REVIEW

by Prof. Neda Balkanska PhD

of the dissertation project for awarding the scientific and educational degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Education)

on the topic: A MODEL OF DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Supervisor: Assoc. prof. Anna Trosheva-Asenova PhD

General description of the presented materials.

By Order RD No. 38-592 of 24.10. 2023 by the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Model of differentiated learning in Greek language and literature for students with dyslexia in secondary schools" - for awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Special education). The author of the dissertation is Ekaterini Panagiotis Tsalokosta - a full-time doctoral student at the "Special Pedagogy" department, with a supervisor, Assoc. Dr. Anna Trosheva-Asenova from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The set of electronic materials presented by Ekaterini Panagiotis Tsalokosta testifies that the candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB.

General presentation of the candidate. Educational and scientific status.

Ekaterini Tsalokosta completed her bachelor's degree in 2009 as a graduate of the University of Ioannina with a professional qualification in Classical Philology. In 2015, she obtained a master's degree in Psychology at the University of Nicosia. Since 2019, she has been a full-time doctoral student at FNIO, Sofia University "St.

Kliment Ohridski", Department of "Special Education". In the meantime, Ekaterini Tsalokosta goes through a number of courses and training related to teaching Greek as a foreign language, psychological counseling in crisis situations, Braille training, etc.

Her professional path began as a philologist teacher (in private practice), for the period from 2009 to the present. From 2011 to 2013, she held the position of administrative secretary in a construction company, and from 2020 to the present, she worked as a substitute teacher in a general education school.

The educational and professional path of Ekaterini Tsalokosta testify to the diversity of her interests.

Actuality of the dissertation.

The topic of the present development is characterized by an extremely relevance for the scientific and practical sphere. Students with dyslexia are overrepresented in the educational environment and, as a rule, are educated primarily in mainstream schools. This puts mass educators in front of the challenge not only to know well the features of the condition, to identify it, but also to be familiar with specific teaching approaches that will allow students with dyslexia to receive quality education and socialize in the environment of their peers .

Structure of the dissertation. The work has a volume of 177 pages and contains an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion and recommendations for practice, and an appendix. The literature reference includes over 100 titles.

The theoretical statement of the problem is structured in two chapters and is aimed at revealing the essence of dyslexia - definition of the concept, etiology, classifications, diagnostic procedures, educational interventions. In addition, the content and components of differentiated education are revealed - in general and with reference to the study subject "Greek language and literature" in secondary school.

The research design contains purpose, objectives and hypotheses. The information about the participants and the research instrument is correctly presented. 109

teachers were surveyed. The results of the experiment were interpreted quantitatively and qualitatively. Empirical data are subjected to statistical analysis that convincingly proves their value.

The abstract adequately reflects the content of the dissertation. It is in a volume of 50 computer pages.

There are three **publications** on the topic of the dissertation that cover the scientific requirements for dissertations.

The contributions of the dissertation are the following:

1. The theoretical information dedicated to the need for the application of differentiated teaching for students with dyslexia has been systematized and analyzed systematically and competent;

2. In an experimental plan, a model-program for intervention was developed, which is proof of the author's contribution of the work;

3. A questionnaire was also developed, registering the readiness and competence of teachers to apply differentiated education in their practice;

4. The research instrument and the research results are a great base for generating future studies and expanding the scientific and practical experience in this direction.

As main recommendations, I can note the following:

• The contributions should be specified, highlighting the main advantages of the dissertation work, which is beneficial to its author;

• To formulate the contributions in autoreferate in the Bulgarian language in the same way as they are presented in the one in English;

• To clarify the translation of the autoreferate in Bulgarian.

I have a **question**:

Is there a difference in the differentiated teaching of Greek language for students with dyslexia in the primary stage of education and that in the secondary educational stage?

CONCLUSION

The discussed project of the dissertation in terms of relevance, concept, method of presentation, processing and analysis of the data, as well as its contributing points, satisfies the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. This allows me to propose to the Scientific Jury to award Ekaterini Panagiotis Tsalokosta the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty (Special Education).

01/02/24   **Reviewer:**

Sofia   **(Prof. N. Balkanska PhD)**