

## **STANDPOINT**

*by associate professor, doctor Petar Raykov Petrov (retiree - Varna)*

*assessment of dissertation paper "The Pedagogical Ideas in Ivan Vazov's creative work"*

*Higher education area: 1. Pedagogical sciences*

*Professional track 1.2. Pedagogics*

*Academical programm : „Theory of Education and Didactics” – Theory of Education*

*Author: Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov*

*Academical supervisor: associate professor Kosta Gerdjikov*

### ***I. General characteristics of the dissertation paper***

In regards to the taxonomy of pedagogical research, the current dissertation paper definitely qualifies as a theoretical research, with a standing out broad aspect in the field of Ivan Vazov's diverse creative work. V. Vergilov's presentation is represented by the set of materials, presented during the period of doctoral studies and for the defending of the doctorate. These are all in the required format, compliant with the Law for Development the Academic Structures and the procedure and rules for acquiring a scientific degree and occupying an academic positions in a Higher Education Unit. The professional biography of the candidate gives a perspective of his creativity and focus over time. The dissertation paper is developed with a total text structure of 202 pages. It's structure is as follows: 3 main sections, conclusion and bibliography. The used information resources have the following volume: 92 cyrillic resources, 16 latin resources. The style of the exposition is precise, clear and to the point.

### ***II. Contentful dimensions of the dissertation paper***

In the beginning of this standpoint I am sharing my personal positive impression and professional satisfaction from the choice of topic for the dissertation paper by the doctoral student and their scientific supervisor. The arguments are based on the following main conclusions. The majority of dissertation papers in the sphere of pedagogical sciences exclude the creative work of famous Bulgarian authors in the field of literature and other arts. The creative work of many authors could be promoted and enriched by the analytical presentation of their educational ideas in the context of the era in which they live and work.

This fact will contribute to the deeper understanding of the dynamically changing horizons of modern day pedagogics and social reality. I would like to point out one more statement. It often occurs that oblivion results in loss of meaning and underestimation of the spiritual national values. The multi-sided publicity is presented via scientific and creative activity, via promotion of ideas, via protection and assertion of national traditions, etc., in order to enrich the culture of the nation through the generations. The interpretation of Ivan Vazov's pedagogical ideas /which is V. Vergilov's goal/ is a sign of deep respect for the author's ingenious work. The interpretation of his ideas and life activities in self sacrifice for the Bulgarian nation /from a pedagogical point of view/ could be a keeper of values through the years. With this statement I would like to note the relevance and importance of the topic of this dissertation paper.

After a detailed review of the content of the paper, you get the idea of a non-traditional approach in compiling its structure /e.g. "the general characteristics of the research", "the novel "Under the Yoke" as a creative perspective on Bulgarian education"/. But it is in research with accent to other areas of science, where the common borders in planning and organizing the scientific and research activity could be crossed.

The theoretical toolkit is presented in a clear and specific form, so that the principles of reliability and objectivity of the results are kept: object, subject, goal, tasks and scientific thesis. The methodology of the research also includes: principles, scientific approaches, research methods. The developed **Chapter 1** is a cumulative figure of Ivan Vazov's valuable ideas from the aspect of modern day reality - his educational mission and contribution to the Bulgarian school. **Chapter 2** is defined in a problem analysing point of view towards the spheres of education: the family as an educational factor, labor education and ecology, the educational role of art, etc. Reasonably, the attention in **chapter 3** is focused on the novel "Under the Yoke". The analysis of its contents (irrespective of the commonly known life and pedagogically orientated comments) represents the author's and conceptual understanding of the organization in the new Bulgarian school; of the approaches - innovative for their time, which exceed the traditional perspectives of the teacher and their occupation; of the interaction between a student and a teacher, etc. These problems are also interconnected as a sophisticated construction of the modern day perspective of social education.

### ***III. Values and achievements of the dissertation paper***

Specific in its content, the current theoretical research suggests a broad overview and deep knowledge of Ivan Vazov's creative work, which allows the author of the dissertation paper to validate specific theories and views, in regards to the educational reality and practice. V. Vergilov undoubtedly possesses the ability to summarize, make comparisons based on Ivan Vazov's in-depth conclusions from the creative work, life experiences and practise.

#### **IV. Scientific contribution**

There is a thesis in pedagogical diagnostics, that each scientific concept should "penetrate" not just the planned activities, but also preserve its living density and validation via the contributing moments. The scientific contribution matches the logical constructive scheme of the theoretical research, conclusive of two thesis: the first one - about Ivan Vazov's perceptions about the Bulgarian folk psychology; and the second - about his main ideas with applicable effect to the modern day pedagogical theory.

*The Abstract* has an overall volume of 48 pages and complies to the content and structure of the dissertation paper. The publications, presented on the dissertation topic (a total of 5 pieces) are enough for awarding an academic and scientific title - "doctor". No doubts of plagiarism are present.

#### **V. Critical notes and recommendations**

Each theoretical or empirical research allows a certain amount of wiggle room for increasing the quality and practical value of the scientific work. V. Vergilov's personal decisions will most likely be related to creative activities on the dissertation paper topic and will depend on his research related plans and professional realization. That being said, comes our question for the author of the work. Is it possible to apply empirical methods (e.g. expert evaluation) for the purpose of researching the implications and reflections of Ivan Vazov's perceptions in modern day educational space. Our suggestion is, the results of the theoretical research to play the role of a creative impulse towards broadening the text content and transforming it into a monograph.

#### **Overall conclusion**

The dissertation paper is characterized by the features of a complex theoretical research, contains theoretically logical arguments, is in compliance with the Law for Development the Academic Structures of the Republic of Bulgaria. This gives me valid grounds to propose to the respected scientific jury to award Valentin Kostadinov Vergilov the academic and scientific degree "doctor" in higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional track 1.2. Pedagogics, Academical programm : „Theory of Education and Didactics" – Theory of Education.

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