

Review

by Prof. Dr. Daniela Todorova Yordanova,

DISSERTATION TOPIC: „MODEL FOR TRANSFORMATION OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR INTO ASSERTIVE BEHAVIOUR BY CREATING STORIES FOR STUDENTS IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF EDUCATION (3RD-4TH GRADES)“

for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Preschool and primary school pedagogy", Bourgas Open University, Center for Humanities

Doctoral Student: Vesela Pancheva Stoyanova

1. Data on the doctorate, dissertation, summary and publications

The dissertation presented by doctoral student Vesela Stoyanova "A model for the transformation of aggressive behavior by creating stories for students in the initial stage of education (grades 3-4) corresponds to the Higher Education requirements and regulations for the Academic Staff development of the Bourgas Open University.

No violations are committed in the doctoral studies. The doctoral student is enrolled in an independent form of study under the doctoral program "Preschool and elementary school pedagogy in professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy at the Center for Humanities with order UMO 107/16.03.2021 of the rector of the Bourgas Open University.

All activities of the IUP are completed on time. Doctoral student Vesela Stoyanova presents six publications that are related to the topic of her dissertation research.

The summary corresponds to the structure and content of the dissertation.

Vesela Stoyanova's dissertation "A model for transformation of aggressive behavior into assertive behavior by creating stories for students in the initial stage of education (3rd-4th grade)" contains 326 pages. The contents of the dissertation is in the amount of 237 pages, which includes an introduction, four chapters, general conclusions, final conclusion, recommendations, contributions and a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation work. There are 89 applications. They convincingly illustrate the realization of the doctoral student's research programme.

The literature review summary is gathered from 193 literary sources, of which 172 are in Cyrillic, 7 are in Latin and 14 are from the Internet. The text of the dissertation includes 7 tables, 10 figures and 21 diagrams.

The dissertation work presented by Vesela Stoyanova is original, because it brings to the fore the need to apply current educational policies in Bulgaria, among which prevention and countermeasures against aggressive manifestations in children, and will be implemented through targeted pedagogical impacts and interactions in educational and extracurricular environments. In this context, the model proposed and approved by the author helps to purposefully form an alternative behavior to the aggressive-assertive one, and its application should be of priority importance in the primary educational stage.

Vesela Stoyanova's dissertation offers methodological solutions applicable in practice, through a precisely formulated framework of the research program, unfolded in a scientific text of four chapters, built systematically, critically, logically, productively and linguistically in view of the set goal, tasks and hypotheses.

In the introduction of the dissertation, the relevance of the research is convincingly justified and the purpose and tasks are formulated. The purpose,

object, subject, hypotheses and model of the dissertation research are precisely formulated.

In the first chapter "Theoretical concepts and interpretations on the topic" the necessary theoretical foundations of the research are outlined, considering basic concepts on the topic such as aggressive behavior, assertiveness and assertive behavior, some age characteristics of the students in the primary educational stage of learning and the structure of the magical fairy tale. A didactically justified toolkit for forming skills for creating this type of fairy tale is also presented.

In the second chapter, the methodology and structure of the experimental research are correctly described. The design of the empirical research is precisely presented - goal, tasks, object and subject, the hypotheses are put forward and the methods used, organization and stages. Emphasis in this chapter is the described factors and procedure, which are fundamental to the validation of the model. The surveyed participants in the research are sufficient in number - 520 students (of which 265 girls and 255 boys, respectively) from the 3rd and 4th grade, in order to draw the necessary conclusions, which have a methodological weight in the application of the model for the transformation of aggressive behavior in assertive.

In the third chapter, "Example model for creating magical fairy tales", its main parameters are specified: goal, tasks, object and subject. An author's structure of the model was created, accurately illustrated with three figures, which makes it possible to specify the stages through which the process of creating author's authentic stories by students in the 3rd and 4th grade passes, namely: artistic perception, creative writing and analysis . The fourth figure gives an overall idea of the structure of the model. The merit of the dissertation is the electronic version of an interactive game supported by a text and audio file, which is conceptually linked to the created model and reflects the possibilities of digital learning and innovative methods in the education of the modern net generation.

The fourth chapter dwells on the analysis and interpretation of the results of the conducted research. The data from the aggression questionnaire and the assertiveness questionnaire are accurately analyzed, and presented through 14 diagrams. A correlation analysis is made, through which it is established that the degree of change in aggressive behavior when a change in assertiveness occurs in the control experimental group is low, but the results appear to be such, due to the short period of time when the experiment was conducted, but they also prove that the model is applicable in the pedagogical practice. The results of the research are interpreted and summarized. An analysis of the data from the observation of the participants in the experimental activity in the actual stage of the model is performed, as is the interpretation of the children's creativity - 36 group and 520 individual fairy tales were created.

The summary, the conclusions and the derived recommendations convincingly confirm V. Stoyanova's thesis, that for the formation of lasting models of assertive behavior, as an alternative to aggressiveness, it is necessary and important to start from an early age with targeted pedagogical activity to provide sufficient knowledge and social skills to distinguish between assertive and aggressive behavior.

2. Scientific contributions

The dissertation work presented by Vesela Stoyanova "Model for transformation of aggressive behavior by creating stories for students in the initial stage of education (3rd-4th grade) is relevant and significant for the educational practices in our country. It is a starting point for expanding the research in the future, as well as for its popularization with a view to creating and implementing national educational strategies and policies.

The dissertation achieves the set goal, namely: an experimental model is developed, implemented and proven as a way to influence aggressive

manifestations and transform them into assertive ones by involving children in complex activities to create magical fairy tales.

In the dissertation work of the doctoral student Vesela Stoyanova, contributions of a theoretical and practical-applied nature can be distinguished, namely:

Contributions of a theoretical nature:

1. Critically relevant problems from theoretical sources are systematized and analyzed, which specify, enrich and expand information on transforming aggressive behavior into assertive behavior by writing fairy tales. The generalisations made, are fundamental to the creation of a model for transforming aggressive behavior into assertive behavior in 3rd and 4th grade children.

2. An innovative theoretical model is proposed and described, which enriches the pedagogical theory related to the creation of a model for transforming aggressive behavior into assertive behavior, exclusively by using the original methodological tools - the dodecahedron and cognitive maps.

3. Possibilities for forming skills for writing magical fairy tales and analyzing them through analogous behavioural models of the aggressive and assertive personality are highlighted.

Contributions of a practical and applied nature

1. An author's model for transforming aggressive behavior into assertive behavior by creating stories for students from the initial stage of education (grades 3-4) is approved.
2. The reliability of the applied model for the transformation of aggressive behavior into assertive behavior by writing fairy tales among junior school students is proven.

3. The model of transformation of aggressive behavior into assertive by writing stories by children of junior school age is applied both for correctional and diagnostic activity.
4. Created author's products - a methodical guide "Manual for writing magical fairy tales" and an electronic interactive game supported by text and audio file that can be used by educators and parents.

3. Conclusion

The dissertation presented by Vesela Stoyanova " Model for transformation of aggressive behavior by creating stories for students in the initial stage of education (3rd-4th grade) is completed, with proven relevance and significance, with proven hypotheses and achieved goals and results for the educational process.

This gives me the reason to give a positive assessment and propose to the respected Academic Professional Jurors to award Vesela Pancheva Stoyanova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Preschool and primary school pedagogy", Burgas Open University, Center for Humanities.

15.08. 2023

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Daniela Yordanova