

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Lubenova Ravnachka,

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member of the scientific jury for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...

doctoral program: Teaching Methodology in Geography

Author: Stanislava Plamenova Misheva

Topic: APPLICATION OF MARIA MONTESSORI METHODOLOGY IN GEOGRAPHY TEACHING

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Petrova Vassileva

This statement was prepared on the basis of Order № RD 38-662 of 19.12.2022 by the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Candidate data

Stanislava Misheva was born in 1988. She graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2011, majoring in "History and Geography" (bachelor's degree). In 2014, he obtained a master's degree in "Italian Philology: Anthropological Studies of the Mediterranean and the Balkans: Italy-Bulgaria" at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philologies of the University.

From September 2019 to the present moment, she is an assistant in the "Regional Development" department at the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski". She speaks Spanish, Italian and English.

Dissertation data

The presented work has a volume of 220 pages. The dissertation is structured in an Introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and five appendices. The text material is illustrated with 18 tables and 7 figures. The list of literature includes 159 titles in Bulgarian, Russian, Italian and English.

The text of the dissertation is written concisely, in a logical sequence and is well structured. I appreciate the fact that 57% of the information sources are in English and Italian.

The introduction presents the relevance, significance, goals and objectives of the study. It is directly related to the problems, the solutions of which are sought by the modern geographical education in the secondary school in Bulgaria. The topic of the dissertation is current and dissertationable.

In the first chapter "Theoretical foundations of the problem of educational technologies in learning" an overview is made and the used conceptual and terminological apparatus is analyzed. The need for "educational technologies" in geography education has been assessed.

The importance of "pedagogical technology" for increasing the effectiveness of the educational process has been revealed. A rationale is made for the mutual relationship between the concepts of learning technology and learning methodology, without overlapping. The types and varieties of technologies applied in training, its structural components, types of strategies and training techniques are considered. The doctoral student pays special attention to cognitive strategies for learning.

The second chapter, "The Montessori Methodology - Technology of Self-Development" presents a private didactic interpretation of Maria Montessori's methodology. The doctoral student attempts to clarify and analyze the pedagogical, main attributes of Maria Montessori's methodology. "According to Maria Montessori, the child (the student) should be the basis of the educational process, which is a leading idea in the modern didactics of geography in our country" (p. 68). The educational process takes place in two main forms "presentation" and "big lesson", and they are mainly focused on the movement of students and contact with the environment. The doctoral student has pointed out the possibilities of applying the Montessori methodology in the teaching of geography in the Bulgarian secondary school at the junior high school level. Both the factors of the external environment of the geography education system in our country and the factors of the internal educational environment have been analyzed. They are presented in detail, and emphasis is placed on the educational policy and the educational environment in the country, as the most significant external factors. The doctoral student conducts detailed studies related to the internal cultural and educational environment, and based on their results, reveals the existing possibilities for the application of Maria Montessori's methodology in geography education.

In the third chapter, "The basis for constructing the technology of self-development in geography education. Author's scientific workshops based on the methodology of Maria Montessori" are presented scientific workshops and technology of self-development in the teaching of geography, developed by the author. The PhD student points to the need for changes in geography education, which should be based on long-term strategies. According to the author, the teaching of geography should be aimed at affirming a productive, formative function and bring the student's personality to the fore. The three scientific workshops developed by the doctoral student, based on the methodology of Maria Monterossi, are adapted to STEAM education and contain four main elements – introduction, motivation of the activity, participation in the activities presented in the workshop and conclusion.

In the conclusion, the main conclusions of the conducted research are summarized.

Scientific contributions to the dissertation work

I accept the 4 contributions thus formulated. They reflect the main results of the research in the dissertation work. The contributions of the doctoral student have a scientific and scientific-applied nature.

The first and second contributions are mainly scientific in nature and are related to the development of a conceptual model of educational technology and a new approach to the application of the Montessori methodology in geography education.

The third and fourth contributions have a scientificly-applicable nature. They are related to the construction of a methodological structure of the geography lesson in junior high school and to

the development of models of scientific workshops with up-to-date educational content in the educational process.

Evaluation of the dissertation's summary

The summary reflects the content of the dissertation in abbreviated form. It has a volume of 50 pages and contains, in addition to the main text and 4 formulated contributions, publications on the topic of the dissertation research, literature, and a declaration of originality.

Publications on the subject of the dissertation

Three independent publications are presented on the subject of the dissertation, one of which is in a collection of conferences (Scientific Conferences "Geography and Regional Development", 2020), and the other two are in peer-reviewed journals (News of the Bulgarian Geographical Society, volume 43, 2020 and Yearbook of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", volume 2, item 113, 2021). The presented articles are completely sufficient and meet the criteria defined in the RSARB.

Recommendations and notes

I have no serious critical remarks about the work presented, but I think that the structure of the dissertation is very fragmented and detailed.

Conclusion

The proposed dissertation proves that the dissertation student Stanislava Misheva has the necessary preparation and skills for independent use of scientific research methods, scientific literature and other materials. The dissertation contains the necessary scientific and scientific-applied results. On this basis, **I give my positive assessment and propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to award the candidate Stanislava Plamenova Misheva the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of learning in (Methodology of learning in Geography).**

Date:

03/09/2023

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Lubenova Ravnachka