

Opinion

On the dissertation on topic: "Pedagogical ideas in the work of Ivan Vazov"

For acquisition of ONS "Doctor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program "Theory of education and didactics" - theory of education.

Doctoral student: Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Pironkova

The dissertation covers 202 pages, divided into an introductory part called "Study Statement", three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The bibliography includes 93 sources - 1 archive fund, documents and periodicals, scientific research. 9 websites are also listed. The author has based his research on a comprehensive study of Ivan Vazov's work and the publications of his researchers as motivation for the choice of topic, and has come to the conclusion, that " there is no in-depth study in the scientific literature to present the views of the artist Vazov on education, training and education "(p. 10). In order to justify this conclusion in a clearer manner, it is necessary to indicate the existing research on the topic.

The presentation of the scientific research is detailed, the object and subject of the research, working concepts, purpose, tasks, and methods are clarified. The structure of the dissertation project reflects the set tasks and the three chapters consider successively the construction of Vazov as a person and an artist and his connection with the school and pedagogy; his pedagogical ideas; and the image of Bulgarian education in the novel "Under the Yoke".

The first chapter "Ivan Vazov and the Spirit of the New Age" examines the life and work of the writer, emphasizing the influence of the ideas of the Enlightenment. Ivan Vazov's family environment, school years, education and teaching have been studied as a source of a number of his pedagogical ideas. In connection with the topic, the creation of the two-volume anthology of literature (co-authored with K. Velichkov) is considered, as well as his activity as Minister of Public Education.

The second chapter "The Creator Vazov for the field of education" with its 120 pages is the largest chapter and it consistently addresses pedagogical issues such as: the family as an educational factor, moral value system, labor, physical education and ecology, the educational role of art, religion and (self) education, and socio-pedagogical aspects of the Bulgarian education. In this chapter V. Vergilov presents the pedagogical ideas which are systematized in this way in the overall work of Vazov - poetry and prose, and seeks a connection with the current state of pedagogy. The reflection of Vazov's pedagogical ideas is consistent, but some connections with

the present are not substantiated. At times, it is not the scientific analysis that prevails, but the vindication of Ivan Vazov's ideas and works. Considering the development of the Bulgarian school during the Revival (point 6.1.) as part of the "Socio-pedagogical aspects of Bulgarian education" skips the scientific (historical and pedagogical) research on the problem and this deprives the author of the opportunity to assess the reality of the literary image of the Bulgarian school.

The third chapter is entitled "Under the Yoke – Vazov's View of Bulgarian Education" and contains three parts: pedagogical factors of development, the artistic image of the modern Bulgarian school, and education in the national revolution. The research is focused on the novel, drawing parallels with other works by Vazov and looking for contemporary dimensions of pedagogical ideas, e.g. the role of the teacher in pedagogical communication. Here, too, the work would benefit from a comparison of the artistic images and pedagogical ideas in the novel with the research on Bulgarian education during the Renaissance, e.g. the researches of N. Genchev, A. Dimitrov, V. Boycheva, S. Stefanov - a comparison that will become an objective basis for the evaluation of the pedagogical ideas of I. Vazov.

In the conclusion the author brings out the most important pedagogical ideas, expressed in the artistic work of I. Vazov, systematizing them in 11 points. With the exception of some vague formulations (e.g. conclusions 6 and 7), they derive from the exposition and support V. Vergilov's thesis.

The dissertation is a theoretical study that enriches our knowledge of the problems of education in the artistic work of Ivan Vazov. Among the positive aspects of the work are: a detailed and extensive study of the work of I. Vazov, consistent and systematic study of the topic, an independent position of the author sustained in style and language. In some places prevails the literary rather than the pedagogical analysis - e.g. the summary of Chapter 2. The works of I. Vazov from the edition "Collected Essays: In 22 Volumes" 1974-1979 (№ 21 from the bibliography) were probably used, which is not indicated in the text and the relevant volume and pages are not indicated in the citation.

The doctoral student's publications on the topic of the dissertation are 5 in number - 4 in non-refereed editions and 1 in a refereed journal, 4 independent and 1 co-authored.

The doctoral student's contributions reflect the achievements in the dissertation, contribution 2 can be refined.

The abstract corresponds to the structure and content of the dissertation.

The dissertation contains scientific results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the law. The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov has in-depth theoretical knowledge in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the aforesaid, I give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above-mentioned peer-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I offer the

esteemed scientific jury to award Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov 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.

29.11.2020 г.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Georgieva Pironkova