

## SHORT REVIEW

for the dissertation

### PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ASPECTS IN THE ACQUISITION OF SIGN SYSTEMS

of **Nikolay Mihaylov Shindarov**,

full-time doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian language at the The Faculty of Slavic Studies of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,

for obtaining the educational and scientific degree **Doctor (PhD)** in PhD program *Bulgarian language – Semiotics*, professional field 2.1. *Philology*, field of higher education 2. *Humanities*, with scientific supervisor: Prof. PhD Gergana Dacheva

Author of the short review (member of the jury): Radoslav Mihaylov Tsonev, PhD, Associate Professor at the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

#### **I. Summarized data on the scientific production and the activity of the candidate**

The doctoral student Nikolay Mihailov Shindarov graduated from the specialty “Slavic Philology” (master's degree) at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2017. From 2020, he is a full-time doctoral student in the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Slavic Studies of the Sofia University in the PhD program *Bulgarian Language – Semiotics* with scientific supervisor Prof. PhD Gergana Dacheva.

Nikolay Shindarov submitted his dissertation work “Psycholinguistic aspects in the acquisition of sign systems”, Sofia: “St. Kliment Ohridski” University Publishing House, 2023, 254 p.” and the author’s abstract to it. He participated in 3 international scientific conferences. He has published 3 articles on the dissertation in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes and has one article in print.

The materials, submitted by Nikolay Mihailov Shindarov, meet the national minimum requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **Doctor (PhD)** under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB) and they are in accordance with the requirements of Art. 2, para. 1 of the Regulations, governing the application of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria (RGALASDRB) and under Art. 63 of the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

## **II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the submitted dissertation work**

The scientific contributions in the dissertation “Psycholinguistic aspects in the acquisition of sign systems” are directly related to the successfully solved research tasks. Some of the contributions are:

- \* The work is an original experimental study of the possibilities of learning a foreign language (especially with regard to vocabulary) through the use of video games.

- \* The theoretical and methodological framework of the study are presented extensively. The main semiotic theories, the types of signs, and the specific characteristics of the language as a sign system are indicated. A detailed review of the literature on different methods for effective long-term memorization and teaching methods that have a positive effect on the learners’ motivation has been carried out. The proposed methodology and the results of the dissertation can be used by other authors in future experimental studies.

- \* The scientific terms used by the doctoral student in the dissertation are well defined and convincingly explained.

- \* The structural characteristics of video games have been established as complex semiotic structures made up of sound and graphic sign systems organized as acoustic code and visual code.

- \* The developed model of an educational video game for memorizing new words from a foreign language has been successfully tested in a real pedagogical environment (with 38 5th grade students at 120 “G.S. Rakovski” Elementary School in the city of Sofia).

- \* The database of 1898 lexical units, distributed comparatively to their teaching levels according to Cambridge, compiled as a result of the conducted research, can be fully used as a basis for building educational texts in practical foreign language learning.

- \* Relevant are the PhD student’s conclusions that:

- the video games have the potential to be more effective than conventional teaching methods and can be successfully used to memorize new foreign language units;

- the implicit acquisition of signs and their correct use in sign systems could have significant advantages over explicit teaching methods;

- the use of educational (and at the same time entertaining) video games creates a premise for increased motivation in learning and memorizing words from other languages, etc.

### III. Conclusion

The dissertation work “Psycholinguistic aspects in the acquisition of sign systems” has linguistic merits and high scientific theoretical and applied value. The research is innovative, the text is consistently structured and stylistically cohesive. Due to the aforementioned qualities of the research and the contribution moments in it, I confidently give my positive vote and recommend to the respected members of the scientific jury to support the award of the educational and scientific degree *Doctor (PhD)* to Nikolay Mihailov Shindarov.

23.03.2023

Blagoevgrad

Member of the jury: .....

Assoc. Prof. PhD Radoslav Tsonev