

NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY

REVIEW

by assoc. prof. Veselin Chantov PhD, ULSIT

**associate professor in professional field 3.5. Social Communications and
Information Sciences (Foreign Language Communicative Competence in the
context of life-long education)**

on the thesis by Eda Cauli

Implementing a CLIL approach to Teaching English for

Special Purposes in Academic Contexts

submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for awarding a PhD degree in

scientific area: 1. Pedagogical Sciences

professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of the Teaching of Modern Languages

(specialty: Foreign Language Teaching Methodology – English Language)

Thesis Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Dimitrova-Gyuzeleva, PhD

SOFIA

2023

1. Relevance and significance of the developed scientific problem

The relevance of the topic chosen for the thesis is determined by the growing importance of the application of CLIL in a university environment and the increasing role of the English language as a means of communication in the workplace, and through the specialized terminology of the chosen professional field. The introduction of the competence approach in foreign language learning, in turn, requires a change in the teaching methodology, the selection of appropriate approaches and, to a large extent, the digitization of communication between students and teachers.

The significance of the developed scientific problem is in the tasks set by the PhD student. To study, describe, develop and present with empirical results of a conducted study the role and introduction of CLIL in business programs of universities in Albania through teaching and learning specialized English.

2. Compliance with the national requirements for a PhD thesis

The research done by PhD candidate Cauli and the documents she has submitted for review fully correspond to the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application. The originality of the dissertation has been checked through the Strikeplagiarism software, which has shown that the dissertation is an independent work done by Eda Cauli with Similarity coefficient of 6.92% (below 10%) and secondary similarity coefficient of 2.39 (way below 10%).

3. Assessment of the scientific results and the contributions of the dissertation

The dissertation has been developed on 272 pages of main text that includes 63 figures and 40 tables. It is structured into an introduction, six chapters arranged in three main parts, a conclusion, a list of references, documents, a list of tables and a list of figures.

Among the **theoretical contributions** stand out the following:

- The new knowledge synthesized in the research process of CLIL and the teaching of English for special purposes in a university environment. I accept the author's statement that much has been written about CLIL, but this is the first time an attempt has been made to examine this kind of learning in a university setting in Albania;
- The substantiated model for applying the approach in the process of acquiring foreign language competences in the professional sphere has been tested through experimental research – theoretical and methodological, and the presented results meet the modern requirements for conducting academic research and, accordingly, contribute to the pedagogical practice of teaching foreign languages.

Contributions of applied character:

- The field of application of the specialized approaches for CLIL has been defined;
- A powerful toolkit is proposed for applying the methodology in planning, implementation and verification of the modern approach to learning English in business and administrative technologies and communications - for the benefit of the pedagogical specialists.

The results obtained by the PhD student in the study of the problem can be a basis for building an integration information environment, ensuring an interoperable automated exchange of information and data between the various universities in the country and abroad, where the English language is studied for special purposes. This, in turn, will improve access to good practices and increase students' language culture.

4. Assessment of the PhD candidate's publications and abstract to the dissertation.

Eda Cauli's 5 publications on the topic of the dissertation (2018-2021) are exactly in the direction of her research and I assume that they can provide

representativeness of the conclusions and results thereof. Additionally, she has written an impressive number of articles and participated in just as impressive number of forums on the topic of foreign Language Learning and Integrating CLIL into the learning process.

The Abstract has been written in compliance with the requirements. It fully corresponds to the LDASRB as well as the RALDASRB. The abstract fully reflects the spirit and content of the dissertation.

A very good impression is made by the correct scientific style, the precision of the statement, the terminological accuracy. The text is easy to read, accessible. This in no way reduces its scientific value, on the contrary, it shows the high culture and responsibility of the author.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

The research of the processes and innovations in the scientific field of the PhD student is comprehensive, but the applicability of the results is specific and appropriate. I do not find any significant weaknesses in the structure of the dissertation submitted for opinion. The work meets the requirements of the regulations in the Republic of Bulgaria for the development of the academic staff. I recommend that the dissertation be published as a monographic work, so that the results of the research can be distributed to a wider circle of specialists in the methodology of teaching foreign languages.

6. Conclusion

Taking into account the relevance and significance of the researched scientific problem in the dissertation entitled **Implementing a CLIL Approach to Teaching English for Special Purposes in Academic Contexts** as well as the dissertation abstract, the originality of the development and the quality of the scientific results

achieved by the author Eda Cauli, I find that the dissertation is a well-formed scientific study with achieved theoretical and practical-applied results and meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “doctor”.

I vote in favor and I suggest that the honorable members of the scientific jury should award Eda Cauli the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in professional field **1.3. Pedagogy of the Teaching of Modern Languages (specialty: Foreign Language Teaching Methodology – English Language)**

Scientific jury member and review author:



(assoc. prof. Veselin Chantov PhD)

21st February 2023

Sofia