

EXPERT OPINION

By assistant -professor PhD Dechko Mitev Ignatov

"Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov | University, Burgas

A member of a scientific jury appointed for conducting a competition for the academic position of an 'Associate-Professor, at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov 'University, Burgas',

field--higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy, scientific speciality Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature Teaching in Pre and Primary school'

In the competition for 'Associate Professor', announced by State Journal, issue 45 from 17.06.2022, for the needs of the department of 'Pedagogy and Methodology of Teaching' at the Faculty of Social Sciences at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University , Burgas, chief assistant d-r Penka Krusteva Vulcheva – a lecturer at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University is a sole candidate.

1. General overview of the submitted papers

The present opinion has been prepared on the grounds of order RD244 from 15.09.2022 issued by the rector of 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University-Burgas. The submitted by chief assistant PhD Penka Krusteva Vulcheva documents and papers (written and electronic) are in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University.

Brief biographical data of the candidate

Chief assistant PhD Penka Vulcheva was born on April 04. 1981 in Yambol. She graduated from 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University', Burgas with a bachelor degree, speciality 'Pre and Elementary School Pedagogy', professional qualification-pedagogue, preschool and elementary school teacher. She obtained her Master Degree in 2012, after successfully covering the Master Programme 'Alternative Pedagogical Techniques in Pre-school and Elementary School', speciality 'Pre-school and Elementary School Pedagogy'

In 2014 she mastered a course in Suggestology and Suggestopedia at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University, Burgas, and obtained a qualification as 'Suggested Pedagogue'.

In 2017 the candidate received her PhD in the sphere of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in....., doctoral programme 'Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature' at 'Paiisi Hilendarski' University, Plovdiv.

The candidate holds certificates in 'Virtual and Augmented Reality Software', 'Work in Moodle Educational Platform and Virtual Classroom', as well as a course in 'Social Innovators'

Chief assistant PhD Vulcheva's professional realisation started in 2010 in 'Hans Christian Anderson' 2 Preschool, where she worked as teacher. During this period, she actively participated in the development of a number of projects: 'Planning and Preparation of the Educational Process', 'Educational Teaching Activity', 'Children's Achievement and Development Diagnostics', 'Children's Life and Safety Procedures'. From September 2011 to December 2011, she worked as teaching assistant in 'Michail Lakatnic' Elementary School, Burgas, where she engaged in projects dealing with planning, preparation and carrying out self-training in groups of after-school care first-graders. From March 2012 to June 2012 she worked as elementary teacher in 'Hristo Botev' Elementary school in Dolno Ezerovo, then as preschool teacher in № 20 Preschool 'Zlatnoto Kluche', in 'Budeshte' private school, Plovdiv as elementary teacher,

Since September 25 2018, after a successfully passed examination, PhD Penka Vulcheva has been working in the Department of Pedagogy and Teaching Methodology at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University, first as an assistant and since October 19 2020 as a chief assistant.

The candidate has been actively engaged in the teaching process of students in the following specialities- Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy, Preschool Pedagogy and Foreign language and Elementary Pedagogy and Foreign language. Her scientific interests focus on Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching Methods.

2. Education Activity Reference of the candidate

Regardless of the fact that the candidate has a relatively short teaching experience, chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva has been extremely active both in her

teaching and scientific areas of work, specifically in the subjects taught by her: ‘ Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature in Preschool’ , bachelor degree, specialities Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy; ‘ Comparative Education’ bachelor degree, ‘ Teaching Literature to Bilingual Pupils’, bachelor degree, Preschool and Elementary school pedagogy, full-time and distant learning; ‘Film Art and Literature Teaching’, bachelor degree, speciality Elementary School Pedagogy; Preschool Pedagogy, bachelor degree, speciality Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy; ‘Inclusive Education’, bachelor degree, specialities Preschool and Elementary School Education

Chief Assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva has always been exemplary in her teaching practice and scientific endeavours. She strictly adheres to the highest scientific criteria and follows the most modern teaching trends and requirements. She possesses highly valued personal qualities-the most outstanding being her vitality, industrious nature, responsibility, loyalty, integrity and motivation. The fact that she has been appointed main tutor of the Department of Social Sciences at the University, speaks for itself.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientifically-applied work of the candidate

The candidate in the current competition has submitted 23 scientific papers: a monography; a book based on defended dissertation; a co-authored university textbook; a co-authored teaching aid; two co-authored teaching aids for preschool education; 17 publications, of which 1 is co-authored, and 1 is in English.

