

OPINION

by assoc. prof. Rositsa Penkova, PhD

for the thesis on:

“Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences in primary school-age students through contemporary children's literature”

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD"

Area of higher education 1. Educational sciences

Professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of study in...

(Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature at the primary stage of education)

Teaching institution. Sofia University" St. Cyril and Methodius", Department of Didactics, Faculty of Pedagogy

Doctoral student: Teodora Yankova Valeva

Scientific supervisor: prof. Dr. Neli Ivanova

1. Data for Teodora Valeva about her thesis, abstract and publication information

Teodora Valeva is enrolled as a part-time PhD student in 2020 and by the Rector's Order No. RD 38-227/03.05.2023 the procedure for the defense of a dissertation thesis for the award of PhD is opened. No information has been

submitted on any violations committed with regard to the procedure for the doctoral degree, as well as the execution of the thesis. The dissertation was discussed at a meeting of the Department of Didactics - Faculty of Education, Sofia University. Kliment Ohridski" and directed for public defense.

The dissertation that Teodora Valeva proposes for consideration is of theoretical-research and practical-applied nature. It has a total volume of 214 pages, 163 pages of main text and 51 pages with 7 annexes. 99 sources are used on the topic, of which 14 are in Latin and 85 in Cyrillic. The main text contains 4 diagrams, 16 histograms, 17 tables, 3 figures and 2 graphs.

The dissertation has a classical structure - an introduction, three main chapters, which include a theoretical part, a didactic model with the organization of the study and an empirical part with analysis, which are in logical unity and give completeness to the work. There are also a conclusion, implications and described contributions which are an integral part of the proposed work.

An abstract is also attached, which contains 58 pages and reflects objectively the content of the dissertation, giving a comprehensive picture of its structure and the results of the research. It is structured and formatted according to the requirements. Five articles reflecting different aspects of the dissertation research have also been submitted.

The overall study is subordinated to the set research goal related to the formation and development of literary and sociolinguistic competences in primary school-age students through contemporary literature for children. There is a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the normative regulation of Bulgarian language and literature education, the expected learning outcomes for the formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences in grades 1-4 in the context of the Preschool and School Education Law (PSEL), as well as the possibilities of contemporary Bulgarian literature for children to improve the reading culture of students in grades 1-4.

The theoretical analysis includes a review and systematization of various scientific concepts related to the mental development of the child at primary school age.

The conducted research is logically interrelated with the theoretical part as well as with the general idea of the dissertation. There is a clearly stated aim, well-formulated tasks, object and subject of the research and multifaceted hypothesis. A research instrument has been selected that guarantees, on the one hand, the reliability of the results and, on the other hand, its sustainability. The results obtained in the course of the empirical study are processed,

thoroughly analyzed and very well illustrated. Clear and well systematized generalizations and conclusions are drawn, logically following the overall theoretical and empirical study. The text is well organized, readable and easy to comprehend and make sense of.

Findings and recommendations

In connection with the submitted dissertation on: **"Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences in primary school-age students through contemporary children's literature"** the following findings and recommendations can be made findings:

1. The dissertation has a marked theoretical and practical-applied significance, without belittling its scientific merits. Difficulties in reading fiction are diagnosed, a model is developed, the methodological ideas of which diversify the work of teachers, contribute to the development of creative talents of young students, assist parents, making the link between learning and upbringing inseparable.

2. Regarding the theoretical contributions, there are several very important ones such as: an in-depth survey of the opinion of both primary teachers and parents on the level of formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences of students. The level of the formed competences of the pupils was determined by means of a test battery of two didactic tests related to the perception and comprehension of a scientific and a literary text.

3. The challenge of the proposed dissertation is the attempt to develop, appropiate and implement on the basis of a study of scientific literature, of different points of view, including that of the author, a model consisting of specific methodological ideas for developing sociolinguistic and literary competences with the means of contemporary Bulgarian literature for children.

Recommendation:

I recommend the PhD student to develop her own resources, which are subordinated to the curriculum, supporting the process of learning Bulgarian language and literature at the primary stage in the formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences through contemporary literature for children.

Conclusion

Based on the above, I believe that the developed dissertation on "**Formation of literary and sociolinguistic competences in primary school-age students through contemporary children's literature**" authored by Teodora Valeva possesses all the necessary and mandatory characteristics of a qualitative scientific research with significant contributions to pedagogical theory and practice. This gives me reason to express my conviction that he deserves to be appreciated on his merits.

I declare my **positive vote for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Teodora Yankova Valeva** in the professional field: 1.3. (Methodical of teaching Bulgarian language and literature in the primary stage of education).

30.05. 2023

Drafted the opinion:
Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Penkova