**R E C E N T I O N S**

* For the dissertation entitled: "THE TEACHER - THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY OF XX-XXI CENTURY / Ethnological Study/ "
* for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Asya Valentinova Valcheva - a full-time PhD student in the professional field - 3.1: "Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences" /Ethnology/ at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Faculty of History
* Scientific supervisor : Professor Dr. Mira Markova
* Reviewer : Professor Dr. Irina Koleva / Department of Ethnology ., e-mail: ikkoleva@ uni-sofia.bg
* **General presentation of the procedure and the dissertant**

The review is submitted on the basis of the order " № RD 38-447 / dated 19.07. 2023, of the Rector of Sofia University " St. Kliment Ohridski".

Doctoral student Asya Valcheva has submitted the necessary documents related to the procedure for the defense of her dissertation. She has enclosed. The literature used includes 115 items, as follows: 59 sources, of which 44 are in Cyrillic and 15 in Latin; and 55 documentary and informational sources.

The text in the dissertation is illustrated by 10 graphs - diagrams and 5 tables and two figures by cited author. An abstract is attached. The dissertation package complies with the requirements of the Law on Research and Development and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on Research and Development, as well as the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for the Occupation of Academic Positions of the Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Formally, the dissertation contains: introduction, three chapters, conclusions, conclusion.

Asya Valcheva is a full-time PhD student at the Department of Ethnology - Faculty of History.

Her professional profile is related to school education. She has worked as a history teacher, a public educator, and currently she is the deputy director for educational activities at 109 “Hristo Smirnenski” Primary School in Sofia. She has held positions as class teacher and pedagogical advisor. This administrative position and continued and active work as a teacher offers a personal reflective insight into the topic of her dissertation.

Bachelor in Ethnology. /Specialization in European Ethnology/ of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Historical Faculty. She also has a teaching license - history teacher. / and other related subjects/.

Master`s degree in History. / Sofia University "St. Kliment Kliment". Master`s program - "Historical and Ethnic Models of National Security". Doctoral student Valcheva actively participates in all initiatives in the department. Since the degree is also educational, I would like to share her active participation in the learning process with students in several courses in the following specialties : " Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology": " History and Philosophy"/ and " History and Geography". The information she provides is always up-to-date and at the appropriate high-tech didactic level, which is the educational marker of the Department of Ethnology.

Her academic profile proves her basic competences in the professional field.

She has participated in project activities on the profile of her doctoral program, as a member of the civic association "Permanent Education", social projects such as cultural international exchanges and organization of activities of the Bulgarian Youth Red Cross (BYRC), organizing interest activities with children on the topic "Bulgarian Ethnology" under the program "Your Hour" and others.

For the purposes of the requirements for the award of the PhD, it is necessary to state that the PhD student has fulfilled her individual plan for the three years with a positive attestation evaluation.

* **Relevance**

The dissertation combines several scientific fields: ethnology, ethno-pedagogy, anthropology of education and history of pedagogy and Bulgarian education.

The topic chosen by the dissertant and her supervisor is topical and significant.

In terms of content, the proposed dissertation is syncretic in its scientific paradigm. It raises the question of the role of the teacher as a knowledge carrier for moderating the individual learning process and the individual approach to mentoring in the process of educating the student in the conditions of the fourth technological revolution. Risks that may occur, in the process of education in the context of general artificial intelligence are also discussed. This is an unexplored field in educational anthropology and ethnology. In this sense, the chosen topic is relevant and significant.

Being a teacher and deputy director of an educational institution, PhD student Valcheva presents a personal reflective technique, which in turn is an applied scientific contribution.

In chapter three of her dissertation she presents a cross-section of the educational picture in our country. A worrying fact is the absence of pedagogical and psychological knowledge in teachers, which calls into question the competence-oriented role of the teacher. The scientific hypothesis proves that at this stage no transition to "innovative education" as the teacher himself has no knowledge of pedagogical innovation. This poses a risk and a threat to the particular student and his/her behavioural patterns in socio-psychological terms.

