

## **REVIEW**

**of Halyna Yaremko,  
Associate Professor, PhD (Education),  
Head of the Department of Foreign Languages for Humanities  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Lviv Polytechnic National University**

**of the thesis**

**The Development of Cooperation and Academic Exchanges between  
Ukrainian and Chinese Universities (the Beginning of the 21st Century)**

**written by**

**Wang Yixuan**

**submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
in the specialty 011 Educational, Pedagogical Sciences**

### **1. Topicality of the performed work and its connection with the relevant plans of the branches of science**

In today's globalized world, the development of university education occupies a prominent place in the agenda of many countries. After all, universities are not only places where students and postgraduates study, carry out research, fulfill international cooperation, and implement modern approaches to teaching and learning. A modern university is a multifunctional center that maintains relations with future and former students, provides educational services not only at the bachelor's, master's and postgraduate levels, but also implements programs of postgraduate education and professional development for working professionals, actively participates in public life of their region and the country as a whole.

The development of international cooperation is one of the important aspects of the university's activities. Such cooperation contributes to the establishment of relations with foreign universities, improvement of educational programs, joint research and academic exchanges. In addition, participation in international teacher and student exchange programs is a guarantee for improving language skills, gaining new experience, and getting to know the culture and customs of the host country.

There is no doubt that along with the opportunities offered by participation in academic exchange programs and international university cooperation in general, there are certain challenges faced by participants in such programs. However, the study of such aspects, a thorough research of the international cooperation development and academic exchanges will contribute to highlighting of this problem.

The topic of the development of international cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities is relevant, and its research will contribute to strengthening of international relations of these universities, the creation of opportunities for closer cooperation, and will also enrich domestic theory and practice in the field of educational sciences. Therefore, Wang Yixuan's thesis is relevant, timely and appropriate.

The theme of Wang Yixuan's thesis study corresponds to the thematic plan of the scientific research work of the Department of Pedagogy and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University "Theoretical and methodological foundations

of the personal and professional development of a modern specialist in the conditions of integration into the international educational space" (state registration number 0121U113179).

The theme of the thesis was approved (protocol No. 6/22 dated February 1, 2022) by the Academic Council of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law, Psychology and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

## **2. The most significant scientific results contained in the thesis**

Based on the study of the source base of the research, an analysis of the development and implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities at the beginning of the 21st century was carried out. The author substantiated the theoretical foundations of the development of cooperation and academic exchanges, selected the appropriate research methodology. Features of the development of cooperation and academic exchanges based on social, economic, cultural and legal dimensions are outlined. The implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities was analyzed, as well as proposals for improving cooperation and academic exchanges between the specified countries.

## **3. New facts obtained by the dissertator**

In Wang Yixuan's thesis, *for the first time*, a comprehensive analysis of the development and implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities at the beginning of the 21st century was performed, and ways of improving cooperation and academic exchanges between the two countries were proposed; researched scientific literature that allows to substantiate the theoretical foundations of the development of cooperation and academic exchanges (world systems theory; theory of creation and dissemination of knowledge; theory of social capital; theory of culture; theory of social learning; theory of academic internationalization; theory of innovation and evolution; theory of social constructivism), and also argue the research methodology; the peculiarities of the development of cooperation and academic exchanges in the discourse of the Ukrainian-Chinese experience through the prism of social, economic, cultural and legal dimensions were analyzed and highlighted; the implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities in a wide range of disciplines and fields, from science and technology to humanities, from fundamental to applied research, were characterized; ways of promoting the improvement of cooperation and academic exchanges between the two countries *were proposed* (strengthening of long-term, stable and effective cooperation, expansion of mutual benefit and complementarity, expansion of the volume of academic exchanges; creation of various types of intermediary institutions, involvement of scientists, public organizations and diplomats, as well as discussion of mutually beneficial prospects on a large scale; acceleration of the process of network education, which contributes to the development of cooperation between universities, universities and society, different countries and regions; improving the management of international activities as one of the main tools for increasing the efficiency of the university's work, improving the quality of teaching and learning, promoting the development of the country based on the use of achievements in the educational and scientific spheres; improvement of

educational programs and services, which helps to attract talented youth within the country and abroad; expanding support for cultural and social spheres, which is the basis for further educational and scientific cooperation). The content of the concepts "international education", "international educational exchange", "cultural diversity", "academic cooperation and research", "interdisciplinary cooperation", "globalization of education" *was clarified*. The scientific understanding of concepts and terms in the field of internationalization of higher education, development of academic cooperation and academic exchanges, peculiarities of their organization and implementation *was improved* and expanded. Provisions on the development of academic cooperation and exchanges between universities *were further developed* in accordance with modern theories, which are the basis of the internationalization of higher education. A significant volume of materials presented in the publications of Chinese scientists on the researched problem, as well as innovative ideas, facts and approaches used in the field of academic cooperation and exchanges in higher education, have been introduced into the scientific discourse.

#### **4. The degree of validity of the scientific statements, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis**

Analysis of the content of Wang Yixuan's thesis and publications allows us to draw a conclusion about the scientific validity and reliability of the results presented by the author. The need to carry out research on the development of cooperation and academic exchanges between the universities of Ukraine and China is also due to the discovery of a number of contradictions between: the need to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of academic cooperation and exchanges between universities from different countries, which is justified by the trends in the development of the international space of higher education, and the initial stage of its development in Ukraine and the People's Republic of China; the need to organize academic cooperation and exchanges between the universities of the two countries and the discrete nature of its implementation in the experience of modern Ukrainian and Chinese universities; the need to improve the development of academic cooperation and exchanges between universities in Ukraine and China and the insufficient level of studying its theoretical foundations and best practices, which makes it impossible to determine further prospects.

