



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Iveta Poláčková

Title: The Influence of the Media in a Case of Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute

Programme/year: Security Studies, 2021 (year of submission), 2022 (year of defense)

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	<i>67</i>
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10



	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	20
TOTAL		100	87

Evaluation

Major criteria: I find it difficult to comment on the analytical part of the thesis because of my limited knowledge of it, so I will concentrate on the structural issues.

First off, the thesis deals with an interesting phenomenon. The author has chosen an appropriate research design, anchoring her research in the CDA. There is little to criticize at this point. However, I find Iveta's RQ (or, as she references it sometimes, 'hypotheses') somewhat self-evident: the fact that propagandist Chinese media dealing with the Japanese claims would use emotionally colored language struck me as obvious. Moreover, while the author claims the deployment of CDA and uses several linguistic terms to carry out her analysis, the sociolinguistic aspect is rather shallow. There is a descriptive summary of some linguistic tones - or modalities - employed by Chinese media, but there is no in-depth toolkit used in the thesis to actually uncover those modalities and ascribe to them certain meanings.

Third, while the author makes an impression of looking into the impact of the emotional modalities deployed by propagandist state-owned



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Chinese media, I would point out that the actual impact of those modalities on Chinese population is something that remains beyond measurement: we simply can't gauge it as we lack statistic data/public surveys – and how they're shaped by individual Chinese articles. Even in a free democratic society, this would be something unmeasurable as the causal relationship would be impossible to establish. Most importantly, having deployed CDA, the author doesn't really need to conduct this form of research.

Minor criteria: Nothing worth mentioning.

Assessment of plagiarism:

Overall evaluation: An interesting piece of research overall; a rather intuitive RQ, yet the thesis itself is fairly focused. The thesis is relatively well-executed in terms of analytical depth, in spite of the weaknesses described above; and it's well-organized and well-written.

No plagiarism detected.

Suggested grade: B

Signature: