

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva** - Head of the Psychology Department at Plovdiv University - "Paisiy Hilendarski",

related to the dissertation work of **Elena Peneva Kortezova**,

on the following topic: "Parental attitudes towards the language development of children with communicative disorders in preschool age (3-7 year-old)",

for awarding an educational and scientific degree - "**Doctor**" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2 Psychology, Pedagogical and age psychology scientific specialty

1. General presentation of the procedure

By order No UMO 19 / 03.10.2022 of the Rector of Free University - Burgas, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the following topic: "Parental attitudes towards the language development of children with communicative disorders in preschool age (3-7 year-old)", for awarding an educational and scientific degree - "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2 Psychology, "Pedagogical and age psychology" scientific specialty. The author of the dissertation is Elena Peneva Kortezova, and the supervisor is Prof. Dr. Yonka Baltadzhieva from Free University – Burgas.

The dissertation work was discussed at a meeting of PC in Psychology at the Center for Humanities at Free University – Burgas, on 13.07.2022 and is directed for public defense.

2. Relevance of the topic

The topic of the dissertation is undeniably relevant, having in mind that the preschool age is a sensitive period in children's speech development and that parents are an important factor in language acquisition. The actuality of the topic is expressed in the attempt to achieve broader understanding of parental attitudes, regarding children's language development. In the applied aspect, actuality is connected with searching for ways of effective treatment of children's speech disorders through parental ideas and attitudes about children's language development.

3. Awareness of the problem

Elena Kortežova is aware of the problem's state and creatively evaluates the literary material. Her ability to interpret critically discussed theoretical statements and empirical facts is evident from the overview, including 167 sources in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

4. Research methodology

The design of the empirical research is correctly developed, presenting: goal, tasks, object and subject, hypotheses and methods. Here, the work of the author regarding the research instrument should be specially noted: Questionnaire for researching parental attitudes towards the language development of children with communication disorders. It is built on the model of I. Ajzen according to the Theory of Planned Behavior. The stages of construction of the instrument are correctly presented, as well as the procedure and conduct of the empirical research itself. There were 234 people examined, of which 92% were women and 8% were men.

I think that the choice of the tool and the other methods in the research allow E. Kortežova to achieve the set goal and to get an adequate answer to the tasks solved in the dissertation work.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contribution

The presented dissertation has volume of 231 standard pages of main text and appendices in 23 pages. The structure includes an introduction, three chapters, summary, conclusions and recommendations, conclusion, literature sources, appendices, and contribution.

The first chapter is theoretical and analytical. The attitudes are examined in the light of modern theories, parental attitudes and their components (affective, cognitive and behavioral). The emphasis is placed on the characteristics and peculiarities of parental attitudes towards preschool children with communication disorders.

The second chapter presents the research design.

The third chapter presents the analysis of the results. Parental attitudes are summarized in two main qualities - positive and negative attitude. An analysis of the influence of the factors on the assessment of the parental attitude and the intention to attend therapy with a speech therapist was performed.

There conclusions made are logical consequences of the results obtained.

Elena Kortezova claims 3 theoretical and 5 applied contributions. I think that they have their place in the dissertation work presented.

The dissertation must be evaluated on merit, as an interesting, current and innovative scientific and applied research.

6. Auto-abstract

The auto-abstract reflects, to the necessary extent, the essence and main aspects of the dissertation work.

7. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contribution and results

The quality of the evaluated work is indisputable and this allows promoting the application of the Questionnaire for researching the parental attitudes towards the language development of children with communicative disorders in psychological and logopedic therapy practice. It would also be helpful if the author continues working in this area, expanding and deepening her research.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation shows that the Ph.D. student Elena Kortezova possesses deepened theoretical knowledge and professional skills, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research and propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Elena Peneva Kortezova**, in the field of higher education: Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction - Psychology, Pedagogy and age psychology Ph. D. program.

20.10.2022

The opinion is prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kirilka Tagareva/