

REVIEW

By Assoc. Prof. Dafina Yanorova Kostadinova, PhD,
South-West University "Neofit Rilski",
Professional field

2.1 Philology, General and Comparative Linguistics (English Language),
for awarding the educational and scientific degree **"Doctor of Philosophy"** in
professional field **2.1 Philology**, scientific field of **Germanic Languages** (English
Language) to PhD student **Bardha Hashim Gashi** for her PhD Thesis
**„Integrating Applied Linguistics Approaches and Modern competences in the ESP
courses for students of Agricultural Science and Arts“**

The review was compiled pursuant to Ordinance No. 3-PK-178 / 27.04.2020
of the Rector of the New Bulgarian University Prof. Dr. Plamen Bochkov and on
a decision of the academic committee.

The PhD thesis and the materials provided by Bardha Gashi, i.e., 4 articles
published in international academic journals, participation in international
scientific conferences, her education and courses, her work as a teacher of General
English and English for Specific Purposes in schools and "Haxhi Zeka" University
in Kosovo point to a focused scientific and applied approach and expertise in the
area of ELT and ESP.

1. Significance of the study in relation to its scientific and applied characteristics

The title *„Integrating Applied Linguistics Approaches and Modern competences in the ESP courses for students of Agricultural Science and Arts“* presupposes the multifaceted and topical academic task the author has set. ESP is a current global issue and putting it within the framework of applied linguistics and the modern competences needed today in science, business, art, and industry prove the significance and the scientific basis of the investigated issue. Its location in Kosovo makes the thesis unique and of great significance not only to Kosovo and the Balkans, but to any place where ESP courses are needed.

2. Rationale of the aims and tasks of the PhD Thesis

Having presented and analyzed in details the language situation and ELT in high schools and universities in Kosovo, Gashi states that: "the primary purpose of this study is to analyze the current situation of English language course at undergraduate studies. The two main objectives are: to identify students' needs

and language knowledge before starting the English language course; to analyze the course content and its delivery... the main aim of this study is to analyze the situation of the ESP courses and bring out a program that might help both students and ESP teachers to achieve the course objectives” (p. 24).

To achieve the goals the author poses 4 questions and looks for their answer and lists 4 hypotheses that are a result from her professional experience (pp. 25 - 26).

3. Correspondence between the research methodology and the goals and tasks set in the dissertation thesis

Chapter 3 of the dissertation thesis describes in detail the methodology of the research, its plan, compiling the questionnaires, the time of conducting the surveys, etc. (pp. 74 - 104). Through theory, the research is focused on practice, quantitative and qualitative research methods are applied - the various questionnaires are described, processed and analyzed in the ongoing ESP courses at “Haxhi Zeka” University in Kosovo.

The selected methodology fully corresponds to the goals of the thesis and Gashi has successfully completed the tasks set in Chapter 1.

4. Scientific and applied contribution of the PhD Thesis (description and evaluation) including evidence of original contribution to science

The dissertation thesis is original with its multidisciplinary and multifaceted approach on a global and local scale. It contains several scientific and applied contributions in different aspects: 1) review of the emergence and development of ESP worldwide; 2) a description of the state of ESP in Kosovo; 3) profiling the students in the university according to their needs and expectations from the ESP training; 4) description and analysis of the ESP course at “Haxhi Zeka” University; 5) analysis of the ESP course in three stages - before, during and after the course.

The research and its results are necessary and applicable not only in Kosovo, they can be used as a source of ideas for ESP courses in countries where such types of courses are not available or have not been developed yet.

5. Evaluation of the articles based on the dissertation: number and significance of the publications

Gashi’s four articles published in prestigious academic journals and her participation in eight international scientific conferences stated in the attached CV, are in the field of her work and cover the following topics: ESP, multilingualism, academic English, analysis of the students’ / learners’ needs, curricula based on the students’ / learners’ needs, integration of the approaches of

applied linguistics and modern skills in the ESP curricula, ESP training through projects, etc.

Her papers are original, since she deals with general problems and theories related to applied linguistics, English language teaching and ESP in secondary and higher education in Kosovo. The author describes the situation in the country and the educational institutions reasonably and objectively, the students' attitudes and expectations regarding their training in English and ESP, which sheds light on a new discussion, consideration and contribution to applied linguistics and teaching ESP.

6. Citation by other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.

Most probably due to her author's modesty, Bardha Gashi has not provided information concerning references and/or citation of her works. However, I strongly believe that soon her works will be cited and discussed by other scholars.

7. Opinions, recommendations and notes

The dissertation presented by PhD student Barda Gashi possesses all the qualities of an original scientific work, developed within a well-presented theoretical framework. It has the necessary quantitative and qualitative research and analysis. The approach and conclusions are authentic. The contributions of the thesis are applicable to various aspects of the Applied Linguistics and ESP teaching, not only in Kosovo.

I would recommend editing the text before its publishing - some minor grammatical errors are detected, but they do not interfere with the good quality of the work. In my opinion the list of abbreviations is unnecessarily long; some of them could be written in full words in the text for the reader's convenience.

8. Conclusion

All the facts listed above prove the scientific value, contributions and originality of the dissertation thesis of Bardha Gashi. The PhD Thesis fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and as a member of the scientific committee I assess positively the work and I vote for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Philosophy" in professional field 2.1 Philology, scientific field of Germanic Languages (English Language) to PhD student Bardha Hashim Gashi.

16 June 2020

Signed: 
(Assoc. Prof. Dafina Kostadinova, PhD)