



Report on the part of the master state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2021/2022

Student's name and surname: Fernanda Novaes Buffa
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Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Journalism, Media and Globalisation
Study ID: 685594

Title of the thesis: Making more space at the table: how The New Yorker portrays family dynamics in its audiovisual content

Thesis department: Department of Journalism (23-KZ)

Language of the thesis: English

Language of defence: English

Advisor: Mgr. Jan Miessler

Reviewer(s): Mgr. František Géla

Date of defence: 13.09.2022 **Venue of defence:** Praha

Attempt: regular

Course of defence: Welcome: doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová
Candidate's introduction: Mgr. Jan Miessler

Candidate's presentation:

Introduction – Statement of problem – Non-fictional cinema
Comments on Theoretical framework – New Yorker, Cinema and
Documentary Studies, Framing Studies, Family Studies

Data collection and analysis: Close textual analysis; intentional
sampling, four steps of analysis

Findings:

- How the immigrant families are shown and framed

Limitations and recommendation

- Sound findings

- No surveys and focus groups

- Quantitative summary

Reviews read

Mgr. Jan Miessler (Supervisor) – The thesis assesses how the elite media looks at immigrants. The theory identifies critical aspects of the documentary. The theses could be better organized. And also, the conclusions could be better discussed. The thesis highlight the elements of the coverage. Solid piece of academic work and contributes to the academic discussion.

Suggested Grade: A/B

Mgr. František Géla (Reviewer): High-quality theoretical framework. It is problematic in the way that it analysis non-fictional pieces. The analysis is done well. However, it might be too descriptive. It would be good to look at the effects on the audience rather than the then

technical quality of the documentary, which might not be the most important in framing the research subject.

Suggested Grade B/C

Questions asked:

Supervisor

Is it possible to talk about the typical way how the families are portrayed in these documentaries or are they significantly different from each other? What is the significance of this finding?

Yes, it is. Candidates describe the frames and the visual clues.

Opponent

Why have you chosen films presented by The New Yorker? Have you thought about something else?

US - a nation with a larger group of immigrants. The documentaries were accessible and sound.

What do you think is the role of mise-en-scène, specifically set design in documentary and other nonfiction production?

The film crew already influences the set and the results of the documentary. The visual elements should be analyzed because they, in the end, influence.

Opponent comment: There are always some settings, and although they might influence the results, they might not be the most important for the overall frames. It would be good to discuss the effects on the audience.

The candidate points out. It would be good to do the filmmakers about their discussions.

Discussion follows the message of the different types of shots and lighting.

Final Grade announced: C

Comment: Very well done theoretical work. The research does not have much academic value. The question is why this topic should be analyzed in this way—too much stress on the set design and lack of other aspects. A deeper interpretation is missing. The work is too descriptive and stresses the technical aspects rather than the content.

Result of defence:

very good (C)

Chair of the board:

doc. PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D.
(present)

Committee members:

Mgr. Veronika Macková, Ph.D. (present)

Mgr. František Géla (present)

Mgr. Ing. Kateřina Turková, Ph.D. (present)