

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fotiny Christakoudy-Konstantinidou, Department of General, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics, Faculty of Slavonic Studies, SU “St. Kl. Ohridski” on the dissertation work of Safete Statovtsi Shala for the acquisition of Educational and Scientific Degree “doctor” in the field 2.1. Philology. Literature of the peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia (Albanian literature).

The scientific work of Safete Statovtsi Shala “The fiction texts in literature textbooks for schools in Kosovo” consists of an introduction, 4 chapters, a conclusion with recommendations and a bibliography in a total volume of 290 pp. The purpose of the study is the examination of the literary texts in the textbooks, used in the full cycle of school education in Kosovo 1-12 school grades. The literary texts are described one by one in the textbooks from the first to the twelfth grade. Some of the problems encountered are listed - a large volume of researched material, frequent changes of curricula, the need to analyze the biological development of students and their cognitive abilities, the place of the authors under consideration in the paradigm of the literary canon. The universality of the messages of the texts is commented.

Working methods from the field of pedagogy, methodology of teaching literature and literary theory have been drawn. The work entirely fulfills the set goals to fully describe the literary works and excerpts included in each of the textbooks for the respective class, to divide and clarify the ratio between prose and poetry and at the same time between Albanian and foreign authors, to make a statistical overview of this ratio. An explanation of the results was sought, on the one hand, by analyzing the reasons the choice of specific works, made by the authors of the textbooks, and, on the other hand, by evaluating the literary value of the works themselves. In a comparative analysis, “artistic texts by Albanian and foreign authors are examined in order to discover the common and different values, aesthetic models and content elements in them, as well as their functions in a pedagogical plan” (p. 6-7, Bulgarian translation). It is clarified that the definition of “Albanian authors” in the dissertation includes all authors who write in the Albanian language, regardless of the country in which they currently live or have lived during the span of their lifetime.

The contributions of the dissertation are reported in detail. Among the significant contributions of the text is that, although many separate assessments of the content of Kosovo

textbooks have been made by various institutions and experts, the study represents the first comprehensive attempt to collect data on the fictional and educational value of the literary texts included in them. The second direction of research is a comparative analysis of fictional texts by Albanian and foreign authors and as a part of this direction are the conclusions made in the comparison of works translated into Albanian from the Bulgarian literary canon. The introduction of information concerning the translation reception of classical Bulgarian literary works in a pedagogical context in the fourth chapter is also noteworthy.

The recommendations and conclusions made in the last part of the dissertation are well formulated. What was shared about the unnecessary disorientation of students and teachers by duplicating textbooks in the respective school levels sounds relevant in relation to the Bulgarian education system as well. Undoubtedly, such research contributes to the further improvement of the literature curriculum in Albanian schools in Kosovo, as reported in the conclusions, and makes possible comparisons with literature curriculum for schools in Bulgaria and other countries. In addition, the material, collected and analyzed in S. Shala's dissertation, can reasonably serve as a basis for developing common projects based on textbook content from different countries, as well as for projects in the field of children's and puppet theater, educational cinema, and other projects.

Through the publications provided for reference, the author obviously exceeds the requirements for obtaining the Educational and Scientific Degree "doctor" from the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for obtaining scientific degrees and academic positions at Sofia University.

In conclusion, I consider that the dissertation under consideration possesses scientific merits and is the result of a long-term research. Furthermore, the candidate Safete Statovtshi Shala meets the requirements for acquiring Educational and Scientific Degree "doctor" in the field of 2.1. Philology. Literature of the peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia (Albanian literature).