and the analyzes from the dissertation. There is a very good knowledge of the literary work of Ivan Vazov, basic pedagogical ideas are presented and the writer's views on the folk psychological characteristics of the Bulgarians are presented, the meaning and their place in our time is sought. The work focuses on an insufficiently researched research field, which in itself is a contribution that enriches not only the pedagogical theory, but also the image of the folk poet.

7. Abstract and publications

The abstract reflects the main achievements of the work and is sufficiently representative. There are 5 publications from different scientific genres, 4 of which are independent and one - co-authored.

8. Notes and recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

My main remark is related to the possible achievement of a more critical analysis and a more academic style, as well as overcoming the overly instructive and didactic style in places, as well as some pedagogically definite definitions and qualifications for Vazov's work. The leading thing is creativity, art, and the pedagogical can only be derived from it. In this sense, the main thesis of conclusion № 1 - p. 189 is reversed, and hence the whole conclusion: not creativity is subordinated to the idea / "mission" of education, but from / to creativity we can derive and subordinate ideas about upbringing and education. My other note is related to the need to have summaries and conclusions at the end of the individual chapters.

Summary: The dissertation presents a topical and significant problem for pedagogical theory and practice. The research has the main qualities of a dissertation. The results and conclusions have a specific scientific and practical significance for the pedagogical theory and school practice, for acquainting teachers and students with the pedagogical views of Ivan Vazov, as well as for teaching his works at school.

CONCLUSION: The dissertation has a number of indisputable qualities and is

in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the regulations for its implementation. On the basis of the mentioned contributions I give my **positive assessment** for Valentin Vergilov to receive the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.2 Pedagogy, doctoral program "Theory of education and didactics" - Theory of education.

19. 11. 2020

Prof. Klavdia Sapundjieva