

REVIEWER'S DISSERTATION THESIS REPORT

Dissertation Thesis Title: *A Comparison Study of Preparing Kindergarten Teachers in Bachelor Level Teacher Education Programs between Czech Republic and China: Focus on the Field of Kindergarten Arts Education*

Author: Mgr. NIAN Zhaohao

Institution: The Institute of Education and Social Studies, Faculty of Education, Palacky University in Olomouc

Dissertation Thesis Reviewer: PhDr. Zuzana Dostálová, PhD.

Reviewer's Workplace: Department of English Language and Culture, Faculty of Education, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

The dissertation thesis entitled *A Comparison Study of Preparing Kindergarten Teachers in Bachelor Level Teacher Education Programs between Czech Republic and China: Focus on the Field of Kindergarten Arts Education* authored by Mgr. Nian Zhaohao discusses educational similarities and differences between Czechia and China as far as the kindergarten arts education is concerned. The dissertation topic has not been subject to much academic scrutiny so far and thus it offers the author a perspective of filling in the existing gaps in the research. Simultaneously, this relatively unresearched topic should be viewed as challenging owing to both lack of previous research and the author's language barrier (as the author carried out the research both in China and Czechia).

The thesis consists of an introduction, five distinct chapters, a conclusion, a comprehensive list of references and appendices. The author sets four research questions which logically stem from the selected research framework revolving around four dimensions of teacher education programs: subject courses, professional guidance from kindergarten teacher educators, field practice, and teachers' reflection. This multilayered framework requires the application of various methods and therefore the author uses textual analysis, participant observation, case study, and focus group interviews. The

comparison stems from Bereday's four stage comparative approach comprising description, interpretation, juxtaposition, and comparison. The selected approach enables the author to systematically reach the research aims.

Specific results are discussed in chapter six. The author grounds her conclusions in the textual analysis of Czech and Chinese syllabi pointing to specific examples of art projects employed during in-class activities that have been carried out at selected Czech and Chinese kindergartens. Furthermore, the assumptions of the interviewed student teachers help to illustrate the research results. In the analysis, the author scrutinizes each aspect of Bereday's above mentioned approach and thus answers the stated research questions. However, in the discussion of the results, I miss a more detailed analysis of the recommendations for the teaching practice in China (and perhaps Czechia as well). The research methods correspond with the research problem. The author demonstrates the ability to apply the methods in practice and to obtain reliable data which are subsequently evaluated, interpreted and put in a broader theoretical framework. The author's assumptions are supported with relevant resources.

As far as the formal and linguistic aspects of the dissertation are concerned, the author makes numerous spelling, grammar, syntactic, lexical (word formation), and stylistic mistakes (cohesion, coherence). Some sentences and paragraphs in chapter two are doubled (e.g. see page 40) and create an impression that the author did not carefully proofread the text. There are also quite a few inaccuracies in citing the sources, the list of references is not in the alphabetical order, and the chapters are not numbered correctly. Chapter 1.7 is abundant as the author just repeats what has been said previously. Similarly, the maps employed on page 10 and 15 are redundant as they do not illustrate or explain the text. The dissertation thesis would make a much better impression had it not been for these formal inaccuracies. Should the author want to publish her research findings, she should have the text proofread first.

Regarding the above-mentioned comments the following suggestions for the defense arise:

1. Drawing on your research findings, could you elaborate in more detail on your specific recommendations for kindergarten teacher preparation in China and

Czechia? If possible, reflect Baistow's cross national research that you discuss on page 125 of your thesis.

2. What are some other directions that your further research of the topic could take?

Final conclusion:

Despite formal inaccuracies, the author has demonstrated in-depth knowledge of the topic and managed to bring about new findings in the area which has not been researched in detail before. These findings as well as the author's firsthand experience with professional preparation of future kindergarten teachers in two countries have the perspective of becoming a great asset in her future career pursuits and they form a solid foundation for the author's future research. Therefore, I RECOMMEND Nian Zhaohao's dissertation thesis for the defense.

Olomouc, March 4, 2023

PhDr. Zuzana Dostálová, PhD.