

Assessment of Associate Professor Thesis „*Characteristics of Czech Journalism and Its Interpretations of Sport*“ (A collection of research studies) submitted to the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport Charles University, by Alice Němcová Tejkalová. 2020, pp. 122.

Submitted Associate Professor Thesis is in its Framework untypical: firstly we face a collection of research studies and furthermore its topic is up-to day, topical, and relevant. Relevant in broader socio cultural (and political) context of the situation of media scene in Czech Republic and from the unsuspected contemporary situation of Corona virus situation in global perspective too.

Alice Němcová Tejkalová is well known research worker and scholar in the field of journalism and sport journalism in particular. Her skilled professional career has been established during almost two decades not only on „home field“, but also via research and scientific activity issued in prestigious journals abroad. It is also evident in the quality of presented collection of research studies. And such a fact also warranted untypical form and amalgamation of submitted associate professor thesis.

In addition to the above mentioned comment it is inevitable to accent the very fact the submitted thesis is factually partly the collection of research studies, reviewed and published separately in prestigious scientific printed media. This review in such specific context is to be more concentrated upon the thematic and content aspects of the text(s). In Introduction of the thesis author accents her current as well historical interest of the topic (p. 10). Such approach is a good groundwork for systematic, elaborated and knowledgeable attitude to given field of research and its specific features too. It is also reflected in the structure of a collection of research studies.

The first text (first of six ones) „The Relations between Journalism Studies and the Media Professionals in the Czech Republic“ (Tejkalová—Láb) reflected author(s) fundamental research interest needed for subsequent research. The study concluded prevalence of journalists working for tabloid, lifestyle and technically-oriented media. To the contrary, majority of those working within so called serious media, are mostly under age of 40 and receiving journalistic education.

Second article: „Czech Journalists in the 21st century: Who are they“? (Tejkalová-Láb) based on unique data by their scale and comparability; concluded positive tendencies in composition of media journalist in the last decade: commencement of younger and educated journalist of age 24 – 40 in our cultural context.

Third article: „In Media we Trust: Journalists and Institutional Trust Perceptions in Post-authoritarian and Post-totalitarian Countries“ (re-printed as very sophisticated, contributing and conductive in publishing house Routledge) concluded topically also for our local context, that an authoritarian legacy persists still visibly and invisibly in media market, showing that media pluralism, as a democratic condition, is not entirely achieved.

The fourth text: „Sport reporting from a Slightly Alternative Perspective“ discussing the fact, that language of sports reporting top commercial and men's sport are presented in different ways than woman and „small sports“.

Next study: „Twenty Years After: Czech Heroes and Fallen Heroes of the Nagano Olympic Games“ presents specific insight into growing area of top sport: The forming of sport starts, icons and heroes. In very pictorial perspective is presented genesis and evolution of tree „sport heroes“ of top popular mass culture sport – ice hockey Olympic gold medalists Hašek, Růžička and Jágr.

Last article „Sports Reporting from a Slightly Alternative Perspective“ discussed the fact, that media all over the world deal differently with similar achievements and results in men's and women's sport: women's performance has frequently been marginalized and their mistakes overestimated. Study is very interesting and sophisticated contribution into field of discussion of masculinity versus femininity in sport.

We face a collection of scientific studies passing exacting and demanding attempt connected also with publishing activities in prestigious scientific journals. With respect to the fact that some of them are presented with co-author(s), it is not exactly measured and judged an individual intellectual investment of Alice Němcová Tejkalová in the context of separate studies and in the perspective of Associate Professor Thesis as well. I can in full responsibility declare and conclude that all separate studies as well as the complex text of Habilitation thesis of A. M. Tejkalové is original text rooted and set up on individual research study and correct quotations. In the context of existing scientific career of Alice Němcová Tejkalová is enabled to conclude that her reviewed Habilitation thesis „*Characteristics of Czech Journalism and Its Interpretations of Sport*“ (A collection of research studies) is convincing work worth **for awarding academic degree Associate Professor (docent)**.

Question for defence administration:

1. What is your „prediction“ regarding „post corona virus“ period situation in sport? Do you suppose some organizational, economical, medial (or even political) transformation of mass media sport presentation as a consequence of respective „new attitude“ to top performance sport?
2. Could you to find at least indefinite boundry or line amongst concepts of sport star, sport ikon, sport hero?
3. Is it acceptable the conclusion that more respect or at least interest in top sport for men´s sport is given by the fact of medially supported admiration of sport performance sometimes behind the human limits?

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