

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): Ryan Day

Název práce: The 2016 Coup d'état Attempt in Turkey and its Impact in Kosovo: A Look into the Media Discourse Surrounding the 2018 Gülenist Extraditions and the Resulting Turkish-Kosovo Relationship

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):
Jan Hornát

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

Ryan Day's dissertation aims to answer the research question "In what ways has the 2016 Coup d'état attempt in Turkey resonated in the Western Balkans, and how did the local and international media discourse portray the 2018 Gülenists extraditions from Kosovo to Turkey?" (the question is formulated in the abstract of the dissertation, but we find no such formulation in the body of the text itself – a significantly shortened and vaguer version of the question is on p. 19). While not explicitly stated, the thesis seems to attempt to verify the hypothesis that "Turkey uses its cultural, economic, religious, and political influence in the Western Balkans to foster popularity and to exert itself in instances such as the Gülenist deportation case." (p. 9)

The paper generally proceeds in three parts – first it depicts the historical cultural, political and economic influence of Turkey (the Ottoman Empire respectively) in the Western Balkans, it then moves to describe the developments in Turkey shortly before the 2016 coup attempt and the tensions between the AKP and so-called Gülenists and finally, in the third part, it focuses on the media discourse surrounding the extradition of six Turkish nationals from Kosovo in 2018. The "media discourse analysis" is unfortunately conducted without any grounding in methodological and theoretical literature (e.g. media framing, critical discourse analysis, agenda-setting) and thereby the output is very descriptive and rather shallow.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

As hinted above, the paper has no theoretical or methodological grounding. Chapter 2.4. focuses on the methodology of the paper but fails to mention any specifics on what type/how many media outlets and documents will be analyzed/coded, why they were chosen and what is the expected outcome or added value from conducting a media analysis. On p. 48 it is mentioned that "30 international and domestic sources" were analyzed, yet it is unclear whether the author is referring to 30 media outlets or just 30 articles.

Given the ambiguity regarding the function and method of the media discourse analysis, it is unclear what the paper actually wishes to accomplish, i.e. what is the argument being extended. The author reiterates that he takes "a non-normative" and "impartial" approach to research and writing – this, I believe, is unnecessary to emphasize as it is expected and goes without saying.

The structure of the paper is logical, but it can be divided into three parts that do not communicate with each other too well and could as well be stand alone papers. I would expect closer interaction and logical interconnectedness between the three parts. The mutual isolation of the three parts is also manifested in the fact that the literature review is divided into three subchapters, each describing (not truly reviewing) literature used in each part. A comprehensive literature review that would situate the thesis into the existing literature would be more useful for the reader. Though the author uses various sources that together form a balanced set of voices and perspectives, it is surprising that for the media discourse analysis, he only looks into three English-language sources (Balkan Insight, Prishtina Insight and Kosovo 2.0). Given that these media are generally pro-EU and pro-NATO, the focus skews his perspective and leads to overgeneralizations about the "Kosovar" reaction to the deportations. In order to grasp the entire picture, it would have been necessary to include pro-Turkish Kosovo-based media, for example. The media discourse analysis is thus far from impartial, as the author claims.

The thesis also includes a number of claims that should have been substantiated or further supported by existing research. For example, on p. 52, it is said that Erdogan's "insisting that the Ottomans not be called 'occupiers' in

academic textbooks, has also done much to negatively influence the local population's views of Turkey." Intuitively, this claim makes sense, but should be supported by empirics. Also, it is unclear why the author on p. 26 labels the Turkish Development Agency (TIKA) a "religious group". The claim that Turkish soap operas provide entertainment "especially for those with a lower educational background" (p. 30) seems a bit condescending when not backed with empirical data.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

The language of the paper is clear and readable. There are a few typos, mainly concentrated in the Conclusion (e.g. hegemonic agenda; Erdogan's; foreign policy; hegemon). The citation norm is consistent, but the paper is missing a "Summary". Overall, the paper formally meets the criteria of an MA thesis.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Overall the thesis can be assessed as being composed of three fairly independent parts – even though the first two parts (Turkish influence in the Western Balkans and depiction of the 2016 coup attempt) do provide some context to the third part (media discourse in Kosovo, which is presented as the main research section), the paper is incoherent and ends up sidelining what was initially described as the main research question. While on p. 19 it is stated that the "thesis focuses on the question of how the July 2016 coup attempt in Turkey resonated in Kosovo", Chapter V presents the media coverage of "the deportation of Gülenists from Kosovo" and not the coup attempt as stated earlier. The final outcome of the paper is a rather descriptive attempt without a clear conclusion. If the paper ends with a reflection about the future of Turkey-Kosovo relations, perhaps the first part of the paper would have done a better service to the reader, if it was focused solely on the historical relations between these two countries and not on the Turkish influence in the entire Western Balkans. Since I have not really found a clearly stated goal in the paper (see discussion above) it is difficult to assess whether the paper actually accomplished what it set out.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

1. Please explain more closely Your method of media discourse analysis.
2. Have there been attempts by Turkey to force the deportation of Gülenists from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), for example? If yes, why has BiH resisted and Kosovo not?

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA (A-F):

Taking into account the comments presented above, I recommend the commission to decide between grade C or D.

Datum: 29-Aug-2020

Podpis: Jan Hornat v.r.

Pozn.: Hodnocení pište k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.