

STATEMENT

Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Educational Studies and the
Arts,

**Regarding the conferral of the educational and scientific degree
“Doctor”**

Field of Study: 1.2. Pedagogy (Media Pedagogy)

Author: Desislava Bogdanova Boshnakova

PhD Candidate in Field of Study: 1.2. Pedagogy (Media Pedagogy)

**Dissertation Title: “Media literacy and creative approaches in pedagogical
interaction with 6-8-year-old children”**

Supervisor: Prof. DSc. Danail Kirilov Danov, Sofia University

Administrative Details

Desislava Boshnakova was enrolled as a full-time PhD candidate by Order No. RD 20-1177, dated June 25th, 2021, of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.” She was deregistered with the right to defend her PhD thesis by Order No. RD 20-327, dated July 19th, 2024. The dissertation was reviewed and proposed for defense by the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University, on August 29th, 2024. The requirements of the “Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions” at Sofia University have been met.

General Overview of the Dissertation

The dissertation by Desislava Boshnakova explores creative approaches in pedagogical interactions with 6–8 years old children, with a focus on fostering media

literacy. The research is relevant to contemporary pedagogical practices, laying the groundwork for innovative methods in early childhood education.

Structure and Content

The dissertation comprises an introduction, nine chapters, a conclusion, references, and appendices. It totals 276 pages, including:

- 215 pages of core text;
- 2 pages of acknowledgments;
- 10 pages of bibliography;
- 49 pages of appendices.

The bibliography includes 152 sources: 91 in Cyrillic, 38 in Latin script, and 23 electronic resources.

Detailed Evaluation

Introduction and First Chapter

The introduction presents the relevance of the problem investigated in the dissertation. The first chapter, entitled “Cognitive Physiology, Effective Communication and Creativity in Learning and Education”, examines physiological processes and their role in the learning process. The PhD student connects physiology, psychology and pedagogy and presents a lot of in-depth knowledge regarding the psyche of child development, as well as the psychological dimensions of the three components of the didactic part of the teaching activity – updating new knowledge, forming new skills for educational activity and strengthening knowledge and skills in individual age groups, which have their own specific features regarding the “logical-psychological substructure of the lesson”.

Methodology

The second chapter clearly defines the subject, objectives, hypotheses, and research methodology. The study involves 260 parents, 140 children and approximately 200 educators. The methodology emphasizes creativity as a core element of media literacy, assessed through activities such as mental arithmetic and reading comprehension. Surveys, interviews, and consultations with academic experts ensure the robustness of the findings.

Parental Role

The third chapter highlights the importance of parental involvement in children's development, offering practical guidelines for improving media literacy.

Creative Approaches and Digital Technologies

Chapters five and six focus on mental arithmetic and reading comprehension as creative approaches, combined with digital tools. The emphasis on children's socio-emotional development adds depth to the analysis.

Results Analysis

Chapters seven and eight provide a detailed presentation of the research findings, supported by tables and diagrams. The candidate demonstrates strong analytical skills in interpreting the data.

Conclusions and Practical Implications

The ninth chapter synthesizes the conclusions, contributions, and recommendations of the dissertation. Boshnakova offers valuable practical insights for educators, parents, and researchers, further enhancing the dissertation's applicability.

Scientific Contributions

The candidate's contributions, as outlined in the dissertation, are well-formulated and supported by her research. The list of publications demonstrates both the quantity and quality of her scholarly activity. The abstract effectively summarizes the theoretical and practical contributions of the dissertation.

Conclusion

This dissertation demonstrates depth and innovation in the field of media pedagogy. Therefore, I confidently recommend the conferral of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Field of Study 1.2. Pedagogy (Media Pedagogy) to Desislava Boshnakova for her dissertation “Media literacy and creative approaches in pedagogical interaction with 6-8-year-old children”. I also encourage the academic committee to give a positive assessment of her work.

Date: December 6, 2024

Prepared by:
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Georgieva)