A significant and topical ethnological study is presented

* **Knowing the problem**

PhD student Asya Valcheva has the necessary experience of organizational and pedagogical activity in the field of public education sector. Given her personal and professional competences, I could say that she has didactic motivation, responsibility and continuous striving for improvement. These are important personal qualities for a research scientist. There is a syncretism between the basic knowledge in the field of ethnology, the possible projections in ethno-pedagogy and the professional competence of the doctoral student as a teacher.

The theoretical analysis is carried out in ethnological terms with a transition to a discussion, in and to each theoretical chapter, of the thesis.

* **Research Methodology**

The methodology presented in the dissertation is built on ethnological approaches in the field of anthropology of education and ethnology, such as: reflexive, cultural, axiological and ethno-pedagogical.

* **Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis and contributions**

Asya Valcheva possesses scientific and research competence, which is a sufficient basis for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

The dissertation in paradigmatic and semantic terms meets the requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". It has the characteristics of **scientific - applied research.**

Undoubtedly, the dissertation represents an original scientific research that provokes us to a reflexive picture of the phenomena studied.

The language and style of presentation are clear and scientifically sound. The conceptual scientific apparatus is freely operated.

* **The main contributions are elaborated in:**
* **Theoretical Plan:**
* A cross-section of a reflective picture of the role of the teacher and the current attitudes of society towards it is presented.
* A personal reflective pedagogical technique in ethnological terms is presented.
* A variational diagnostic toolkit is presented. /by I. Koleva/
* A comparative analysis of the teacher's values in the horizontal relationship :" East - West", based on the philosophy of J. Nomura.
* An ethno-pedagogical analysis of modern educational - pedagogical innovation programs has been carried out.
* **Research /empirical/plan:**
* A field-based ethno-pedagogical study was conducted on teachers' needs and biases for the implementation of "innovative educational programs".
* Conducted semi-structured interviews with teachers in two blocks regarding the implementation of "innovative educational programs" in school settings.
* A diagnostic cross-section of professional and personal competences of the Bulgarian teacher for the transition to "innovative education" has been carried out by means of a questionnaire distributed online. which proves the utopianism of the proposed idea in a national perspective.
* A primary empirical quantitative and expert - qualitative analysis of the results obtained from the diagnostic study was carried out.
* **Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the dissertant**

Asya Valentinova Valcheva is the author of more than three publications on the topic of the dissertation. The publications are in academic journals / two in the journal. She has published two academic papers in academic journals and two in academic publications, two in academic journals and one in a national conference. They cover both scientific fields: ethnopedagogy and ethnology.

The doctoral student's personal contribution is undeniable. Asya Valcheva is an established and experienced researcher in the field of academic and state educational sector, who has developed her pragmatically-oriented activities into research-oriented ones.

This dissertation is a self-study that presents Asya Valentinova Valcheva as a researcher with a high degree of correlation, relative to her professional competencies.

* **Abstract**

The abstract presents the main scientific paradigms, theses and conceptual conclusions of the dissertation research carried out. It reflects from a formal and substantive point of view the full text of the doctoral dissertation.

* **Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results**

 I take the liberty to recommend to PhD student Valcheva the development of scientifically - grounded proposals for changes in the professiogram of the modern teacher, in view of the update of the state education standard.

My question is :" Please discuss the three elements of pedagogical innovation and how they relate in the hierarchy of values in your understanding of the relations between " traditional culture and traditional education?"

* **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation work of Asya Valentinova Valcheva, its scientific - theoretical and scientific - applied contributions, presented through the publications of the doctoral dissertation, correspond to the field and professional direction for the award of the educational and scientific degree.

The educational and scientific activity of the PhD student as well as the research results achieved by her give me grounds to recommend with conviction to the esteemed scientific jury to vote for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field -3.1. : "Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences"/ Ethnology/ to Asya Valentinova Valcheva.

06.09.2023 Reviewer /Irina Koleva /

 Sofia