

REVIEW

by **Margarita Todorova Terzieva – Professor, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, PhD in Philology at Burgas State University**

“Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov”

Of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree

“Doctor “

in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences

Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy

Doctoral program “Preschool pedagogy”

Autor: Marinka Chaneva Ivanova

Topic: Innovative educational technologies in the preparation of children for school.

Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska, PhD

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

General Description of the Submitted Materials

By Order No. RD-16-270 of 17.12.2025 of the Rector of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen (ShU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the procedure of defense of the dissertation work on topic “Innovative educational technologies in the preparation of children for school” for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “doctor” by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program “Preschool pedagogy.”

The author of the dissertation is Marinka Chaneva Ivanova – a full-time doctoral student in the Department “Preschool and Primary Education” with

scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Violeta Kyurkchiyska. At the first meeting of the academic jury, I was assigned to prepare a review.

The set of materials submitted by Marinka Chaneva Ivanova is in accordance with the rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of ShU and includes the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Minutes from the Departmental Council meeting regarding the report on the readiness to initiate the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- Doctoral dissertation;
- Author's abstract;
- List of scientific publications related to the topic of the dissertation, along with copies of those publications;
- other accompanying documents for the procedure.

Brief Biographical Information about the Doctoral Candidate

Marinka Chaneva Ivanova was born on 19 June 1974. In 1996 she completed a bachelor's degree at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen with specialty "Preschool pedagogy." She obtained a postgraduate qualification in primary school pedagogy in 1998. In 2011 she completed a master's degree with specialty "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy."

She holds the first-level professional qualification since 2021. Doctoral student at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen since 2022. Participant in multiple pedagogical forums, author of publications on pedagogical problems and sharing of good practices.

She works as a senior teacher in the kindergarten "Konche vihrogonche", city Shumen.

Relevance of the topic

The search for effective pedagogical tools in applying new educational technologies is one of the current problems in the first quarter of the 21st century. The dissertation work fits into it through the creation of a technological model – author system of didactic exercises, described in the criterial framework of the research, which contribute to the development of various competences.

Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation work is structured in introduction, three chapters, conclusions, summary, contributions, bibliography, and appendices. The total volume is 223 pages, of which 205 are main text. Included are 14 tables, 63 figures, and 18 diagrams. The list of literature sources contains 84 titles, of which 54 in Cyrillic, 5 in Latin, and 25 internet references. More than 60% of them, without counting the internet sources, are published in the last fifteen years. Attention is drawn to the precise instrumental approach – even in the introduction the figures, tables, diagrams, abbreviations are indicated.

In the introduction, the object, the subject, the goal, the tasks, the hypothesis, and the methods of the scientific research are correctly formulated.

In the first chapter a review is made of the normative documents and the related pedagogical organization of work in preschool age; of the types of readiness for school; of the application of active educational technologies in the targeted environment; the innovative nature of these is explained, though in places it reaches unnecessary details.

In the second chapter the pedagogical design of the research is presented – its organization; selected criteria and indicators; description of activities in the author educational technology applied in the teaching stage.

Most significant from the point of view of content is the described and analyzed research work in the third chapter. The results achieved by the

experimental group are higher not only statistically but also in purely pedagogical aspects. A large part of the children demonstrate high competence in all criteria. In the conditions of the teaching stage they received adequate educational stimuli. The author comes to the conclusion that “the combination of innovative educational technologies is more effective than traditional methods”, which according to her proves that they “have impact on the efficiency of knowledge acquisition and formation of the key competences of the children in preparation for school.”

The conclusions are presented concisely and emphasize the conviction that the state educational standards contain supporting points, which allow the application of innovative technologies in all educational fields.

The conclusion of the imposed belief that the application of new educational technologies is a necessity and a current need for pedagogical colleagues teaching preschool children.

The appendices are five in number and contain both normatively known and author material. Impressive is the individual chart for the results from tracking the achievements of the children within the framework of the experimental activity. Here I have a remark regarding the content of the questions for criterion 1 – “Language and speech skills”, which could be refined.

Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice

The contributions of the dissertation work can be separated into two groups – scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied.

Scientific-theoretical are:

Analysis of the types of readiness of the children for school and the ways for their realization.

Adaptation of educational software resources for the purposes of the education in the kindergarten and formulation of ideas for their application.

To the scientific-applied belong:

Creation and approbation of the author system of exercises, which supports the children's teachers in the process of formation of competences in multiple directions.

Enrichment of the educational environment through non-traditional pedagogical approaches, which stimulate the children's thinking and imagination.

With regard to the exposition can be stated that the scientific-applied contributions have a dominant character in the dissertation.

Assessment of the publications on the dissertation

The publications of doctoral student Marinka Ivanova can be classified by type (articles – 3), by place of publication (in yearbooks – 2; in collections – 1); by language, on which they are written (all are in Bulgarian language). They reflect the research problematics of the dissertation work.

Abstract

The detailed abstract is with a volume of 55 pages and contains a synthesized exposition of the topic, the methodology, and the experimental part of the research. It meets the requirements and reflects the contributions of the author of the dissertation work, the results achieved by him.

Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend to doctoral student Marinka Chaneva Ivanova to look for more representative sources for publicistic contributions, without being satisfied only with the internal-university publications.

I am convinced that if parts of the dissertation work with scientific-applied character are published in a separate practical manual, they will be actively used by preschool teachers.

Questions to the doctoral student:

Is there a difference in the language and speech achievements of the bilingual children from the experimental group after finishing the experiment in comparison with the monolingual children?

Can the Glogster tales be a good educational tool in the language preparation of bilingual children of preschool age?

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied results that constitute a significant contribution to the field and comply with all the requirements of Act one the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ADASRB, and the relevant Regulations of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

The dissertation content shows that doctoral student Marinka Chaneva Ivanova possesses the necessary theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty “Pedagogy.”

I give my positive assessment of the conducted research and propose to the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” to Marinka Chaneva Ivanova in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy, doctoral program “Preschool pedagogy”.

January 21, 2026

Reviewer:.....
/Prof. DSc. Margarita Terzieva/