

**PEER REVIEW**

Of the submitted papers for the Competitive Application Procedure for the position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the field of higher education 1.

Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy  
(Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching in preschool and elementary school),

announced in State Journal, issue 45/17. 06.2022 by 'Prof. d-r. Assen Zlatarov' University

**Reviewer:** Mariana Assenova Balabanova

**I. Brief biographical data about the candidate**

Chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva is a sole candidate in the Competitive Procedure. She graduated from 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas-majoring in Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy( 2010). In 2012 she obtained her master degree in 'Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy' in the same university, Faculty of Social Sciences, specialising in 'Alternative Pedagogical Techniques in Preschool and Elementary School'.

The candidate worked as teacher in elementary school in 'Burgas' Private School in the period of September 15. 2016 to May 31. 2017, and as teacher in 'Budeshte' Private School, Plovdiv from 10.10 2013 to 05. 31. From 06. 01. 2017 to 03. 23. 2018 she worked as a teacher in 'Zlatnoto Kluche' Kindergarten, Burgas.

In 2017, the candidate defended her dissertation 'Development of Communicative Competence through Creative Narrative in Preschool Group' and obtained PhD degree ( doctoral programme 'Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature Teaching' in 'Paisii Hilendarski' University, Plovdiv.

The submitted certificates testify to a serious scientific interest, in particular the training course in Norway on 'Social Innovations', which directly corresponds to the subject of the candidate's dissertation.

In 2018, after a successfully passed Competition Application Procedure, she started work as assistant at 'Prof. d-r. Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas, Department of ' Methodology of Pedagogical Education', where she holds seminars and training practice on Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature Teaching in preschool and elementary school.

Since 10. 19. 2020, d-r Penka Vulcheva has been giving lectures and seminar practice as chief assistant at the same university.

### **II. Overview of the scientific and scientifically applied work of the candidate**

From the minimal national requirements reference( Final Provisions on the Academic Staff Development Regulations, issued in STATE JOURNAL , copy 56/ 2018) for holding the academic position of associate professor, can be seen that the scientific work of chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva is above the minimum group index as follows: group A- 50 points ( required 50), group B- 100 points ( required 100), group G- 422,5 (required 200), group D-95 points ( required-50), group E-110 points ( no minimum requirement). A reference for additional index performance has also been submitted: on-line and attendance lecture courses- 5; participation in international scientific forums abroad -2; university scientific and research forums-2; published university textbook on Theory and Methodology of Bulgarian language Teaching in preschool (co-authored) and a university teaching aid (co-authored). The developed and published co-authored Pastar Sviat' teaching aids for the elementary school system, together with the respective teachers' books, are considered a great achievement.

While evaluating chief assistant d-r Vulcheva's contribution, I will take into consideration her entire scientific work, but I will review her postdoctoral period only.

### **III. Main contributions of the scientific, scientifically applied and teaching activity of the candidate:**

For participation in the competition, chief assistant Penka Vulcheva has submitted a monography, a book based on defended dissertation, one textbook and one university teaching aid (both co-authored), 2 teaching aids for preschool education practice( co-authored) and 17 publications- one co-authored. 4 of the publications are from participation in scientific forums.



• **Chief assistant d-r Vulcheva's doctoral work is in the sphere of elementary school literature teaching technology.** She proves that the systematic and consecutive use of the mnemonic technique in the process of perceiving lyrical works is a determinative factor for comprehension and recreation of the studied piece. A complete two-way system has been created, which demonstrates how the teacher reorganises the cognitive content, interprets it and transforms it into systematic visual structure, which enables the child to follow the process of comprehension at their own pace and rhythm. Chief assistant d-r Vulcheva's contribution to the development of a pedagogical-technological model, focusing on students' learning how to prepare and apply mental cards and tables in the process of teaching pedagogical interaction, is very creative and innovative. This method is both creative and emotionally attractive, because it relies on the student's own activity. This contribution is particularly significant, because preschool children perceive the creation of these images and simplified pictures as mental card game

*Vulcheva P. (2022) 'Application of the Mnemonic Method in Preschool . ' Prof. d-r. Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas, ISBN 978-619-7559-31-6*

*In her postdoctoral period, chief assistant d-r Vulcheva persists in her endeavours to develop her ideas about creative retelling and its psycho-pedagogical projections. The book, based on her dissertation work, presents an approbated technological model for developing children's communicative skills in preschool groups*

Vulcheva. P. (2022) Creative Narrative in Preschool Age. Development of Communicative Competence in Preschool Groups three and four. FastPrintBooks, ISSN 978-619-236-311-6

The elaborated technological model has been specified in a number of articles. The use of visual props (mental cards and simple images), and key words used as props, is in the context of the gradual winding of the creative narrative, in accordance with the formed three-stage correlation 'speech-thinking-imagination'.

