REPORT

On Acquisition of Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor

In favour of:

Georgy Kostadinov Dzhumayov, PhD Candidate, Department of Computational Linguistics from Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andrejchin", Bulgarian Science Academy

Topic of the dissertation: *Contemporary Technologies Implementation in Language Education*

Higher education area: 2. Humanities; Professional field: 2.1. Philology; Specialty: General and Comparative Linguistics

Supervisor: prof. Dr. Svetla Koeva

By: Tatyana Angelova, Dr, Full Professor, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

1. Relevance of the thesis theme: scientific and applied aspects

The need for researching the integration of new technologies in language teaching is growing in the rapidly changing social and economic context today. The presented work is relevant and significant due to identifying and solving the issue of intelligent implementation of information and communication technologies in the (foreign) language learning. The PhD candidate has chosen a research theme which possesses the potential to be of significance for a long period of time, given the impact of the pandemic. G. Dzhumayov exhibits research skills in formulating adequate and feasible goals and tasks, through which to plan and conduct the investigation. These goals and tasks demonstrate sufficient breadth and depth to allow for successful completion of the research.

The research design is consistent with the established goals and tasks. The thesis contains 323 pages, of which 289 comprise the main text, enhanced by rich visual data. The latter include 5 appendices, 11 tables, 17 figures, related to the questionnaire, to the main

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experiment, to conducting the investigation and to the achieved results. The provided bibliography, a total of 133 titles, of which 44 in Cyrillic, demonstrates the author's knowledgeability, which supports the successful thesis conceptualization.

2. PhD Candidate's knowledge regarding the problem and literature in the field

The PhD Candidate shows in-depth scientific knowledge regarding the use of contemporary technology in language education and in foreign language education in particular. He competently operates with the ideas found in the cutting-edge scientific theories in the field of language teaching and the technologies which enhance it. Noteworthy, instead of general overview of the existing methods, what is presented is a productive investigation of the functions of the new technologies in the intelligent application of each method. Furthermore, the candidate does not simply discuss the affordances of the technologies. He rather analyzes the functions of the technologies with regard to their introduction for successful realization of the teaching and learning methods.

The thesis text is exemplary structured in six chapters, each of which discusses key research concepts. Regarding text organization, it is worth noting the productive approach of establishing an interdisciplinary relation between linguistics and methodology as a foundation for successfully achieving the research goals. In addition, it must be stated that the discussed linguistic aspects provide ample proof that the work belongs to the field 2.1. Philology, General and Comparative Linguistics.

In the introduction of the thesis overview, G. Dzhumayov demonstrates his heuristic skills through motivating the choice of theme, defining the research subject and object, presenting the goals and tasks, methods and research design.

The author states on page 7 of the Annotation: "This thesis is dedicated to the following research subject: enhancement and optimization of the foreign language teaching methods through introduction of contemporary technologies in the language education. This subject includes the existing foreign language teaching methods, as well as the potential of implementation of various technologies in assisting enhanced and adequate language learning, including learning Bulgarian as a foreign language."

The candidate approaches the research subject in a heuristic way by decomposing it: "The research subject are the methods of foreign language teaching and their synchronous use with contemporary technologies, as well as the ways of enhancing (foreign) language teaching and improving its efficiency and efficacy through implementation of technologies." (Page 8 of the Annotation). The author further elaborates by stating: "The research is focused on the

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tense systems in Bulgarian, English and Spanish (limited to the indicative mood) and interlanguage correspondence in case of transfer of grammar categories." The research subject are: "students' attitudes towards computer enhanced language education, including mobile learning and using internet, as well as their knowledge regarding translation of the verb tenses in indicative mood from Bulgarian into English or Spanish, in the case of the first year of studying under the new curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Science for the Bulgarian school education." (ibid.)

Candidate's broad knowledge in the field is evident through the text of the **first chapter**, which introduces modern understanding about computer technologies in their various applications in teaching and learning foreign languages. Special attention should be given to the analysis of mobile language learning.

3. Relevance of the methodology chosen to the research goals and tasks

It must be stated that the chosen methodology corresponds to the goals and tasks formulated in the introduction. The thesis provides *complete innovative model of intelligent integration of technologies in language education in order to enhance the latter*. This model possesses extreme heuristic value.

What is taken into consideration is the entry level of proficiency; the target group is carefully selected so to ensure data compatibility; a model probation is performed based on unprecedented main experiment; the results are processed via statistical software for sociological research. Adequate and logical conclusions are drawn as a result of the analysis. Researching the attitudes shows the status quo at the entry of the system. The system performance is investigated; the outcomes are analyzed by following the specially designed main experiment. **The second chapter** is dedicated to analyzing students' attitudes, which is a noteworthy contribution.

G. Dzhumayov defines a research question related to enhancing the efficiency of teaching and learning one/two/more languages with technologies. In addition, he proves that the suggested model works, by conducting the unique main experiment. **Chapter three** gives a credible answer to this question.

I would like to stress on the productivity of the approach to enrich and improve language education on fundamental linguistic grounds. This is yet another methodological contribution of the thesis. **Chapters four, five** and **six** analyze the key characteristics of the tense systems of Bulgarian, English, and Spanish languages; the tense categories of the languages under investigation are analyzed in general, transpositional, and modal use. The purpose of these is

investigating the application of modern technologies in evaluating the degree of interlanguage transfer of the tense forms in Bulgarian, English and Spanish.

The thesis is complemented by exemplary visualized appendices, presenting the results of solving the practical task in English and Spanish.

The abstract adequately reflects the nature of the research, and presents the conceptual investigation design, the contributions and publications on the matter, taking into consideration the requirements for this academic genre.

Scientific and applied contributions and significance

I would like to confirm my acceptance of the stated in the annotation contributions. These can be generally divided into theoretical-methodological and applied. The first group contains the clarification of the fundamental question about the relation between the linguistic and methodological aspects of such an interdisciplinary research. Equally important is the proposed solution to integrating or intelligent application of the new technologies in language education through specially developed model. Regarding the applied contributions, it must be noted the value of the tools for investigating attitudes, for evaluation of mastering language proficiency in using verb tenses in Bulgarian, English and Spanish.

I would like to strongly recommend the work to be published in order to reach more specialists, not only these working in the field of linguistics, but also in methodology of both foreign and first language (Bulgarian) teaching.

CONCLUSION

I would like to express my wholehearted support to awarding the educational and scientific degree Doctor of Philosophy to Georgy Kostadinov Dzhumayov for his work *Contemporary technologies implementation in language education* in Higher Education Field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, Specialty General and Comparative Linguistics.

The thesis proves that PhD Candidate Georgy Dzhumayov possesses extensive knowledge and professional skills in the field of General and Comparative Linguistics, and demonstrates qualities and skills for conducting own research.

Taking all this into account, namely the relevance of the theme and the contributions, I would like to state my positive vote without reservation. I would like to suggest to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to award Georgy Kostadinov Dzhumayov the educational and scientific degree Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, Specialty General and Comparative Linguistics.

20th Nov 2020   Signature:

/Prof. Dr. Tatyana Angelova/