She is currently participating as a member of a team in two research university projects and two national educational projects. She has 14 citations, one of which in a monography and one in a review.

As indicated by the published papers, the scientific qualification and professional interest of the candidate are predominantly in the filed of **preschool language teaching issues**. (№1, 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 from the submitted papers), **preschool literature teaching issues** (№ 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) and **continuity in language and literature teaching in the transition from preschool to elementary school**(19, 20, 21, 22, 23)

It is the candidate’s monography ‘Application of Mnemonic Approach in Preschool Age (in the process of perceiving and studying a lyric work)’ that fully and thoroughly reflects her professional interest and expertise.

The main research area of the monography is the educational process of perceiving and recreating the lyrical work in preschool age. The significance of the studied problem is closely connected to the formation of poetic comprehension in children (the ability to feel the rhythmic structuring of words in verse), as well as verbal memory training in the teaching process.

The author categorically identifies the main problem of the current stage literature teaching – lack of pedagogical situations providing the necessary time for learning the lyrical work by heart. The teachers are forced to start the process of learning simultaneously with the process of perceiving and that leads to mix-ups. The children repeat the text in a chorus, mechanically, without being able to understand the meaning and the feelings of the work and without consciously choosing their intonational expression.

The author has come up with a methodological algorithm for perceiving and recreating of a poetic work with the help of a mnemo-table, which records its influence on the meaning and recreation of the text. For this concrete purpose, a specific diagnostic procedure, which records the children's language comprehension and recreation has been developed and introduced.

The theoretical part of the monography comprises an overview of psychological and pedagogical literature, which focuses on the specific characteristics of the memory evolution in the teaching educational process in preschool age, as well as the application of the mnemonical method in language teaching. A new pattern of methodological approach to the lyrical work in preschool age has been suggested, which pays special attention to the genre specifics of children poetry.. This section of the monograph presents the results of the author's research of traditional methods and techniques used in the established pedagogical practice while dealing with a lyrical work.

The practical part of the monograph focuses on experimental research on children's ability to learn by heart and reproduce a lyrical work. By means of specially developed methodology, tested in an experimental and control group, the author follows the levels of self-sufficiency, smoothness and rhythm in the children's performance, while simultaneously recording the number and nature of the mistakes made. The analysis of the received results categorically proves the effectiveness of the mnemonic table in the process of children's learning and reproducing by heart.

The suggested pattern for perceiving and learning a lyrical work is practice-orientated, which will definitely help the children to comprehend and

rationalize the specific characteristics of the lyrical work, to be able to feel its power and impact, to find new ways of self-expression and personal performance, to broaden their imagination, their creative thinking and their expressive views.

Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate

Among a number of scientific, scientifically-applied and applied contributions of the monograph, some of the input can be highlighted as exceptional- originality of the scientific endeavours, meticulousness while conducting a research, complexity of the studied issues, excellent handling of terminology, logical conclusions and summaries. However, of greatest significance is the successful realisation and practical application of the suggested pattern for learning, perceiving and understanding of a given lyrical work. The primary aim, which is directly linked to motivation, self-expression and active creative participation can be followed throughout the monograph. The candidate demonstrates a creative approach, systematic research work, adept integration of standard and original methods. All the publications extend the thematic aspects and focus on essential problems in the sphere of perceiving, comprehension and interpretation of a given literary work, as well as their influence on the personal formation at an early age.

In conclusion, the submitted papers are logically and successively structured, with extensive mastering of the scientific terminology. The author has presented key issues, essential for student and children teaching. The research results have been scientifically proven and presented. They contain theoretically stable and well formulated aims, ideas and conclusions as well as practical applicability. The language is precise, expressive and easy to read.

All stated above reveals mature professionalism, scientific and theoretical practice, which supports and justifies a new stage in the author's career. The significance of the scientific and scientifically-applied contributions of the presented works is irrefutable. My evaluation of all submitted papers is very high. .

3. Conclusion

Based on **all the above**, I can fully claim that the submitted scientific publications and the scientific and practical experience of the candidate give me full grounds to advise the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to propose to the Department Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University to **elect chief assistant PhD Penka Vulcheva as associate professor in professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy- Methodology of Bulgarian Language and**

Literature Teaching in preschool and elementary school, at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University.

Date 27.10.2022

Burgas

Associate Professor (Dechko Ignatov)