

## OPINION

by Prof. Milen Zamfirov, D.S.

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in:  
Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,  
Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy,  
doctoral program: "Special Pedagogy"

Author: Zhana Todorova Georgieva

Topic: Multisensory approach for developing communicative competence in children with alalia

Research supervisor: Assoc. Dr. Gencho Valchev

By order No. 3060 / 12.07.2024 of the Rector of Thrace University, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure the defense of the dissertation work "Multisensory approach for the development of communicative competence in children with alalia", for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor " in the field of higher education, 1. Pedagogical sciences, direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program in Special Pedagogy.

The author of the dissertation is Zhana Georgieva, a full-time doctoral student at the PSN Department, with scientific supervisor Assoc. Dr. Gencho Valchev.

The set of paper materials presented by Zhana Georgieva is in accordance with the requirements. The review of all the proposed documents shows that they comply with the requirements and follow the rules of the procedure.

### 1. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The topic of the dissertation is extremely relevant, especially in the context of modern trends in pedagogical theory and practice in relation to working with children with alalia. The doctoral student is interested in researching the possibilities of a multisensory approach in the process of support and training. The chosen topic is important for the work of pedagogical specialists. The multisensory approach is important at a time when it is known that the encounter with the world of modern children is generally through screens and virtual information. As for this approach in children with alalia, this approach is a definite challenge.

### 2. Knowing the problem

The theoretical analysis was made on the basis of 152 sources. They are presented in several directions: essence of sensory integration, sensory-integrative dysfunction, multisensory approach, language competence and development of

language competence, speech ontogenesis, psychological-pedagogical features of preschool children /3-7 years/ in the context of acquisition of speech in ontogenesis, characteristics of communicative competence in preschool children with alalia, theoretical concepts of the category of alalia.

The exhaustive description of the characteristics of the children and the conditions, the stages of communicative development and the creation of a theoretical construct of alalia show the good knowledge of the problem by the doctoral student. The scope of the theoretical analysis is balanced against the other two main parts of the text.

3. Research methodology The described research battery is detailed and presents both the set research goals and objectives and the means by which the instrument was developed. The content of each of the tasks is described in detail, as well as the criteria by which the children will be monitored. The sample presented is large enough for such a study. An educational experiment was also developed, which practically legitimizes the results of the applied multisensory approach. The obtained results are systematically presented in 141 graphs. The described information gives a different perspective on the possibilities of the multisensory approach on the development of communicative competence: gnosis - research methods, praxis - research methods, research and evaluation of competence for language decoding and language coding, research on the level of formation of dialogic competence in preschool children with alalia, study of mental processes - attention, perception, memory, logical thinking. To this we also add the trainer experiment and the illustration made by the doctoral student of the possibilities of the multisensory approach.

#### 4. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation submitted for evaluation allows several significant research qualities to be highlighted. Clarity of the set goals and the breadth of the realized tasks. In this way, a sufficiently convincing picture of the doctoral student's competence on the subject and her opportunities to present herself through it is obtained.

The next thing that makes an impression is the good language and the well-processed and presented information. Each part requires different communication competences. The first part is well developed if a systematic and analytical

arrangement of facts is mastered. A research program requires a good logical structuring of different aspects of a problem so as to obtain a clear description of a subject, object, etc. of the study. The fieldwork, which in the dissertation under consideration is very voluminous, is labor-intensive and detailed in terms of tracing traces of the activities that take place with the children, so as to find the good interpretation of the result, etc.

The dissertation also has another advantage. Systematization and description of the conclusions, which are collected in only eight synthesized points. As a result, the presented contributions of the dissertation research are synthesized in two groups: in theoretical aspect and practical aspect. Regarding the theoretical ones, I would suggest that they be clarified in relation to the overview of the theoretical and applied literature on the subject and the transformation of the collected literature to the construct of alalia. Important content of the dissertation development.

#### 5. Publications and abstract.

They meet the requirements.

#### 6. Critical notes and recommendations

The dissertation development is important for practice and has its contribution to the theoretical presentation of the multisensory approach. The text in significant degree would be improved if the system of activities in the ascertaining stage and the subsequent training stage were brought into application with their detailed description. In the text of the dissertation itself, the groups themselves and the criteria used in the observation of children are developed. In this way, the analysis of the obtained results will have a better and systematic connection with each other.

### CONCLUSION

The presented dissertation work of Zhana Todorova Georgieva on the topic Multisensory approach for the development of communicative competence in children with alalia is well structured and has scientific-theoretical and practical-applied value. It meets the requirements of the regulatory framework in the Republic of Bulgaria, listed in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff

for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees, and has an up-to-date topic, good structure and organization.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Zhana Todorova Georgieva possesses the required theoretical knowledge of the subject, competence for planning and practical conduct of scientific research, qualities and skills for analysis and interpretation of scientific data and results, in scientific field 1.2. Pedagogy - Special pedagogy.

Based on all of the above, I give a positive assessment to the dissertation work and the author's abstract, and I propose to the respected scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Zhana Todorova Georgieva in professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy).

09/1/2024 Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Milen Zamfirov, D.S.