

B.A. thesis opponent's reference: Mgr. Zuzana Rendek

Ivana Saraf: How does Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty portray migrants on the Balkan migration route?

The author chose a very current topic and a relatively ambitious methodology for her work. In her work, she used the narrative analysis of the sociolinguist Labov and the linguist Fairclough and his discursive analysis for theoretical grounding. However, in addition to the fact that the theoretical part is relatively short, citations are missing; there is also a lack of personal comments and reflection on the research problem.

Furthermore, I lack a justification why the author chose this medium, what led her to the research itself. There is no description of the researched sample. The research question, which is actually in the title of the thesis, is not elaborated in any way. Previous studies again lack their own commentary or reflection on the relevance to this research. In the methodological part, the author mentions the use of a kind of synthesis of Lab's narrative content analysis and Fairclough's critical discursive analysis, which in itself is a relatively challenging task.

The problem with the whole work is the fact that the author was not able to fulfil the set goals and procedures. In the empirical part, she analyzes a large number of articles, but her analysis is closer to the content analysis than to this complex synthesis she has chosen. Moreover, she draws only from Labov and his elements of narratives, Fairclough's critical discursive analysis is completely missing. It is an analytical distribution of data and their creative interpretation, and therefore I ask in what specific way the author works with the Fairclough method and how she develops it in the research. There is also a lack of connection between the theoretical and empirical parts.

In conclusion, the author limits herself to brief summaries, which are rather questionable, I quote: "It seems to be a neutral source of information." No medium can be completely neutral, based on what method the author makes this statement? The author hardly meets the demands placed on the bachelor's thesis; as a final mark I suggest 3 according to how she will be able to defend her thesis.