The scientific apparatus presented in the introduction makes it possible to fully imagine the author's vision of solving the problem under study, which led to the use of theoretical and practical methods of scientific research.

The novelty and plausibility of the general conclusions of the dissertation are provided by a comprehensive analysis of a significant number of sources; using appropriate methodological approaches to research and a set of interrelated methods in order to solve the identified tasks and achieve the research goal; effective introduction of research materials and results into the work of higher education institutions of Ukraine.

The thesis was prepared at an appropriate scientific level. The dissertator knows the theory of the problem and the methods of its research. A positive impression is made by the design of the work, the tables, figures and appendices placed in it.

The content of the submitted abstracts reflects the content of the dissertation and highlights its essential aspects and main provisions.

The level of approbation of the research results is sufficient and is confirmed by the participation of the dissertator in scientific and practical conferences of various levels.

## **5. Significance for science and practice of the author's obtained results**

The results obtained by the author undoubtedly have important theoretical and practical significance for the further development of pedagogical science. The main provisions of the thesis are used and can be used by institutions of higher education, in particular, during teaching and studying courses "Actual problems of the theory and history of pedagogical science", "Internationalization of education: directions, trends, perspectives" for post-graduate students; "Pedagogical comparative studies" for master's students. The dissertator's proposals and identified ways to improve cooperation and academic exchanges between the two countries can be used by university management to improve management in the field of international activities. Research materials, conclusions and results can be used by scientists for further pedagogical research.

This is confirmed by documents on the implementation of the main provisions, conclusions and results of scientific studies in the work of Mykhailo Kotsiubinsky Vinnytsia State Pedagogical University, Stepan Gzhytsky National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology of Lviv, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Lviv Polytechnic National University.

## **6. Recommendations for the use of the results and conclusions of the thesis**

The main provisions of the thesis can be used for further research in the field of pedagogical comparativistics, devoted to the study of cooperation and academic exchanges between foreign and domestic universities; analysis of the best practices in the implementation of international activities of higher education institutions. The author's work on the social, economic, cultural and legal dimensions of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation and academic exchanges, as well as outlined ways to improve the international activities of universities and recommendations that can be used directly to improve the legal framework and activities of higher education institutions, are important.

## **7. Assessment of the content of the thesis and its completeness**

The degree of validity of scientific statements, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis is largely ensured by the logical structure of the work. The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions to each chapter, general conclusions, a list of used sources, and appendices. The logic and sequence of the presentation of the text of the work corresponds to the solution of research tasks to achieve its goal. The logical structure of the work is provided by conclusions and generalizations, as well as illustrated by tables, figures and appendices.

The first chapter "Cooperation and academic exchanges of university teachers and students of as a scientific and pedagogical problem" highlights the importance of the concepts of international education and globalization of education from the perspective of a review of previous studies. The significance of the theoretical foundations of the study of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukraine and China is presented, as well as the current general direction of the development of

cooperation and exchanges between the two countries through the prism of international education.

In the second chapter, "Peculiarities of cooperation and academic exchanges development in the discourse of the Ukrainian-Chinese experience", the social, economic, cultural aspects of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities are clarified, and the legal basis for the development of cooperation and academic exchanges is substantiated.

The third chapter "The implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities" presents the peculiarities of the organization of educational exchange programs for university teachers and students, distinguishes and characterizes the scope and main features of scientific cooperation and exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities, as well as ways and suggestions to improve cooperation and academic exchanges between the two countries.

The linguistic and stylistic design of the thesis takes into account the features of the scientific style of speech.

## **8. Discussion points, recommendations and comments on the content of the thesis**

In general, positively assessing the scientific and practical significance of the obtained results, we consider it necessary to express certain suggestions and remarks of disputable nature:

1. In our opinion, an important achievement of the work would be the periodization of the development of cooperation and exchanges between universities of Ukraine and China.

2. It could be worthwhile to provide a description of the Ukrainian higher education system, its achievements in the field of the international activity and the ways of transformation in the direction of the international educational space, since the features of international cooperation of Ukrainian universities are the subject of the research.

3. We believe that it would be important for highlighting the practical implementation of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities to outline the programs or opportunities for adaptation of representatives of the given countries in the host institutions in the third chapter of the paper.

4. The advantage of the thesis under review would be the study of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukraine and China through the prism of the acquisition/development of linguistic competences.

5. The work is not without some errors of punctuation and spelling.

## **9. Completeness coverage of results in publications**


Scientific results and main provisions, conclusions and recommendations are sufficiently fully set out in 11 works (9 of them individual): 2 chapters in collective monographs, 4 articles in publications included in the list of scientific specialized publications of Ukraine, 5 theses of reports in collections of materials of international and all-Ukrainian scientific and practical conferences.

## 10. Conclusion

Therefore, the thesis under review of Wang Yixuan on the topic: "The development of cooperation and academic exchanges between Ukrainian and Chinese universities (the beginning of the 21st century)" is an independent, completed study that has scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance for pedagogical science and practice. We believe that the dissertation deserves a positive assessment, meets the requirements of the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 40 dated January 12, 2017 "On the approval of the requirements for the preparation of the dissertation" (with changes), The procedure for awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and annulment of the decision of the one-time specialized academic council of the institution of higher education, scientific institution on awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated January 12, 2022 No. 44), and its author, Wang Yixuan, awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences, field of knowledge 01 Education, pedagogy.

### Reviewer:

Associate Professor, PhD (Education),  
Head of the Department of  
Foreign Languages for Humanities  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Lviv Polytechnic  
National University



Halyna YAREMKO

Scientific Secretary  
Lviv Polytechnic  
National University



Roman BRYLYNSKYI