

## **R E V I E W**

**of dissertation for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3. 4. Social activities, Scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the field of material production" (Social activities)**

**Topic:** "From the theory of communication to the social science"

**Author:** Prof., Dr. Plamen Kirov Ivanov, lecturer at Konstantin Preslavsky - University of Shumen, Faculty of Education, Department of Social Work

**Reviewer:** Professor, Lucian Angelov Milkov, DSc, Lecturer at UNWE - Sofia, Faculty of Management and Administration, Department of Public Administration

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I have been appointed an external member of the Scientific Jury of University of Shumen, by order of the Rector of the University RD-16-103 dated June 25, 2021.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure**

Prof. Dr. Plamen Ivanov presented to the management of University of Shumen and the Honored Scientific Jury, appointed by the Rector of University of Shumen, all documents and materials required under the defense procedure: dissertation with a volume of 221 pages, abstract of 31 pages, list of publications, copies of published articles and other materials, CV. The author's abstract reflects the publications (total number of 4-3 articles and 1 report), through which the dissertation is tested in periodicals and collections of national conferences and the contributions of the dissertation research.

The dissertation research and the abstract correspond to the requirements of LDASRB and the Regulations for its application, as well as to the Regulations for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions in University of Shumen.

The dissertation presented to us for review has a modern sound, as it develops fundamental problems related to two, always sounding, scientific fields: Theory of Communication and Social Sciences.

The author has done well in his attempt to relate and bring out the direction in which the two scientific fields merge and work for the realization of global scientific and human problems: communication in all its forms; the place of communication in the life of modern society and the individual; the impact of communication on social activities.

## **2. Actuality of the theme**

The topic is contemporary because it is related to problems of interpersonal, group and social communication and, in particular, the communication of the individual.

Although it is relevant, it has not been thoroughly developed in our country, both by sociology and by the psychology of personality and other social sciences. True, there are publications (individual studies, articles, reports at international and national conferences), but they do not cover in depth and breadth this interesting problem. The issue of its development in modern foreign science is different - there are serious empirical studies, valuable publications, implementation in practice of ideas for improving the specific features of communication, as an element of communication as a phenomenon associated with the development of the individual and transformation in person - Homo Sapiens Sapiens.

Therefore, I support the attempt of Prof. Dr. Plamen Ivanov to focus on this topic and to develop a dissertation in theoretical terms, despite some omissions in the use of the accepted thesaurus in the dissertation research.

### **3. Knowledge of the problem**

I would like to note that Plamen Ivanov has made an attempt to understand the essence and specifics of the studied issues.

The difficulties come from the volume of the research problem, which, in my opinion, is a mega-problem and requires effort, extensive presentation and knowledge in the field of philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, logic.

### **4. Research methodology**

The used methodology and methodology of scientific research in the field of the chosen problem is based on scientific approaches applied by philosophy, sociology, personality psychology and psychology of communication. The methodology through which Prof. Plamen Ivanov focuses on the development of the dissertation is part of modern science and the requirements for developing a doctoral dissertation using the logic of scientific research, system-structural research approach.

I accept that the author has focused on the optimal set of research methods. Thus, the structured methodology gives consistency, reliability in the analysis of the literature. It provides an opportunity to conduct, adequate to the purpose and tasks, theoretical research and formulation of conclusions.

### **5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation**

Architecturally, the dissertation includes: introduction, paragraph "Actuality of the problem", two chapters, conclusion, conclusions and literature.

The two heads are relatively equal in volume. There is a successful overflow of the problems developed in the first chapter with those in the second chapter.

**5. 1. The introduction** highlights the significance of the researched problem. Here are formed the hypothesis, the object, the subject, the goals, the tasks, the methods and the theoretical approaches of the research.

I believe that in the methodology of scientific research it is not accepted to formulate a hypothesis in a theoretical dissertation, as there is no assumption for a certain result.

**5. 2. Chapter One: "Symbolic Media Communicative Knowledge"**, has a theoretical character and explores issues related to the phenomenon of "communication" and, in particular, communication: appearance, development, nature, scope.

Numerous theoretical productions of foreign authors in the field of communication and their place in the life of society and the individual are analyzed. Prof. Plamen Ivanov relies on classical and modern theories of communication, formulations and ideas of philosophers, psychologists, pedagogues, political scientists.

**5. 3. Chapter Two: "Truth and Knowledge as an Environment for Communicative Success"**, is dedicated to the differences between the cognitive types of communication, which are oriented to the truth (generalization of the symbolic environment of communicative success) and all other, normatively motivated, types of communication: legal, political, religious, etc.

Prof. Plamen Ivanov makes his statements about the essence of truth:

"The path of development of truth consists in:

- Synthesis of its composed of two initially autonomous values aletheia and pseudos;
- Simultaneous loss of the role of a generator of cohesion in society;

- Its transformation from activity imperatives into discussion of community experiences ”(Dissertation: 89).

Further, the essence of understanding in its various scientific states is characterized.

The last paragraph of this chapter discusses the general and the difference in the theoretical forms of scientific and social types of knowledge.

**5. 4.** In the **conclusion**, the author concludes that “communication is a form of knowledge, as it is an observational, selective, discriminatory, cognitive activity. Each discussion appears in the form of acts of choice, ie, knowledge of the topic, time, place, participants in communication ”(Dissertation: 203).

### **5. 5. Literary sources**

Prof. Plamen Ivanov correctly refers to the authors, quotes their positions and opinions, points out the existing theories.

The sources used in English and German are 113, in Russian - 180 and in Bulgarian - 10.

I accept that the used and cited literature in English, German and Russian is sufficient for the analysis of the researched problem. Literature in Bulgarian could be enriched. There are institutes of philosophy, sociology, human sciences at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. There are powerful university departments, with extremely erudite professors, researchers and authors of their own theoretical positions in the field of the researched problem.

### **6. Evaluation of publications and contributions**

The publications are in the field of dissertation research. They are 4 and are in yearbooks and magazines. Through them Prof. Ivanov acquainted the

specialists in the researched field with the results of the research and the conclusions.

Four contributions were made as a result of the study.

## **7. Abstract**

It contains the necessary ingredients required for such work: structure of the dissertation research, analysis of the used and cited literature of authors. There are no deviations from the text of the dissertation. The author's contributions and publications find a place here.

## **8. Recommendations and notes**

I recommend additional work and deepening of the research through publications in nationally presented journals, conferences, symposia.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation of Prof. Dr. Plamen Ivanov is his own research, with selected and applied methodology. The style and language in the dissertation are at the required scientific level. Some of the basic concepts used by the author are explained.

The conclusions made are scientifically correct. They relate directly to the issues under consideration. The dissertation also includes graphic materials that facilitate the perception of the textual material and make the presented facts and data more accessible.

Based on the results achieved in the dissertation, which cover the statutory requirements for the award of the required scientific degree "Doctor of Science", I allow myself to express a **POSITIVE** attitude to the developed topic and I propose to the Distinguished Scientific Jury of Shumen University to award the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Prof. Dr. Plamen Kirov Ivanov, in the

field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3. 4. Social activities, Scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the field of material production" (Social activities).

23.07.2021

Sofia

Reviewer:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Milkova', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

(Prof. Luchiyana Milkova, DSc)