

REVIEW

on dissertation

„FAMILY RELATIONS AND THE "EDUCATION" FACTOR IN THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA - BETWEEN CONFUCIAN TRADITIONS AND
MODERNITY”

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Scientific specialty: Languages of the peoples of Asia, Africa and America
(Korean language and society)

professional field 2.1 Philology

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Aneta Rumenova Dimitrova graduated with a bachelor's degree in "Korean Studies" and a master's degree in "Korean Society and Culture" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She continued her education there with a Postgraduate qualification in Japanese language and culture. Aneta Dimitrova specialized in Hanguk University of Foreign Languages (Seoul, South Korea). Since 2019, she is a doctoral student at the Department of Korean Studies of FCMP, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". She teaches Korean language in "Agora" - Sofia. Since 2014, she has been a part-time teacher in the Department of Korean Studies and also works as a media analyst.

Aneta Dimitrova has lectures and exercises on Korean language, Korean foreign studies, Korean culture, modern Korean society. The PhD student knows the language of young people in contemporary Korean society, researches gender relations and family transformations in the Republic of Korea. The knowledge and experience that Aneta Dimitrova accumulates in her studies and work are a good basis for choosing the topic of her dissertation work. This topic is important and innovative. During the period of her studies, the doctoral student has fulfilled the minimum national scientometric requirements.

The dissertation consists of 184 pages and 150 of them are the main text. 164 bibliographic sources were used. The structure of the dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and three appendices. Appendices complement the research with specialized vocabulary, proverbs, graphics and tables related to the researched topic.

The subject, aims and tasks of the research are presented in the introduction. The methods used are indicated. The need to study the traditional and modern Korean family, Confucianism in the context of the family and Korean society, Confucian impact on education, and education itself as a family value is defended. The terminology used is outlined.

In Chapter One, "Nature and Features of the Korean Family", an important issue related to the characteristics of the traditional Korean family and its modern transformations is presented. The main emphasis is on: the role of Confucian values - honor, humanity and ritual consciousness; family relationships and roles; the rights and responsibilities of family members. Their preservation and changes are considered. The central role of children is indicated, as their successes will contribute to the well-being of all family members. Attention to the main factors of modernization in family relations in the modern world is paid. As a result of the changes, the PhD student points to the reduction of family members and the creation of new family forms (*kirogi kajok* and "*weekend couples*"). The conclusion is argued that Western influence through Christianity and modern education lead to the weakening of patriarchal society and the rise of women's status.

Chapter Two examines "Education and its impact on family relations from the Joseon period to the present." It analyzes the place of education as a symbol of prestige and prosperity - an understanding that was developed and confirmed under the influence of Confucianism. In a historical context, the role of the man in the system of state exams, ensuring a high social status for those who successfully passed them, is presented. Contemporary transformations in Korean education, which retains its prestige, are analyzed. Alternative forms of private education are

considered. The conclusion that in Korea "shadow education" (private lessons) leads to a fusion of culture and functionality is valuable. The important role of the mother in both the upbringing of the children and their education is outlined. It is concluded that the importance of education leads to changes in the family, family relations and expectations and can cause social problems.

The Chapter Three of the dissertation is entitled "Gender Relations and the Social Consequences of Confucianism's Clash with Modern Reality." This chapter is central to the research and has important contributions to the dissertation topic. It presents the contradictions between tradition and modernity, which mainly affect the younger generations. The consequences of patriarchal ideas about the family and gender inequality are analyzed. This part of the dissertation examines the shift from Confucian understandings to the rise of individualism in the Republic of Korea. The consequences of the so-called solo culture (including those categorized as alpha girls and gold miss) in the strictly collective Korean society. The study also looked at the group of single elderly people as a result of their inability to provide good education for their children. An important finding is the inability or unwillingness of many young Koreans to follow traditional hierarchical norms and requirements in family relationships.

The conclusion summarizes important research findings. The dissertation emphasizes that Confucian values are transforming, but remain at the core of the family and interpersonal relationships. The appendices are an important contribution and summarize material that can be used for further research. The dissertation's summary accurately and completely presents the results of the research. The publications on the topic are much more than required and represent important parts of the dissertation text.

The contributions of the dissertation are several. Aneta Dimitrova's dissertation is the first comprehensive scientific study in Bulgaria on family relations in the Republic of Korea and their connection with Confucian values. The interrelationship between Confucianism and education in the traditional and

contemporary Korean family is examined. The influence of education on choices and roles in the modern Korean family and focuses on children with their educational needs are analyzed . The reflection of Confucian traditions on the emergence of social problems in modern Korean society (gender inequality, reduction of family members, reluctance to marry) is traced. A valuable contribution are the analyzes of new social phenomena (solo culture, the sampo generation, Gold Miss, etc.), which lead to difficulties in the implementation of traditional expectations and the financial provision of education.

The topic of the dissertation is new and important for Bulgarian science. The results presented are valuable. I support the scientific contributions formulated by the PhD student. The dissertation text meets the requirements of the Law (RSASR and PPZRASRB) and the minimum national scientometric requirements. Therefore, I strongly suggest to the respected Scientific Jury to award Aneta Rumenova Dimitrova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional direction 2.1. Philology.

Sofia, 10 May 2023

Prof. Ivanka Vlaeva, PhD