

Opponent's Review for the inauguration process of Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD

I have availed myself profoundly of all the necessary documents concerning the pedagogical and teaching career, the scientific activities and scientific publication, including the monograph "CLIL Research in Slovakia" of doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD from KLIŠ PF UKF v Nitre. I have formulated my opponent's report examining her scientific output and her advancement for full-professorship on the basis of the materials provided to me by the Pedagogická Fakulta.

Review of the Pedagogical Activities of Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD

Silvia Pokrivčáková is a born educator: she is a highly talented teacher and researcher, sensitive to pedagogical problems and persistent in the acquisition of the theoretical foundations of language didactics. Her academic career is fairly unique in Slovakia: observing the greatest need of a small country which consists in the integration of local values and outputs with international communication, she devoted her pedagogical practice and research to establishing a new paradigm in foreign language education in Slovakia in a highly innovative way. She has been instrumental in founding and organizing an outstanding department of language didactics with highly motivated and ambitious colleagues contributing to the national fame of the Doctoral School of Foreign Language Didactics at UKF.

After her high school years, during twelve formative years of her intellectual preparation, she managed to engage in studies related to teacher training in the fields of Slovak and English languages and literatures, obtaining further a PaedDr degree in Pedagogy, and a PhD in the research and theory of Slovak Literature in 2001.

Silvia Pokrivčáková has been employed at UKF for 18 years, and has been a full-time employee of the PF UKF since 2002, during which time she obtained the title "docent" in 2005. During the past decade she has been teaching various courses on all three-levels of education in the Bologna-system, she has supervised over 80 MA theses, 15 BA theses and has supervised 6 PhD students, four out of whom have so far successfully defended their theses. Silvia Pokrivčáková has established a school of Language Didactics the apex of which is the Doctoral School of Language Didactics, a unique achievement in Slovakia as of date.

Review of the publications of Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD (including the monograph "CLIL Research in Slovakia")

Although Silvia Pokrivčáková has taught people how to work and run projects in teams, she has been outstandingly productive even individually in her national and international level publications. The number of papers published is impressive: around 120 domestic and 60 international papers. I should, however, emphasize the monographs she has written, which at the same time indicate the natural shift in her research interest. Her literary interest was visible in the 2006 and 2008 publications, which were then followed by monographs on modern content-language teaching, teaching techniques and Content-Language Integrated Learning (CLIL).

In addition to some recent publications (Research in Foreign Language Education, MSD Brno, 2012, ed. by Pokrivčáková), Bilingual Education in Slovakia: a Case Study, Journal of Arts and Humanities, (2013), Foreign Language Education of Learners with Special Educational Needs in Slovakia, International Journal of Arts and Commerce (2013), Quality Survey of Slovak Teachers' Personal View of Content-Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, (2012), Silvia Pokrivčáková has submitted a published monograph under the title "CLIL Research in Slovakia, (Hradec Kralové: Gaudeamus, 2013) as her inauguration work.

The monograph is a summary of her results in surveying the decade-long teaching and learning experience through CLIL in Slovakia. This is a timely synthesis of an integrated methodology which is the innovative terrain of the author herself in pioneering in the design and dissemination of an effective foreign language learning methodology. In addition to a historical overview, the author focuses on "learner-centered CLIL-research, on "teacher-centered CLIL-research" and the resulting "classroom interaction through CLIL". The conclusion is formulated with a special view on the implications of "CLIL teacher training". The monograph is very valuable for both teachers and teacher trainers who are convinced to teach CLIL with compatible up-to-date methods as e-learning and CALL.

Review of the Scientific Activities of Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD

Silvia Pokrivčáková is herself an integrative personality: she pursues her professional interests such that she can share her motivation and results with her intellectual environment. She exerts a conduit-effect on her colleagues, instigating and motivating, especially younger colleagues and PhD students. She has participated widely on national conferences (40) and international ones (25), and has organized a great number of workshops and trainings for students, in-practice teachers and school administrators.

Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD is a decisive personality in her field of language didactics, applied linguistics and teaching methodology. Her work and scientific achievements are acknowledged in Slovakia and abroad alike, due to the high quality of her publications, her presence on international scientific fora and her instrumental role in the success of the Doctoral School of Language Didactics at the PF UKF.

Recommendation concerning the opening of the inauguration process for Doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD

On the basis of the examination of the scientific, teaching and publishing activities of doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD I hereby acknowledge the outstanding scientific achievements of the candidate. I am convinced that her systematic and focused scientific and pedagogical activity qualifies her for being a full-professor of UKF v Nitre.

Therefore, **I strongly recommend** that the inauguration process for the appointment of doc. PaedDr. Silvia Pokrivčáková, PhD as full-professor should be opened and **she should be appointed professor v odbore 1.1.10 Odborová didaktika**.

Cordially,

Professor Dr. László I. Komlósi