

## **Abstract:**

The dissertation concentrates on drama in education, which is my specialization, specifically on one of its techniques – Forum Theatre. Its objective is to assess the efficiency of Forum Theatre as a method applied to solve disciplinary problems among primary school pupils.

In the theoretical part, I deal in detail with the ideas promoted by the founder of Theatre of the Oppressed, Augusto Boal. Studying his approaches, I return back to the roots of the Brazilian nation which brought forth the very principles of the theatre. I also elaborate on general characteristics of the aggressive behaviour among school pupils that teachers have to address and in particular proactively prevent by implementing preventive programmes and closely cooperating with pupils and their parents as well.

One of such programmes is based on performances given by Divadelta, a civic association I started to cooperate with during the field research that I carried out for the purposes of my dissertation. They suggested I could study the staging of their routine performance titled *Trest* (The Punishment) targeting pupils of the primary stage at elementary schools and focusing on aggressive behaviour at the beginning of their school education. The research was carried out among pupils of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades at two elementary schools by means of questionnaires that the pupils filled in immediately after they had seen the performance and reflected on it. I was also interested in the opinions of the teachers who attended the performance and shared their observations with me in a written form. However, the comments provided by the pupils were of paramount importance to me. In connection with the performance, I also asked myself a question how the teachers could work with their pupils subsequently and follow up on the topic presented by the performance. I provided the research outcomes to the class teachers as a feedback for their future work.

The research outcomes confirmed that the pupils perceived the Forum Theatre performance as a unique and exceptional experience that enabled them to reflect more on the consequences that their treatment of the others might have. Unfortunately, my expectation that the pupils would take full advantage of the chance to engage in the

action of the performance and influence its development with their ideas was not fulfilled. Although this opportunity appealed to them, they were not able to use it to cause beneficial changes in the development of the performance. Neither was it proved that the school environment is the only place where pupils come across acts of aggressive behaviour.

The research data are presented in a written and graphic form and interpreted and commented on in the practical part of the dissertation. I reflected on the research outcomes in the conclusion of the dissertation from the position of a student of drama in education, teacher and mother of my children.