OPINION

ON A DISSERTATION PAPER ON THE TOPIC: "INNOVATIVE PRACTICES FOR SPEECH DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN FROM THE FOURTH AGE GROUP FOR COMPULSORY PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION"
WITH AUTHOR **NORA DIMITROVA BALANSKA**
TO OBTAIN THE EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE OF DOCTOR IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION:
1. PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES, PROFESSIONAL FIELD 1.2. PEDAGOGY, DOCTORAL PROGRAM: PRE-SCHOOL PEDAGOGY.

BY PROF. D.IK.N. MARGARITA KIROVA BONEVA

My dissertation proposed for review examines an extremely topical problem in modern preschool education. It is properly structured and consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, appendices and a bibliography with a total volume of 229 pages. 131 literary and 58 online sources are cited, of which 33 are in a foreign language. The text of the dissertation is illustrated with 26 tables and 75 figures, including 27 diagrams.

The topic of the dissertation is extremely relevant, bearing in mind the lack of motivation and emotional desire to learn the Bulgarian language among modern children, who handle electronic devices for communication, with foreign vocabulary, word order and grammar even before mastering communication in Bulgarian. The low functional literacy of adolescents is a fact, and this presents children's educators with a particularly important and difficult task, including the creation of a system of methodical solutions to guarantee and help increase the communicative competence of children already at preschool age.

The object, the subject and the tasks of the research are precisely formulated in the context of the importance of child speech development for the overall formation of the child's personality, with his skills for reception of verbal and non-verbal tests, abilities to produce and reproduce oral text and developed communicative competence.

The realization of the goal of the dissertation work is related to the successful solution of the tasks that the doctoral student brings to the fore.

The relevance and significance of the dissertation work is justified in the introduction.

In the first chapter, the doctoral student presents a theoretical overview of the aspects of the speech development of the children of the fourth group in the primary school. It defines concepts such as *communication, communication, language, speech, speech activity*. A special place is devoted to basic theories related to speech development in preschool age and current

normative documents related to work on children's speech development. Two alternative education programs are also presented.

Innovative interactive practices for the speech development of children of the fourth age group in PG are presented in **the second chapter**. In it, the doctoral student offers the results of a survey investigating the attitude of 75 children's teachers from 27 kindergartens and preparatory groups in schools towards speech development, innovation and interactivity in the educational process in kindergarten. The questions in the survey are assigned to the following semantic subgroups:

- attitude of teachers towards preliminary preparation for conducting pedagogical situations;
- sharing opinions about the role of the text in children's speech development;
- expressing an attitude towards the interactive educational environment.

The analysis is presented in the form of diagrams, proving that the three priority places for speech development of children in PG (28%) are the nuclei:

- related speech (28%);
- grammatically correct speech (24%);
- vocabulary (20%).

The importance of author's materials for pedagogical situations in the educational direction "Bulgarian language and literature" has been analyzed. Visualization during pedagogical situations has been shown to stimulate test comprehension processes. The possibilities of interactivity for children's speech development have been investigated. Innovative interactive practices for work on speech development are described, which have been tested with children from the fourth age group for compulsory preschool education in the city of Shumen. A special place is devoted to working with the new digital generations of children. The importance of interactive multimedia presentations in preschool education in Bulgarian language and literature has been proven.

In the third chapter, the doctoral student competently describes the stages of the approved experimental model for distance work in the education of students of pedagogical specialties who are preparing to become child educators. The research model was implemented through an online survey with 93 students from the Preschool Pedagogy and Preschool and Primary Pedagogy majors of the PF of the "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" UNIVERSITY.

The fourth chapter presents the solved tasks in the research. As a result of the doctoral student's work, a system for diagnostic and prognostic activity was developed, which includes three main criteria. The first of these involves establishing the skills of children of the fourth age group to recognize and use words (lexical language level of children). The second is related to assessing the skills of the children of this group to perceive connected speech (text level of the children). The third criterion concerns the assessment of the

skills of children of the fourth age group to compose a communicative unit (text level with included skills for working with a syntactic level unit).
Based on three criteria and three indicators, the third criterion allows the doctoral student to assess the children's communicative competence. The results of the analysis are presented tabularly and graphically with the necessary competent findings.

In the conclusion, the author offers conclusions from the conducted research, theoretical-applied and practical-applied contributions, which I accept. n conclusion, the tasks set for implementation in the dissertation have been fulfilled.

I confirm the conclusions and contributions made by the doctoral student, and I consider the most important of them to be the following:

1. Presented conceptual model for remote work on formation of teaching capacity to improve children's speech development.

2. Precisely defined concepts such as *communication, communication, language, speech activity, speech, speech development, competence, innovation, pedagogical interactivity, innovative practice.*

3. In the context of children's communicative competence, the attitude of children's pedagogues towards innovations, text-centricity and interactivity is presented.

4. Interactive practices for speech development are proposed, combining content and technological interactivity.

5. Diagnosis of the speech development of children from the third and fourth age groups for compulsory preschool education.

6. Instrumentation of an author's text battery for diagnosis of children's speech development, based on playfulness and text-centricity.

7. The dissertation work has theoretical and practical significance and represents a kind of encyclopedia of situations, methods, practices that guarantee good speech competence of children already at preschool age.

Doctoral student Nora Balanska has the necessary educational background (she graduated from the "Bulgarian language and literature" major, OKS "master" at the "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" Shumen University, she has completed a number of courses to increase her qualifications). He speaks English, French and Russian. He has extensive practical experience as a teacher of Bulgarian language and literature. He knows modern educational technologies and applies them in his direct work.
She has participated in a number of scientific and practical forums with international participation and is the recipient of a number of professional awards. She was an evaluator and super-evaluator in five exam sessions at the National Commission for Examination and Assessment of Examination Papers (at the Higher Education Institutions - 7th and 10th grades; DOS). She participated in the development, coordination and management of projects in the

field of education and sports at the "Partners - Bulgaria" Foundation and the "Workshop for Civic Initiatives" Foundation.

Nora Balanska masters the specific terminological language and the conceptual-terminological apparatus. It comprehensively and competently presents the peculiarities of children's speech development and the particularly important task for every child educator to create methodological solutions that guarantee the communicative competence of children already at preschool age, as a result of an in-depth analysis of various theories, schools, documents and own pedagogical experience.

The dissertation and the abstract meet the requirements for this category of scientific works. They are distinguished by precise and clear language, exceptional precision in structuring, content, citations and present the doctoral student as a researcher, competent and precise scientist and pedagogue, who knows in depth the problems of preschool age.

The doctoral student meets the scientometric requirements for the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

In conclusion, I strongly recommend the highly respected scientific jury to vote positively and propose to the FS of the PF of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" to award the doctoral student **Nora Dimitrova Balanska** the educational and scientific degree **"doctor",** in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences , professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, PhD program "Preschool Pedagogy".

PREPARED THE OPINION:
(Prof. M. Boneva, PhD)