

REVIEW

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Associate Professor in: 2.1 Philology, scientific specialty "General and Comparative Linguistics" (Applied Linguistics)

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

in a professional direction: 2.1. Philology, specialty: German languages (English)

With candidate BARDA HASHIM GASHI

Dissertation "Integrating Applied Linguistics Approaches and Modern Competences in the ESP Courses for Students of Agricultural Sciences and Arts"

The dissertation presented for review has the original title Integrating Applied Linguistics Approaches and Modern Competences in the ESP Courses for Students of Agricultural Sciences and Arts, a total volume of 213 pages and contains an introduction, 6 chapters, conclusion, list of used sources - 145 in total, as well as 5 appendices.

1. Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied relation.

The present study is important because the results can be used in the development and evaluation of English language courses for special purposes, as well as to increase their effectiveness. In addition, studying the structure of courses can help teachers to overcome the limitations of objective conditions and use research in curriculum development.

The introduction considers the factors that justify the importance and relevance of the researched problem both in theoretical and practical terms. The growing role of English for Special Purposes (ESP) is rightly highlighted, given the importance of this language in academia and its development in all professional fields, being lingua franca. It is important to note that the basic theoretical formulations and postulates related to language for special purposes have long been established and although they are subject to continuous study, research and updating, their consideration from the point of view of applied linguistics is not very comprehensive. For researchers in the field, however, it is increasingly important, figuratively speaking, not "how things are" but "how they happen". In this aspect, applied linguistics makes it possible to consider theoretical problems in practice and seek solutions.

The research is based on the identification and study of ways to improve students' knowledge and skills in specialized English courses.

An important part of the research is the development of a program for a preparatory course that meets the needs of students who are about to study ESP.

Emphasis is placed on the fact that such studies are almost non-existent. This finding is sufficient reason for the doctoral student to focus on the study of the problem.

2. Accurately formulated goals and objectives of the dissertation

The introductory part presents the conceptual framework of the research, in which the object, the subject, the goal, the tasks and the research questions are precisely differentiated and formulated. The main goal - to study the current state of specialized English courses for students from two faculties of Hadji Zeka University is clearly defined. The long-term research of the research object is impressive, which fully corresponds to the performance of the task, namely to determine whether the inclusion of students' needs in the relevant established procedures helps to develop a program that facilitates adequate student participation in learning.

It should be noted that the tasks are presented together with the approaches used in the study. On the one hand, this hinders their clear distinction, but on the other hand, the doctoral student's desire to clarify her own view in defining them is understandable. The main task of the research, to prepare a program for a preparatory course, which will be a bridge between General English and the specialized language, is explicitly stated.

3. Degree of knowledge of the problem and relevance of the used literature.

The study of the problem has been carried out comprehensively and thoroughly. The knowledge of the situation in the two faculties where the research is conducted is evident. The choice of a problem that has not been studied closely so far in the respective local situation is praised, as well as the desire to build a basis for further research to help lecturers in teaching students in specialized language courses. The citations in the definition of the specialized language show the depth of the research. I would recommend the inclusion of Sager's postulates, which are considered fundamental in defining language for special purposes. We should also note the in-depth presentation of the role of different approaches to applied linguistics in specialized language research.

4. Correctness in quoting a representative number of authors.

The abstract of the dissertation lists 145 studied sources, 128 of which are in English, 2 in Albanian and 1 in German.

The dissertation meets the requirements for citing sources.

5. Existence of a substantiated and developed theoretical model of the research

The review of the literature related to the researched problem is thorough and determines its theoretical model. The experimental tools correspond to the set tasks. A theoretical model of a university program for a preparatory course in general English has been constructed and substantiated, the aim of which is to improve the specialized language course

for students from both faculties of the university. This model makes it possible to identify the relevant needs of students and to prepare for the relevant university learning environment. The literature review is comprehensive and is linked to the experimental tools of the study.

6. Relevance of the chosen methodology and research methodology with the set goal and tasks of the dissertation.

The third chapter - "Research Methodology" is of significant importance for the whole dissertation research. It is noteworthy that a large part of the research is devoted to the methodology. Most often, a paragraph of the chapter presenting the results of the empirical research is allocated to the methodology. Allotting a separate chapter dedicated to the methodology in the conducted research is essential and is determined by the application of a mixed (qualitative-quantitative) methodological approach. Quite reasonably, the doctoral student came to the necessary conclusion that she must pay special attention and define special volume to the justification of the methodological approach she has chosen to apply.

