

BURGAS FREE UNIVERSITY
CENTRE OF HUMANITARIAN SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

REVIEW

by Prof. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska, D.Sc
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dissertation for the academic and scientific degree "Doctor"

in: field of higher education 3. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND LEGAL SCIENCES

professional field 3.2. PSYCHOLOGY

Doctoral Programme in Educational and Adult Psychology

Written by: Elena Kortežova

Research topic: 'Parental attitudes towards the language development of children with
communicative disorders in preschool age (3-7 years)'

Scientific supervisor: prof. Yonka Baltandzhieva, PhD,

BURGAS FREE UNIVERSITY

1. General description of the submitted materials

By Order № UMO of 03.10.2022 of the Rector of Burgas Free University (BFU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for the doctoral dissertation defence "Parental attitudes towards the language development of children with communicative disorders in preschool age (3-7 years)" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology, doctoral programme "Educational and Age Psychology". The author of the dissertation is Elena Kortezova - a PhD student in full-time study at the Department of Psychology with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Yonka Baltadzhieva, PhD from Burgas Free University.

The set of materials submitted by Elena Kortezova is in compliance with the RRDA. The dissertation has been discussed at a meeting of the Department of Psychology at the Centre for Humanities of Burgas Free University and has been referred to a Scientific Jury for defense.

2. Short biographical data about the PhD student

Elena Kortezova has many years of experience as a tutor in a number of psychology programs, art therapy, author of manuals and programs for children with difficulties in reading, writing and speech. The acquired knowledge and skills as a Master Speech Therapist, the doctoral student applies in her expert activity initially as a teacher, and in recent years as a psychologist- speech therapist, psychotherapist. The problem of using a variety of strategies for effective interaction with school, family and other institutions are one of the main problems in the "multifunctional" activity of Elena Kortezova. The doctoral student's interest in researching and supporting the mental development and health of children and parents logically grew into the development of her dissertation on "Parental attitudes to language development of children with communicative disorders in preschool age (3-7 years)".

3. Relevancy of the topic and appropriateness of the objectives and tasks

The researched in the dissertation problem, parental attitudes towards language development of children with communicative disorders in preschool age /3 - 7 years/ in the vast field of pedagogical and age psychology, is particularly relevant in recent years. Further adding to the relevance of the chosen topic is the fact of the growing number of measurement methods applied in project activities in educational institutions, but not for the study of parents' attitudes of children with communicative disorders, which in turn speaks both for the scientific novelty

and applied value of the study. The content of parental attitudes has practical implications for the interaction between language development specialists and parents of children with communicative disorders in developing intervention strategies to address them. This suggests real opportunities for continued optimisation of the results of such research.

4. Problem knowledge

Elena Kortežova's profound and critical assessment of the state of the problem and the possibilities for a favorable development makes an excellent impression. Delving deeper into what is written in her dissertation, it becomes clear that the PhD student has an excellent knowledge of the state of the problem under research. Evidence of this is found in the theoretical overview and empirical projections of the dissertation.

5. Research methodology

A scientific contribution is also noted with the creation, validation and adaptation of an independent psychological instrument for the study of parental attitudes towards language development in children with communicative disorders aged 3 to 7 years. Elena Kortežova has applied methods adequate to the researched problems and to test the raised hypotheses, analysis and prediction. Thus, the stated aim of the dissertation is achieved to develop a model for the study of parental attitudes in children with communicative disorders and the derivation of their content characteristics and to obtain adequate answers to the questions and tasks relevant to the object of study and the hypotheses put forward. The research design is based on the Theory of Planned Behavior of I. Ajzen. The focus of the dissertation is related to the assumption that parental attitudes relate to children's language development in a specific way, and the subjective norm determined by public opinion appears as a predictor of these attitudes.

