

STATEMENT

by Dr Milen Zamfirov Zamfirov, DSc.

thesis on:

"READING DISORDERS IN STUDENTS WITH MILD MENTAL RETARDATION"

for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science

in the field of higher education 1. 1,

Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy - scientific specialty "Special Pedagogy"

Doctoral candidate.

Scientific supervisor: prof. dr Neli Vassileva, DSc

I. Compliance of the procedure with the applicable legislation

The PhD student has complied with all the regulatory documents - passed examinations in the specialty, taken PhD examinations from her curriculum, attestations and graduation with the right to defend and successfully passed the preliminary defense.

II General biographical presentation of the candidate (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.)

Tomai-Maria Georgios Andreopoulou holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Thessaly, a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Nicosia, Cyprus and a Master's degree in Organization and Management of Educational Institutions from the International Hellenic University of Thessaloniki.

Since March 2020, he is a full-time PhD student in the Doctoral Program in Special Education at the University of Sofia, Sofia. He is also a PhD candidate in Special Education at St. Kliment Ohridski University.

She is currently working as a primary and special teacher of students with special educational needs.

III Relevance of the dissertation topic.

Reading is a basic skill which is necessarily emphasized and developed in every school, no matter whether it is a general or special school.

Students with mild mental retardation are one of the most favorable as a group to work in this area, especially in the context of their integration into mainstream schools, and the search for new and novel methods and approaches in their literacy will never stop. In this sense, the dissertation is relevant.

IV Structure and content of the thesis.

The dissertation has a length of and 171 pages includes several chapters and references of 180 titles in Latin and appendices.

The thesis is illustrated with 18 tables and 20 figures.

The attached list of scientific publications on the topic includes 8 publications in English, two of which are co-authored with the supervisor.

V Scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions

Some of the more interesting contributions are, say, the existence of positive correlations between variables in students with mild mental retardation, when a student performs low in one of the 4 tasks, it is possible that a student performs low in other tasks with this probability being higher compared to a student with no impairment.

VI Abstract.

The text of the abstract faithfully reflects the content of the dissertation but exceeds the 50-page limit.

VII Publications on the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of the scientific-metric requirements).

There are a total of eight publications, half of them related to the dissertation topic.

The publications are papers and articles printed in conference proceedings and journals.

In terms of number, they meet the minimum national requirements for the degree of Doctor of Education and Science.

VIII Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions.

IX Comments, recommendations and questions.

Considering the fact that this is the formal defense, recommendations such as merging paragraphs and chapters, as well as corrections in the abstract do not make sense.

My question is:

Why did you need to study students with mental retardation and students without disabilities at all? What correlations between two completely different groups were you looking for, and why?

X. Conclusion.

Tomai-Maria Andreopoulou's dissertation meets all the conditions and requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the PPPAS and the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff of Sofia University "St. Kl. 2. Pedagogy - Special Pedagogy.

Sofia, April, 2024

Prof. Dr Milen Zamfirov, DSc