

OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. Dr Hrissoula Nedyalkova

of a dissertation on the topic:

LEARNING SPACE AS A FACTOR OF CHILDREN'S INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION IN MULTICULTURAL CLASSROOMS

for awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor PhD"

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences

Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy - Intercultural Education)

University: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty: Faculty of Educational Studies and Arts

Department: Preschool and Media Pedagogy

Doctoral student: Polixeni Vasilios Buyukli

Research supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Nedelcheva Sofronieva

1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulatory framework

As a member of the scientific jury, determined by order No. RD-38-617 of 29.10.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", I received all documents and materials necessary for the procedure for acquiring the ESD "Doctor PhD" from Polixeni Vasilios Buyukli. They meet the requirements of the ZRASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and prove that the individual stages of the doctoral student's individual plan have been implemented successfully and on time.

2. General biographical presentation of the candidate (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.)

Polyxeni Vasilios Buyukli holds a Degree in "Linguistics, Greek Language and Literature" from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2007) and three Master's degrees, respectively in: Intercultural Education from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2011), in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education from Macedonia

University of Thessaloniki (2013) and in Special Education, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2013).

In the period 2021-2024, she is a full-time PhD student in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy in the doctoral program in: (Preschool Pedagogy - Intercultural Education) with instruction in English at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". With the qualification of a Greek language teacher and special education teacher, Polixeni Buyukli started her career in 2017-2018 at a high school in Nea Smirni, Athens. In the period 2018-2023, she is a teacher in the first stage of the high school level of secondary education in four districts of the city of Thessaloniki. Since 2023. Works in 8th high school, Thessaloniki.

Among the rich set of key responsibilities, achievements and skills, the following stand out: her communication and collaboration skills with students, parents and colleagues, experience in using differentiated teaching strategies to support learning and especially flexibility and adaptability to different educational environments.

3. Relevance of the issues of the dissertation

Optimizing the educational environment for children in early childhood in order to increase its developmental effect is an important criterion for the concern of an educational system. This characteristic is even more significant when it is aimed at promoting interaction and communication between children in the intercultural educational space. In the dissertation, a successful attempt has been made to update and enrich with new ideas the modern educational paradigm in the specific context. In this sense, the relevance of the issues to which the dissertation is dedicated is undeniable. The chosen topic is dissertable and significant.

4. Structure and content of the dissertation

The presented dissertation is structured according to the scientific standards required for this type of work. Its content includes: introduction, six chapters, conclusion, bibliography and appendices. The sixth chapter presents the conclusion, as well as the author's contributions and publications of the doctoral student. The dissertation is 242 pages long, of which 186 are the main text, 24 pages with bibliography and 22 pages with appendices. The text is illustrated by 57 tables and 51 graphs. The bibliography includes 450 titles – 13 in Greek and 436 in English.

No plagiarism has been found in the dissertation.

5. Scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions

I accept and confirm the contributions reflected by the doctoral student, emphasizing those reflecting the main achievements in the dissertation work, as follows:

In my opinion, the most significant contribution, besides the pedagogical (in theoretical and practical terms), is the social and psychological effect of the results of the formative program. Because it is precisely the effective influence on the interactions between preschool children that transforms the educational space from multicultural to intercultural, ensuring the future social inclusion and inclusion of children from a very early age.

Here I would also like to express my congratulations to the scientific supervisor - Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Sofronieva.

6. Abstract

The abstract corresponds to the content of the dissertation work and presents its results comprehensively and correctly.

7. Publications on the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of scientometric requirements)

A total of 4 independent publications on the topic of the dissertation work are presented. They are reports printed in proceedings of scientific and practical conferences organized by the National Foundation for Scientific and Technical Research. In number, they meet the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

8. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions of the doctoral student Polixeni Vasilios Buyukli.

9. Notes, recommendations and questions.

I have the following question: Did the difference in Greek language proficiency between children born in Greece and those born abroad affect the results of your study?

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the proven scientific contributions and achievements, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation work of *Polixeni Vasilios Buyukli* and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award her the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor PhD" in the higher education field: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Intercultural Education).

17 December.2024

The author of the Opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hrissoula Nedyalkova