

STATEMENT

on a doctoral thesis for awarding an educational and scientific doctoral degree

by Prof. ANGELINA YANEVA, PhD

an internal member of the SJ, determined by order of the Rector: № ПД 38-317/02.07.2019

Faculty: Educational Sciences and the Arts, Sofia University
Department: Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy
Professional area: 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching in kindergarten and primary school in physical education and sports)
Author: **NIKOLINA MILKOVA TANKUSHEVA**
Independent doctoral student
Topic: DIDACTIC TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COORDINATION ABILITIES OF STUDENTS AT PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE THROUGH GYMNASTICS
Supervisor: Prof. Elena Nikolova Dzhambazova – Spasunina. PhD

PhD student Nikolina Tankusheva has been an assistant professor at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts since 2015. Nikolina Tankusheva has developed professionally by consecutively acquiring the following qualifications at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski", Sofia:

- Bachelor's degree, specialized in 'Sports coach in Gymnastics' - 2008;
- Master's degree in 'Adapted Physical Activity for Children with Disabilities' - 2009;
- Postgraduate qualification 'Teacher of Physical Education' – 2014 - 2016.

Nikolina Tankusheva is known to the sports and academic community as an:

- Long-time athlete in the women's national gymnastics team;
- Multiple champion of Bulgaria;
- Participant in European and World Championships and the Beijing Olympic Games;

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- Sports Gymnastics Coach – ‘Gymnastics’ club CSKA - Sofia since 2008;
- Sports Gymnastics Judge - National Category since 2009;
- Participation in the preparation of mass gymnastic compositions;
- Leader - trainer of student internship.

The PhD thesis on ‘Didactic technology for development of the coordination abilities of students at primary school age through gymnastics’ has been structured in: an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, contributions, bibliography and appendices. The volume is 258 pages, of which 36 pages contain the help materials as appendices. The paper is well illustrated through 41 tables and 69 figures.

The literature used by the author consists of 199 sources, of which 37 are in English and 12 internet websites. The large number of sources used is the basis for a thorough study of the problem.

In the first chapter (77 pages), the author examines in didactic sequence the problems of didactic technology, motor abilities, peculiarities in the development of primary school students, the importance and place of gymnastics in the system of physical education and sport.

In the second chapter, the doctoral student presents the methodology of sports pedagogical research. The purpose, tasks, hypothesis, subject and object of the study are properly formulated and relevant to the topic of the study. The large scope of the survey – 1073 children in 13 schools from 10 settlements, makes the study significant and representative.

The test battery include a set of 5 tests measuring anthropometric parameters (height, weight, body mass index, chest measured in pause and respiratory difference) and a set of 3 tests measuring the level of coordination abilities. The tests are described accurately and clearly, with the potential to be used by other researchers.

The second chapter presents, illustrates (including photos) and structures the technology, program and technological steps for developing coordination abilities with the means of gymnastics, while enabling the inclusion of children with special educational needs.

The main mathematical and statistical methods for processing the results used by the doctoral student are variation analysis, hypothesis testing (Student's T-test), factor and one-way ANOVA and sigma method for developing a normative basis for evaluation.

Chapter three consists of 75 pages in which the doctoral student presents (graphically and in tables), analyses and interprets the results of the tests carried out at the beginning of the study and

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at the end of the study after the conducted pedagogical experiment with the presented experimental technology.

At the end of the work, the results of the study have been summarized by formulating 8 conclusions and 4 recommendations that confirm the hypothesis, enrich and increase knowledge of the theory and practice of physical education and sports, and in particular the development of coordination abilities of 9-10 year old students.

PhD student Nikolina Tankusheva has fulfilled the requirement for publishing the results of the doctorate and has published three articles in scientific journals and conference proceedings related to the topic of doctoral work.

The abstract meets the requirements and covers the thesis to a large degree.

The author is fluent in the Bulgarian language, except for a few spelling mistakes. The expressive and stylistic means used in the paper are on a high level.

The scientific and practical merits of the submitted research paper and the research potential of the PhD student give grounds for a positive evaluation of the doctoral research.

I propose to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively and to award the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' to Nikolina Tankusheva in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching in kindergarten and primary school in physical education and sports).

30.07.2019

Prof. Anzhelina Yaneva, PhD