



## MASTER THESIS'S REVIEW

**Type of the review:** opponent's review

**Author of the reviewed thesis:** Daniela Bonilla Machado

**Title of the reviewed thesis:**

„Changes in Asylum-Seeking Policies Through the Lenses of the Structuration Theory: The Case of the 'Salvini Decree' in Italy “

**Author of the review:** Doc. PhDr. Pavol Frič, PhD.

---

### 1) *Factual benefits of work and its added value;*

I see the main academic contribution of the assessed diploma thesis in a really consistent interconnection of theory and empirical analysis of the chosen subject of research. I must state that this is an exemplary dissertation in this sense. The dissertation actually explains and interprets the obtained data against the background of the deliberately selected theory proposed by A. Giddens.

On the other hand, I must supplement my admirable evaluation with my very intense impression that, despite the clearly formulated title of the dissertation, the chosen subject of examination changes continuously in the dissertation, resp. has a dual character. In my opinion, the subject of analysis in the dissertation continuously oscillates between: 1. the realities of Asylum-Seeking Policies and 2. the degree of application of the selected theory. The following passages from the introductory chapter best illustrate this duality.

According to the title: "*Changes in Asylum-Seeking Policies Through the Lenses of the Structuration Theory: The Case of the 'Salvini Decree' in Italy*", the dissertation deals with the analysis of the realities of Asylum-Seeking Policies in Italy (on the background of structuration theory).

This subject of analysis is a bit changed in the final goal of the dissertation described on the page 8: „*The final goal is to highlight the importance of the problem of finding the explanation of the changes of asylum seeking with the elements of structure, agency and power, suggested by the Structuration Theory.*„ The subject of examination is the phenomenon of asylum seeking and not asylum seeking policies, but it is still part of the Italian realities.

The emphasis on the broader realities of the asylum seeking phenomenon is also confirmed by the following sentence of the author: „*The structuration theory by Anthony Giddens is used to*



*explain observed behaviours and have an inaccurate assessment of the changes in the migration policy, the main actors and the impact in the asylum-seeking of migrants arriving in Italy.” (p.14)*

On the other hand on page 12, however, the author states that *“My ambition through this research is to highlight the importance of the problem of finding the balance between the elements of structure, agency and power in the analysis of migration ...”* This means that the goal of the work is to find a balance between the various elements of the chosen theory (structure, agency and power).

This changed goal author also reflected in the formulation of the main research question on page 15: *“the text aims to answer the following main research question: To what extent, the elements of structure, power and agency, are applied to the changes in asylum seeking policies in Italy, introduced by the Salvini Decree in 2018?”*

According to the title and the main goal, the dissertation wants to examine the realities of asylum seeking policy in Italy, but according the main research question the dissertation wants to examine the extent of the possible application of the structural theory on the changes in asylum seeking policies in Italy.

The problem of the duality of the subject of research is present in the dissertation from its beginning to the end.

Unfortunately, the duality of the subject of analysis not reflected by the author had a fundamental influence on the added value of the dissertation. In terms of examining the realities of public policy, the analysis did not bring any new findings (securitization of the emigration problem is a notorious finding as well as a decrease in humanitarian protection of emigrants). In terms of the degree of applicability of Giddens' theory of structuration, we have no comparison with the degree of applicability of other theories. Because the application of structuration theory has not yielded new findings, I tend to conclude that it was not very effective and therefore the vast majority of authors do not use it in the field of asylum seeking because it is too general.

## **2) Determination of research questions and their answers;**

See above.

## **3) The structure of the thesis;**

The structure of the thesis is standard.

## **4) Factual correctness and persuasiveness of the argument;**

See above.

## **5) Elaboration and application of theoretical starting points and approaches;**



Based on the duality of the subject of research described above and not reflected by the author, I consider the starting points of the dissertation to be confusing.

**6) *Methodological approach and application of individual methods;***

Standard

**7) *Use of literature and data;***

Standard

**8) *Stylistics and formal processing (citations, graphic design, etc.).***

Standard

**9. I further declare that I have read the result of the check of the originality of the text of the final thesis in the system:  Theses  Turnitin  Original (Urkund). Comment on the result of the check: No reservations**

**Questions for discussion**

What did the author of the dissertation wanted to examine in the first place - policy realities or theory applicability?

The author should explain why she considers the application of structuration theory to the analysis of the asylum seeking phenomenon to be beneficial?

**Based on the above, I evaluate the text assessed by the thesis with the grade "C-D" according author's discussion performance.**

Date: 17. 9. 2021

Signature: Pavol Frič