*Vulcheva P. (2022) 'The Mental Card as Creative Method for Children's Language-Creative skills. Collection 'Education- Classicism and Modernity', Veliko Tarnovo, 'St. st Kiril and Methodii' University, ISBN - 978-619-208-274-1 (in print).*

*Vulcheva P. (2022) Development of Creative Narrative in Preschool Through Use of Simple Images as Visual Props. XIII National Scientific-Practical Forum with International Participation. 'Innovations in education and cognitive development'. 17-18.08.2018, Burgas,*

*'Education and Technologies' Magazine, vol.13, 2022, issue 1, 91-95, ISSN 1314-1791 (Print) ISSN 2535-1214 (Online)*

*Vulcheva P.(2022) Narrative With Key Words in Preschool- a Bridge Between Speech and Fantasy. XIII National Sscientific-Practical Forum with International Participation 'Innovation in Education and Cognitive Development', 17-18.08.2018, Burgas, 'Education and Technologies' vol.13, 2022, issue 2, 314-319, ISSN 1314-1791 (Print) ISSN 2535-1214 (Online)*

- The application of the morphological analysis as creative method for children's verbal-creative skills in preschool has been substantiated in the following article.

- *Vulcheva (2020) 'Morphological Analysis as Creative Method for Children's Verbal-Creative Skills in Preschool. Management and Education Magazine, volume. 16, issue.3, 2020, 121- 125, ISSN 13126121.*

Chief assistant Vulcheva's contributions in the field of methodology of native language teaching comprise various themes and subjects and relate both to theory and practice (co-authored). Main pedagogical concepts of the teaching context, the methods and teaching techniques and possibilities for inner verbal activity motivation are methodologically determined. The role of the game technique, concerning the summarising function of the word is logically substantiated in an article.

*Vulcheva P. (2022) Game Techniques for Word Comprehension in Preschool. 'Management and Education' Magazine, vol 18, issue. 3, 2022, 118-124, ISSN 13126121.*

- The Associations Method for diagnosing verbal competency and the possibilities for its implementation are also introduced in a publication.

*Vulcheva P. (2021)' The Associations Experiment as Method for Evaluation the Language Competence in Preschool,' Management and Education' vol. 17, issue. 3, 2021, 119-124, ISSN 13126121.*

Another group of publications focus on the continuity of Bulgarian language teaching in preschool and elementary school on the basis of interactive methods. Apart from the 'reading and writing' preparation process, all opportunities for mastering reading in preschool are also argued. A parallel has been drawn between perceiving a fairy tale and a fable in both institutions, and creating a narrative based on a text excerpt.



*Vulcheva P. (2022) 'Reading Education in Elementary School and Possibilities for its Early Mastering in Preschool'. Education and Technologies' Magazine vol. 13, issue. 1, ISSN 2535-1214 (Online)*

*Vulcheva P. (2022) Continuity between Preschool and Elementary School in the Reading and Writing Preparation Process. Kindergarten Magazine issue. 5, 2022, ISSN 2535-0706 (in print).*

*Vulcheva P.(2022) Narrative Based on Text Excerpt in Elementary school and its Preparation in Preschool. 'Preschool and School Education' Magazine Management and Education issue. 6, 2022, ISSN 2535-0692 (in print).*

Another significant contribution of the candidate is her co-authored university textbook and university teaching aid.

The candidate has co-authored methodology techniques for the development of the main aspects of children's verbal speech in the context of communicative- active approach and has introduced adequate tools for diagnosis and development.

*University Textbook: Angelov B., Vulcheva P.(2021) Theory and Methodology of Bulgarian language and literature Teaching in Preschool. ' Kliment Ochridski' Universiy', ISBN 978-954-07-5161-0.*

The co-authored with Prof. Terzieva university teaching aid offers methodological pattern for work with students in the museum sphere and includes scientifically developed questionnaire and games, realized in a museum, under the guidance of the candidate.

