



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

Academic year: 2021/2022

Student's name and surname: Teresa Di Mauro
Student's ID: 94036918

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Journalism, Media and Globalisation
Study ID: 685584

Title of the thesis: Does gender play a role in peace journalism practices? An analysis of the Armenian and Azerbaijani coverage of the 44 days Karabakh war
Thesis department: Department of Journalism (23-KZ)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: PhDr. Michal Dimitrov, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): Annamária Neag, D.Phil.
Date of defence: 16.09.2022 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: Welcome: doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová
Candidate's presentation:
1.Introduction
2. Objectives of the study, theoretical framework
3.Research questions presented
4. Methodology, eight reconstructive interviews; snowball middlewoman and middlemen sampling; qualitative thematical analysis.
5.Findings presented
6.Discussion and Limitations

Reviews read and commented on by the candidate.
Michal Dimitrov, PhD. (supervisor):
The aim of the study was to "be a contribution to a less common way of researching peace and war journalism." (p. 38), as the majority of researchers rely on the analysis of news content, and it is rare that they study how the news was created. In this sense, despite not being able to conduct a content analysis and present a mixed-method study in line with the original research proposal, Di Mauro, succeeded in applying the method of "reconstruction interview" with eight journalists from Azerbaijan and Armenia when dealing with a war conflict in Nagorno Karabakh (2020) and can be seen as a successful contribution to the research on the role of gender in war/peace journalism. The key findings of her thesis on this very sensitive and important topic deserve to be accessible to a broader (not only academic) public - after necessary adjustments. To enhance the effect and clarity of her analysis, the more detailed introduction of the texts (or even attaching them as appendices) that served as the basis for the reconstruction interviews would be welcomed.

Suggested Grade: A/B

Dr. Annamária Neag (opponent):

Important topic.

More look at critical academic research would be beneficial.

The methodology applied might not answer the questions.

Findings - repetitive at point, quotes used without broader discussion.

Some findings are not convincing.

The thesis looks at a very important question of today's media landscape: the possibilities and pitfalls of peace journalism. Partly because the methodology had to be changed after the proposal was submitted, the author was not able to convincingly answer the research questions. Among the thesis strengths, one can note the presence of the background and also the effort is done to secure the interviews with both Azerbaijani and Armenian journalists. However, the analysis of the interviews lacks depth and criticality. For instance, the part on the gender aspects is not thorough enough, and it is not connected to previous findings. Moreover, it is not clear how the overall findings can be situated within the scholarship focusing on peace journalism, as this aspect is not fully covered in the conclusions.

Suggested Grade: C

Questions asked and answered:

Supervisor: Michal Dimitrov, PhD.

The author comes to this conclusion: "Despite the fact that the number of interview partners is low and not representative enough to make general conclusions on a quantitative basis, it is worth mentioning that - contrary to what was expected- this section of the study showed that the amount of respondents that believe the reporter's gender matter is equally distributed between men and women. (p. 67) Does gender matter in peace journalism then - and if yes - how?"

Given the variety of limitations of her study, discussed in Chapter 5, where does the author see the contribution of her thesis? How can further research benefit from her analysis considering the limitations of her study?

How was the evolution of the thesis affected and limited by the language barrier? How could the results of the thesis change, if the author spoke Armenian and Azarbaijani - and conducted these interviews with local journalists in their respective mother language?

Di Mauro struggled with finding a solid sample for a qualitative/quantitative content analysis, as most of the articles were not signed and it was impossible to determine the gender of the author. What would she suggest to do in order to get a representative sample in an active conflict such as the Russian-Ukrainian war?

Opponent: Dr. Annamária Neag

The participants of this study do not think that gender aspects contribute to one's will to apply peace journalism norms. Yet, you argue that 'ingrained gender roles of the two societies help explain why female reporters are more likely than their male colleagues to embrace peace journalism'. Can you please explain this?

Discussion follows

Final Grade announced: C

Weak theoretical framework, methodology and sampling

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)

doc. Robert Silverio, Ph.D. (present)

Mgr. Anna Shavit, Ph.D. (present)