



## Master's Thesis Evaluation Form

**Student's name:** Deniz Çelikoğlu

**Thesis title:** The Ambivalent Agency: Battered Women Who Kill in Turkey

**Name of the supervisor:** Martin Hájek

**Name of the opponent:** Ema Hrešanová

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis? Please give your reasons for the suggested grade in detail below.

1. *Does the author show understanding of one or more theories, and use theory to generate a hypothesis or to make the problem area more understandable.*

Comments: After introducing the issue of battered women who kill their partners in general terms, the author employs the feminist post-structuralism and intersectionality theories to frame the question of their agency. In my view, this is a good decision as it makes it possible to include power, social structure, discourse and gender order as the constitutive aspects of the phenomenon.

2. *Is the research question articulated clearly and properly? Is the research question sufficiently answered in the conclusion?*

Comments: Yes. The research question targets the unrecognised, negotiated and contested agency of battered women who kill their partners in Turkish society, which is related to the broader issue of gendered societal order and social inequalities. The author answered the question through her analysis and summarised it in conclusion. However, the intersectionality aspect of the phenomenon was not sufficiently elaborated in conclusion.

3. *Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?*

Comments: Yes, the author utilises many previous researchers as well as theoretical literature. She can handle well the accumulated knowledge.

4. *What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sampling method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?*



Comments: In her thesis, the author draws on two sources of data: research interviews and news articles. In my opinion, this is a good combination because these sources are complementary in terms of discourse analysis. The sample of respondents for the interviews may seem too limited, but it is partially justifiable given the anti-pandemic measures in place during the research. I appreciate the use of Clark's analytical approach to analyse media texts. On the other hand, I do not understand why the coding software Taguette was not used for coding the interviews.

5. *Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?*

Comments: Yes, the analysis is thorough, and it provides enough findings to answer research questions. However, the discussion and conclusion are based mainly on the news analysis and the findings from interview are thus backgrounded.

6. *Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?*

Comments: Yes.

7. *Is the thesis containing original/innovative research (regarding topic, approach, and findings)?*

Comments: The thesis has an original sociological topic – the ambivalent agency of battered women who kill their partners. Usually, the topic is researched in the legal, criminological or social work contexts. The methodology and analysis are well done but conventional.

8. *What are the quality of style and other formal requirements?*

Comments: The style and formalities are in order. I found a few typos in the text.

9. *Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.*

Comments: -

10. *What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?*

Comments: As the issue of intersectionality is not elaborated in the conclusion I would like to hear the author's comment on it.

11. *Declaration that the supervisor has read the result of the originality check in the system: [ ] Theses [ ] Turnitin [x] Ouriginal (Urkund)*

Supervisor's comment on the originality check result: OK



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Overall assessment of the thesis:

The thesis fulfils all necessary standards required, and I recommend it for defence.

Proposed grade: B

Date: January 21, 2022

Signature: