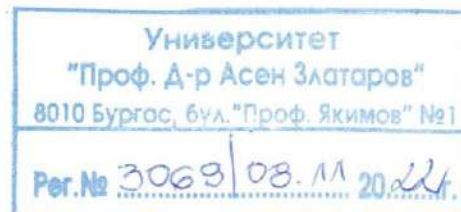


PEER REVIEW



Of the papers, submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of 'associate professor' at 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University- Burgas Field—higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature Teaching in Preschool and Elementary School)

By Margarita Todorova Terzieva, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Doctor of Philology - professor at 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University', Burgas

In the competition for 'Associate Professor', announced in State Journal, issue 45, from June 17, 2022, for the needs of the department of 'Pedagogy and Teaching Methods' at the Faculty of Social Sciences, chief assistant PhD Penka Krusteva Vulcheva from the same faculty is a sole candidate.

General overview of the candidate and the procedure

By order № 244 from September 15 2022 of 'Prof. d-r' Assen Zlatarov' University, I have been appointed as member of a scientific jury for a competition for the academic position 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Methods of Bulgarian language and Literature Teaching in Preschool and Elementary School), for the needs of the department of 'Pedagogy and Teaching Methods' at the Faculty of Social Sciences. At the first meeting of the jury on September 28, 2022, I was appointed as a referee

The submitted by chief assistant PhD Penka Krusteva Vulcheva documents and papers are in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University.

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 in specialised journals.

Biographical data

Chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva was born in Yambol, in 1981. She graduated from 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, obtaining a bachelor and a master degree.

She obtained her PhD in 2017 in 'P. of Hilendar' University, Plovdiv, - professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of Teaching..... doctoral programme 'Methodology of Language and Literature Teaching' .

She has been currently working as chief assistant at 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas.

The candidate has 12 years of practical experience, 8 of which as a teacher. She speaks English and Russian. She has been elected a Main Tutor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University.

General outline of the candidate's achievements

Scientific work

The monograph 'Application of the Mnemonic Method for Perceiving and Learning of a Lyric Work in Preschool'(2022) contains an introduction, three chapters, deductions, conclusion, bibliography and two appendixes. In her work, the applicant focuses on a significant issue of the literary teaching in preschool- the development of poetic hearing combined with the improvement of the verbal memory in the process of perceiving and recreating a rhymed literary work.

Chapter 1- 'Memory in Teaching and Educational Process in Preschool'-focuses on the analysis of the specific characteristics of children's memory and applying the mnemonic method, segmented according to age groups. A number of methodological terms have actively been introduced and used: mnemonic cards, mnemonic tables, pictograms. The authors claims that 'mnemonic tables enable the effortless memorizing of new information, when introduced as game, because children associate it with the pleasure of playing'.

In chapter 2 – 'A Paradigm of Methodological Approach to the Lyrical Work in Preschool'- the author summarizes the theoretical principles of the genre specifics of

children lyrics, the various methods and techniques applied during lessons. Most pedagogues rely on a visual prop, which plays a significant part in perceiving the lyrical work. This, however, does not refer to memorizing.

Chapter 3 - 'Experimental Research on Children's Abilities to Memorize by Heart and Reproduce a Lyrical Work' – constitutes the most essential part of the monograph. It contains the methodology and the structure of the research-subject and object, objective and tasks, hypothesis, methods and stages. The tools include the marked criteria and index for the experimental and control groups. The contents of the research and the analysis of the results are presented concisely but accurately.

The conclusions refer to the significance of the mnemonic tables in the process of perceiving a lyric work, the duration of teaching time, the accessible number of mnemonic tables, their colour construct, their use under the form of game.

The conclusion emphasises the fact that the described algorithm enables the quick, easy and complete memorizing of the lyrics. The bibliography comprises sources in Cyrillic, Latin and internet resources. An interesting fact is that only half of them are dated twenty first century, and the research itself suggests more up-to-date literature.

Appendix 1 includes 6 mnemonic tables for work with children in group 2 and 6 tables for work in groups 3 and 4. They testify for a solid set of methodological instruments. Appendix 2 includes a survey, intended for pedagogues..

The monograph reveals d-r Vulcheva's interest in experimenting and the ability to analyse dependencies, interrelations, obtained results. It can be considered a valuable methodical contribution.

The book 'Creative Story in Preschool' (2022), which I have reviewed, was based on chief assistant Vulcheva' thesis, which was written several years ago.

As I have already pointed out in a previous review, apart from some significant works, related to the creative story, published by Mariana Balabanova and Christina Taneva, as well as Bozhidar Angelov's 'Communication Competence in Preschool', on a national level the respective themes and issues have never been in the focus of subject-object field of research in this direction, nor have the intersection points

between them. . The technological model developed by chief assistant Vulcheva gives an account of the children's imagination and creativity, as well as their mental development level. On these grounds I can admit the relevancy of the issue and recognize its scientific and enforceable use.

My comment concerns the cited titles in the bibliography, about 30,- published in the 21 century-which may seem inadequate, taking into consideration the actuality of the issue..

In the capacity of a co-author of the 'Museum and Pedagogical Games' teaching aid, I'd like to point out that the games developed by the students are the result of their assisted cooperation with d-r Penka Vulcheva.

Scientific Publications

The submitted papers comprise 17 works, which can be grouped in the following way :

- according volume -1 study, and 16 articles;
- according publication cites – 5 in magazines, 2 – in collections of international conference participation, 7 in scientific conferences with international participation; 3 in national collections;
- according to language- 16 in Bulgarian; 1 in English;
- according to authorship -16 self publications; 1 co-authored

The articles and the papers are published mostly in refereed editions and have scientific value.

Participation in scientific projects

Following the period 2020-2022, chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva has participated in 2 scientific projects. The first one has produced scientific results, the second is currently in process: NIH-437/2020 with science officer associate professor d-r Krasimira Dimitrova and NIH-467/2022 with science officer associate professor d-r N. Kaloyanova.

The candidate is also a teaching officer in a number of scientific projects, which fact is verified by the certificates, issued by 'Prosveta' Publishing House and the Department of Qualification and Professional Development of Pedagogical Specialists at 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas

Scientific contribution

The candidate's contributions can be categorized in three groups:

– scientific-exploring the possibilities for recreation of a lyrical work with the help of mnemonic tables; approbation of technological patterns for the development of children's communicative and language abilities;

– scientifically -applied- ethnocultural interpretation of the Banat Bulgarian fairy tales and their implementation in the literary education in preschool age, creating museum- pedagogical games by students in the process of their studies;

– applicable- methodological guidance for successful Bulgarian language and literature teaching in preschool

These contributions define d- Penka Vulcheva as a scientist with specialized methodological interests in the field of literature and language teaching in preschool

Citations

The submitted papers contain 14 citations, 13 of which are found in Bulgarian scientific collections and magazines, 1 citation -in a magazine abroad. Some of the citations are found in refereed scientific publications, which guarantees the author recognition among the methodological community

Education- methodological and teaching activity

Chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva lectures on Methods of Bulgarian literature and Language Teaching to students from 'Preschool and Elementary School Pedagogy- distant education, she is the author of syllabi in ' Preschool Pedagogy' and 'Alternative Technology of children's language development'. She holds seminars in academic disciplines in Bachelor Majors: 'Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian

language and literature in preschool’, ‘ Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian language and Literature in elementary school’, Literature Teaching to Bilingual Children’, ‘ Literature and Cinematic Education’, ‘Cinematic Pedagogy’, ‘ Museum Pedagogy’, ‘Comparative Education’, ‘Inclusive Education’,’ Theory of Education’. The candidate participates actively in a number of practical studies and practicum, both in full-time and distant studies.

Personal view

I have known d-r Vulcheva since she was a student at the University and was greatly impressed when she won ‘Student of the Year’ award in the field of pedagogical sciences. I was a referee of her dissertation and have edited some of her scientific publications. My personal opinion is that d-r Vulcheva has great potential to be a good university lecturer and to embrace new educational challenges.

Critical notes and recommendations

I have the following critical comment:

- There has to be a balance between the methodological publications oriented to preschool and elementary school:

I suggest the following recommendations;

- to direct the application of the mnemonic method vertically, in the educational traditions and innovations in the field of the preschool;
- to extend her publications nation-wide and broaden the scope by addressing a diverse public – more than half of the articles and papers refer to schools and preschool establishments in Burgas region, which does not promote the scientific achievements.

Conclusion

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.

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.**

24.10. 2022 г. :

(Professor Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences Margarita Terzieva)