

SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN STUDIES

## OPINION

for a dissertation on:

"Language situation and language policy in the Republic of Moldova"

for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Political Science", "Political Sciences" 3. 3. POLITICAL SCIENCE (EU POLITICAL STUDIES - EUROPEAN IDENTITY)

Doctoral student Ekaterina Stanova submitted a dissertation on the topic: "Language situation and language policy in the Republic of Moldova". The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices. The material is in a total volume of 234 pages together with annexes of questionnaires, and the main text is 150 pages. There are 84 sources in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

The features of the linguistic situation and policy of the Republic of Moldova are indicated as the subject of the doctoral dissertation. The processes for the development of the language policy in a multinational state are considered as an object of research. The aim of the study is to characterize the peculiarities of the language policy of the Republic of Moldova in the modern era. The following research methods are indicated: general scientific hypothetico-deductive method, contextual analysis, conceptual analysis, semantic analysis, survey, elements of quantitative analysis. The contribution of the dissertation is the identification and characterization of ethnic minorities through the prism of language policy, in the construction of a model of the language policy of the Republic of Moldova.

The structure of the dissertation is logically based on the researched problem of the existence of the concepts "language policy" and "language situation". The author's hypothesis is that the multinational situation in modern Moldova is based on the consequences of linguistic consensus in the context of globalization. This hypothesis is definitely a contribution by systematizing the already existing knowledge on the subject. The content of each chapter is divided into separate paragraphs, conclusions are drawn at the end of each chapter.

The dissertation presents doctoral student Ekaterina Stanova as a bona fide researcher. The dissertation uses knowledge from various fields of political and linguistic studies. The presentation style is understandable, with correct use of other authors who worked on the topic.

The first chapter, "The Moldavian Model for Language Policy", logically sets the beginning of the dissertation research. Ekaterina Stanova demonstrates excellent knowledge of the historical basis of the researched problem. There is a high political-linguistic awareness, through the conceptualization of "language planning", "language construction" and "language arrangement".

In the second chapter, "Language policy in education", doctoral student Stanova presents numerous documents concerning the legislation of the European Union, Russia, Romania and Moldova. It also refers to data on sectoral policies for intercultural education and upbringing in a polylingual environment.

The third chapter "Multilingualism as a defining approach of language policy in modern language education" is a logical continuation of the previous chapters in the study. A comparative characterization of the interaction between language disciplines and multilingual education, both their structure and language policies, is made, revealing the "value" core of political culture.

In its conclusion, Ekaterina Stanova's dissertation describes the reasons for the differences in the understanding of the language policy regarding ethnic minorities, focusing on the study of the Bulgarian ethnic minority language in the Republic of Moldova.

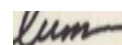
The dissertation submitted for review is the result of bona fide research. The results of scientific research are practically applicable as lecture and study materials, and are also indispensable tasks for Bulgarian politicians.

Notes on the present work can be found mainly in the unbalanced structure of paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the chapters. This could be corrected upon publication of the dissertation. The dissertation could also add more theoretical constructs, both from general linguistics and semiotics.

I have not found any borrowings from other texts known to me.

The presented dissertation has the character of a completed scientific research. The obtained scientific results are definitely of a contributing nature, which gives me reason to consider that the dissertation complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Rules for its Application. Considering the importance of the topic for the Bulgarian minorities abroad and the above-mentioned contributing features of the dissertation "Language situation and language policy in the Republic of Moldova", I highly appreciate the research efforts of Ekaterina Stanova. In view of the above, I expect a successful defense of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional direction "Political Sciences" 3.3.

22. 05. 2024



Varna

(Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Smilkov)