



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

Academic year: 2021/2022

**Student's name and surname:** Vittoria Torsello  
**Student's ID:** 14130287

**Type of the study programme:** Master's (post-Bachelor)  
**Study programme:** Journalism, Media and Globalisation  
**Study ID:** 685598

**Title of the thesis:** The reproduction of structural power through discourses of delegitimation. The portrayal of the climate crisis in Italian newspapers

**Thesis department:** Department of Journalism (23-KZ)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** Annamária Neag, D.Phil.  
**Reviewer(s):** doc. PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D.  
**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, objectives of the study  
2) Research Significance  
3) Two research questions presented  
4) Theoretical framework - Media and ideology (Gramsci, 1971, Fairclough, 1992); Legitimacy in discourse (Suchman, 1995; Bourdier, 1992); Climate crises  
4. Methodology - Critical discourse analysis = qualitative analysis of news texts; 10 articles for news outlet; analysis = textual analysis; analysis of sources  
5. Results: Most used sources = expert, greenwashed, powerful; Most used discourses = include alarmism, dramatization, community, feeling helpless, responsibility for human actions eluded, human centralization, personification, etc. - see thesis.  
6. Discussion and Limitations

Reviews read and commented on by the candidate.  
Dr. Annamária (supervisor):  
The candidate did well.  
Theoretical frameworks are solid.  
Candidates' ideas are, in some parts, difficult to follow. They are not well explained.  
The candidate's own stand on a topic might be biased, and influence methodology - The sampling and data collection should be better defined.  
The structure is problematic, and some parts aren't easy to follow.  
Some findings are presented more than once.

The strongest part of the dissertation is the theoretical framework, as it shows the overall knowledge and interest of the author in the works of the scholars used. However, the length and sometimes the cumbersome argumentation make reading challenging. The empirical research is thorough, but again, the way it is presented (also the issue of figures, see above) makes it less compelling.  
Suggested Grade: B/C

doc. Němcová Tejkalová Alice (opponent):

Good thesis, but several downfalls.

At some times difficult to follow the ideas and the findings.

The relevance of the methodology used is questionable as it does not reflect the research question.

Poor structure.

The introduction should discuss the study's structure and aims in detail.

There should be a qualitative research used in the thesis. Therefore, I do not understand why the research questions "are based on hypotheses" . Because of the slightly chaotic structure of the thesis, I could not understand exactly how the methods were implemented.

Because it should be the analysis of the discourse based on the analysis of texts, I cannot see how it can answer the RQ focused on the relationship between the elite actors and journalists. A thesis can speculate about this relationship, but without conducting the interviews, it is impossible to say how the relationship is. I would much more work with a literature review from the beginning in part named Discussion of the findings, and the results, in general, are not so surprising and different from the experience and analyses from other Western countries (except, e.g. Nordic countries).

It is a fascinating thesis developing an important topic, bringing both well-known and new insights. But it has a complicated structure that could be simplified. A visual model of codes/categories would be beneficial for the readers.

Suggested Grade: C

Defence: Candidate explains news outlet selections.

The candidate explains her point of view on the topic and why she uses "crises" rather than "change".

Questions asked and answered:

Supervisor:

Can you explain how you selected the news outlets and the keywords?

Opponent: doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová

Is there any difference in how climate change has been framed in the USA, Italy and the Czech Republic in the past couple of years?

Is there a chance that media will take climate change seriously but without sensations in the following years?

Discussion follows

Final Grade announced: C

**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) .....