

STATEMENT

by **Associate Professor Dr. Pavel Krejčí**, Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno,

on the dissertation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science

2. 2. Humanities Professional field 2.1. 2.1 Humanities (Bulgarian Language - Applied Linguistics)

Author: Elena Runevska

Topic: 'Aspects of teaching Bulgarian to Bessarabian Bulgarians from the territory of present-day Ukraine'

General presentation of the procedure, the documentation and the PhD student

By order of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" № RD-38-373/09.07.20204 I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the preparation of an opinion to provide a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on "**Aspects of teaching the Bulgarian language to Bessarabian Bulgarians from the territory of present-day Ukraine**" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philosophy (Bulgarian Language – Applied Linguistics). The author of the dissertation is Elena Nikolova Runevska.

All documentation related to the doctoral studies and required by the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for conducting the procedure of dissertation defense for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", was duly submitted to the Scientific Jury and fully met all requirements.

Elena Nikolova Runevska was born on 8 January 1974 in the town of. She was born on 1974 in Sofia. In 2000 she completed her higher education at Sofia University "St. She graduated from Sofia University in 2000 with a degree in Bulgarian Philology. After graduation she worked in the field of journalism, humanities, but mostly as a teacher of Bulgarian language (in 12. Tsar Ivan Asen II", 164. "Miguel de Cervantes", "Regalia" Learning Center, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Slavonic Philology, Department of "Bulgarian as a Foreign Language").

Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis:

The dissertation, which is 230 pages in length, is structured in an overview manner, consisting of an introduction, three chapters, a summary, a conclusion, a bibliography and an appendix. The bibliography contains 95 sources in Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and English.

The chosen methodology of the study of the problem implies the objective achievement of the intended goal, the solution of the tasks in theoretical and practical terms, as well as the confirmation or rejection of the author's hypotheses. Namely - on the basis of the analysis of the linguistic difficulties and errors in the speech of the students - Bessarabian Bulgarians to determine strategies for their successful prevention and to propose good practices in teaching, in accordance with the specifics of the linguistic situation in which the Bessarabian Bulgarians find themselves, and also to put emphasis on their effectiveness. The work traces systematic linguistic errors in the oral and written speech of Bessarabian Bulgarians and finds that they are at all linguistic levels: phonetic-phonological, grammatical, lexical and textual. In her work, the PhD student emphasizes the importance of the semantic-pragmatic approach as the main approach to reducing systematic errors, develops a model of classes in Bulgarian as a foreign language, in which the emphasis is placed on the production of students in order to realize their oral and written speech according to the literary-linguistic norm. In the context of the communicative approach, types of exercises have been developed on the nominative and the verb system in the modern Bulgarian literary language, as well as types of tasks aimed at expanding the vocabulary (polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, paronymy, domestic and foreign vocabulary, stylistics and phraseology, prepositions).

The main terms, which the doctoral candidate works with and applies within her analysis, are already defined in the first chapter of the dissertation, a complex presentation of the terminological apparatus that the author uses in her research is made.

Topical relevance:

The chosen topic is relevant because the dissertation deals with the linguistic competences and learning of Bulgarian as a foreign language of the Bessarabian Bulgarians from the territory of present-day Ukraine, where bilingual mastery of E1, E2 and E3 (multilingualism) is concerned. The research and observations on the intermediate Bulgarian language of the Bessarabian Bulgarians are relevant, and the following regularity is found: receptive skills are highly developed (they fluently perceive oral and written texts), but their productive skills are hampered insofar as their speaking and writing are strongly influenced by the grammar of Russian and Ukrainian. Negative transfer from these languages is extremely difficult to overcome, as in most cases the Bulgarian intermediate language is fossilized.

Knowledge of the problem:

The PhD student knows the issues in the field of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language and psycholinguistics.

Bibliography Evaluation:

The bibliography contains 95 titles in Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and English, presenting the main studies on the dissertation topic. The sources are correctly used and cited in the text, and sometimes differences in the authors' points of view are outlined. For the sake of clarity, the dictionaries can be separated into a separate category of sources.

Abstract evaluation:

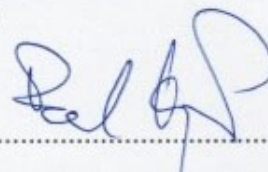
The abstract presented by the doctoral student reflects the content of the dissertation faithfully and adequately. It contains the necessary requisites, including the dissertation contributions and a list of publications on the topic. The scientific contributions of the dissertation are synthesized and correctly reflect the results achieved in the research.

Assessment of the publications on the dissertation:

The dissertation has the required number (14 in total) of publications according to the minimum national requirements.

Conclusion:

Overall, the objectives of the dissertation have been achieved. The dissertation fulfils the requirements for the award of the PhD degree (scientific research conducted with the application of a specific methodology and the preparation of a complete scientific text, with specially designed corpora and annexes). In view of the above-mentioned qualities of the dissertation, I give it a positive evaluation and propose that the esteemed scientific jury award Elena Runevska the degree of Doctor of Education and Science.



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(Associate Professor Dr. Pavel Krejčí)

07.09.2024