7. Contribution to the collection and analysis of empirical data.

The study is characterized by a long period of empirical data collection. The use of different approaches and the presentation of the analysis of empirical data through static data, graphs, tables and models, show the depth of the study and emphasize doctoral student's contribution of the dissertation. An online survey and two tests were used, which provide information on the level of proficiency in specialized English to respondents, their expectations from completing the course, as well as a study of students' motivation to study in a specialized language. As for the tools used in the interview - there are expectations for more in-depth development based on this approach. However, given the set of different approaches used, we believe that for the purposes of this dissertation, at this stage, the development is adequate. In fact, the doctoral student skillfully presents and analyzes the results of the research. Her approach provides an opportunity to get a clear idea of the overall design of the empirical study.

Description of contributions:

1. Brief description of the nature and assessment of the authenticity of the material on which the contributions of the dissertation are based.

In the submitted for review work of the dissertation, an accurate and adequate analysis of the state of university education in specialized language at the bachelor's level at Hadji Zeka University in Kosovo was performed. The survey was conducted with 100 students and the overall model of the overall survey includes several phases, which ensures its representativeness. The survey is part of the overall training course of the respondents, covering three phases of the survey - a preliminary phase, which includes a placement test and an online survey, a second phase, which includes observation during the training course and a third phase - a test to check achievement and sub structured interview. The placement test was administered before the start of the English language proficiency course. Results were compared with the results of the written achievement test at the end of the English for Special

Purposes program. The explicit verification of the research results of the graduates of the specialized English language course from the different researched specialties leads to the respective adequate conclusions made in the dissertation, the main of which is the need for a preparatory English course and elaboration of an appropriate program. The obtained results provide answers to current questions - whether changes should be made in the teaching of specialized English in the indicated faculties, in what direction the changes should be made, what are their dimensions, etc. It is commendable that the data collected were analyzed using the Social Science Statistical Package (SPSS) software. The survey contains 40 questions, which were evaluated on a four-point Likert scale, grading the answers to agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree).

2. Description of the candidate's contributions and their classification.

Some of the merits of the dissertation are related to the multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach in conducting the research. The following contributions from the dissertation are listed:

- Review of the history and development of ESP;
- Review of the state of ESP in Kosovo;
- Profile of the learners in terms of their attitudes and expectations towards their achievements in the ESP course;
- Detailed analysis of ESP trends in the three departments of the Faculty of Arts and a group of forty students from the Faculty of Agribusiness;
- Study of the profile of the ESP course, including analysis made before the course, during the course and after the course;
- Detailed preparatory program for a bachelor's degree.

I believe that there is not enough reason to include the review of the history and development of ESP as a contributing moment, but we could consider as a contribution the fact that this study is one of the few of its kind in Kosovo, as the dissertation emphasizes.

3. Assessment of the degree of personal participation of the doctoral student in the contributions.

The dissertation shows the doctoral student's ability to analyze on the basis of theoretical knowledge. Quantitative methods were used in the course of the research - tests and online research. These quantitative methods take into account the effectiveness of general and specialized language teaching. The research also uses qualitative methods - interviews and observation. The interview aims to establish students' attitudes about the quality of specialized English language training. The observation conducted during the training measures the intensity of the concepts' acquisition and the respective skills during the training course. Statistical presentation of the data is made. A variety of tools were used in order to prove the formulated hypotheses from different points of view, which speaks of a good

research ability. The obtained empirical results are interpreted in detail and the corresponding conclusions are made.

4. Assessment of the abstract's compliance with the main provisions and contributions of the dissertation.

The presented abstract has a volume of 46 pages. It is well structured and meets the requirements for volume. It reflects not only the main results obtained from the dissertation research, but also gives an idea of its details.

Impacts of the dissertation on the external environment. 1. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation: number, type.

The doctoral student presented 4 publications on the topic of the dissertation research, 2 of which are articles in scientific journals and 2 articles in scientific conference proceedings.

Opinion, recommendations and notes.

1. To correct a technical error on page 83 - "the were used".

2. In connection with the program for the preparatory course presented in the dissertation, to note the number of the respective academic hours.

3. In further research works, the topic can be expanded by comparing the situation in similar foreign universities (eg Bulgarian university)

Conclusion

The dissertation deserves a positive assessment both due to the depth of the theoretical formulations and due to the in-depth analysis and research of the empirical material. I believe that the dissertation meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

I give a positive assessment of the dissertation on "Integrating models of applied linguistics and modern skills in the program of specialized courses for students in the field of agricultural sciences and arts", presented by Barda Hashim Gashi and recommend that she be awarded an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 2.1 Philology, scientific specialty: Germanic languages (English).

29.01.22

Reviewer:

/ Assoc. Dr. Petina Vicheva /