6. Description and evaluation of the dissertation

Elena Kortežova has developed her arguments in an introduction, three chapters, each with specific implications, and a conclusion. The dissertation has a total length of 254 pages, of which 231 pages are text-statement and 23 pages are annexes. The bibliography includes 167 titles, of which 100 in Bulgarian, 4 in Russian, 59 in English and 4 from electronic publications. A total of 56 tables and 7 figures have been synthesized in the dissertation to provide a promising and accurate illustration of the results of the analysis. The in-depth content of the dissertation has allowed her not only to cover the problems in the widest possible degree of their manifestation, but also in their depth. The chapters of the dissertation have a relatively complete character, the transitions between them are smooth and logically assumed.

In her literature overview, Elena Kortežova first addresses the theoretical construct of parental attitudes in the context of educational and age psychology. The theories that explain it are presented briefly but with the necessary completeness and sufficiency. It discusses in more detail the assessment of parental attitudes towards the language development of 3 - 7 year old

children in terms of its three-component structure: a cognitive component, an affective component and a behavioral one.

Applying the standard approach for such studies, in the second part Elena Kortezova analyses in detail the subjective norm, perceived behavioral control and intention as sources of causes and determinants of timely interaction of parents with language development specialists in determining the correct and timely strategies for language development of children with communicative disorders. The section concludes with a theoretical clarification and justification of the problem.

The third part is entirely devoted to the PhD student's experimental research. In it Elena Kortezova clarifies the methodology of the psychological research, describing the procedure of the empirical study and presenting the instruments used.

The PhD student's own research is described according to generally accepted standards for publication of experimental research. The empirical data are organized in a logical framework that tracks the manifestations of each variable according to the opinions of the subjects.

The conclusions at the end make sense of the doctoral student's efforts and form a sense of comprehensiveness and of the existence of conditions enabling the solution of the problem set out in the research aim.

The conclusion summarizes the author's reflections throughout the dissertation - it gives it a complete form and in a synthesized version highlights the key points of the analysis

7. Contributions and Significance of the Development for Science and Practice

The contributions of Elena Kortezova's dissertation are in the professional field of Psychology and can be generally characterized as:

- derivation of a conceptual model for the study of parents' attitudes towards children's language development, based on I. Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behavior (TBP) and extended by the author by clearly differentiating the three-component structure of attitude - cognitive, affective and behavioral;
- formulating new ideas and approaches;
- acquiring new knowledge on the treated scientific problems with an applied character to the specific aspect of parental attitudes in children with communication disorders and the detailed relationship between the components and factors of attitudes.

The overall framework of the dissertation, both theoretically and empirically, is groundbreaking and serves as a basis for more comprehensive and sustained research and exploration of the topic.

8. Assessment of publications on the doctoral work

The results achieved in this dissertation have found resonance among the scientific community. The research output of the doctoral student is characterized by methodological soundness and precision. These works have not been submitted to other competitions for the award of scientific degrees and academic positions and have not been peer-reviewed so far.

9. Doctoral student personal participation

The doctoral student's participation in the dissertation research, the formulated contributions and the obtained results are to the full extent her personal merit.

10. Abstract

The submitted abstract complies with the requirements and reflects the main theses, conclusions and scientific achievements of the dissertation.

11. Critical remarks and recommendations

No significant objections to the candidate's scientific and publication activity, as well as to the stated contributions.

12. Personal impressions

The comprehensive acquaintance with the teaching and scientific-applied activity of Elena Kortezova gives grounds to draw positive conclusions about her qualities.

13. Future recommendations for the use of the dissertation contributions and results

I suggest maintaining and improving their expertise in the field of the issues studied.

CONCLUSION

The results of the research enrich the psychological theory of activity in its specific manifestations and the practice of developing approaches and models for its reliable structuring and management, which in turn demonstrates the level achieved by the PhD student in the scientific aspects of the requested degree.

The dissertation contains scientific, and scientifically applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADRB and the relevant Regulations of the Burgas Free University.

The doctoral thesis shows that the PhD student Elena Kortezova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Psychology", demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research.

In view of the reasons stated above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Elena Korteseva in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology, doctoral programme PEDAGOGICAL AND ADULT PSYCHOLOGY.

20.10. 2022 г.

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Reviewer:

(signature)

Prof. Mayiana Mitevaska, D.Sc