*University Teaching Aid; Terzieva M. , Vulcheva P. (2021)Museum- Pedagogical Games, Burgas, Libra Scorp, ISBN 978-954-471-755-1.*

*The dissertation work and some articles target the literature teaching sphere. The subject of the articles relates to the specifics of lyrical works comprehension by 5-7-year-olds and methods and techniques for introducing poetry in the teaching practice.*

*Valcheva, P. (2022) Study of Methods and Approaches Established in Pedagogical Practice for Working with a Lyrical Work in Kindergarten and Primary school. XXXVII International Scientific Conference, Knowledge for Development (18-21.08.2022), Struga, N. Macedonia, KNOWLEDGE – International Journal Vol. 53.2, Global Impact and Quality Factor, 325- 331, ISSN 1857- 923X.*

*Valcheva, P. (2022) The Memory Table as an Alternative Method for Memorising a Poem at Pre-school Age. XXXVII International Scientific Conference, Knowledge for Development (18-21.08.2022), Struga, N. Macedonia, KNOWLEDGE – International Journal Vol. 53.2, Global Impact and Quality Factor, 337- 342, ISSN 1857- 923X.*

Valcheva, P. (2020) The Stories of Banat Bulgarians – Methodical Instruments in Building Up Language and Literary Knowledge of Pre-School Age Children. In: Annual of Assen Zlatarov University, Burgas, Bulgaria, 2020, Vol. XLIX, Book 2, 2020, Social Sciences, 15-21. ISSN 2603-3976 (in English)

Vulcheva P.(2021) Exploring Children’s Abilities in Age groups 3 and 4 for Perceiving and Analysing Literary Work. Collection ‘Projections of the Competence Approach in Preparation, Education and Development of the Personal Qualities in Preschool and Elementary School’ „Либра Скорп“, 2021, ISSN 978-954-471-804-6 (in print).

#### ***IV. Contribution significance***

**The theoretical contributions of the candidate have been experimentally explored and proven.**

- *Contribution to the methodology of the native language teaching as part of the teacher's professional competence.*
- *The methodological system for the development of children's creative narrative has been expanded.*
- *Theoretical and methodological paradigm for mental cards application in the literary education of preschool children has been introduced.*
- *Programme content model has been developed, primarily related to language acquisition and speech development in preschool.*

**The practice-applied contributions of the candidate are both in the sphere of the student’s practical education and preschool education.**

Precisely structured pedagogical technique has been designed, approbated and introduced into practice, which is intended for the formation of pedagogical students’ professional competence for work with mnemonic tables in the process of literary education in preschool.

- A pedagogical-technological pattern for creating mental cards has been developed and a practically -applied algorithm for their use in the process of pedagogical interaction has been designed.
- Chief assistant d-r Vulcheva’s scientific work can be defined as an example of perfect uniformity between theory and practice. She demonstrates an ability to operationalise theoretical production to a



verified transfer into practice. Native language education in preschool is assisted by an approbated pedagogical technique.

- All papers submitted by chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva meet the requirements of the Law of Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations for its implementation and the respective Rules of Procedure of 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University
- The number of the submitted papers published after the candidate's dissertation is sufficient and focus on the methodological education of the students from the pedagogical disciplines and the actual pedagogical practice.

*V. There is no plagiarism or violated author's rights in the submitted papers*

## **VI. Teaching practice**

Chief assistant d-r Vulcheva gives lectures and holds seminars in 'Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching in Preschool' attendance and on-line education (Zoom, Teams), bachelor degree, distant and full-time education; Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature in Elementary School'; 'Comparative Education'. She also trains students in 'Literature Teaching to Bilingual Children', 'Cinematic pedagogy', Cinema Art and Literary Education', ' Inclusive Education', 'Preschool Pedagogy'. She has also supervised pre-graduation internship of students majoring in 'Preschool Pedagogy with Foreign Language' and 'Elementary School Pedagogy with foreign language'.

## **VII. Critical notes and recommendations**

*My main critical comment is that the articles in the sphere of native language teaching in preschool predominate, in comparison with the publications concerning elementary school education. The candidate should continue her research in the sphere of Bulgarian language and Literature Methodology and intensify her*

*endeavours in search of ways to implement innovative methodological ideas into practice*

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation of chief assistant d-r Vulcheva's scientific work and teaching activity proves: adequate scientific priorities, qualitative correlation between the scientific work and the scientific metric criteria and indexes, positive contribution of the submitted papers, applicability of results.

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.**

*11. 11. 2022*

*Reviewer:*

*Associate Professor Mariana Balabanova, PhD*