Master's Thesis Evaluation Form

Student's name: Xichong Wang

Thesis title: A study on the impact of the workplace reality show on the audience in China

Name of the supervisor: PhDr. Irena Reifová, Ph.D.

Name of the opponent: Mgr. Tereza Fousek Krobová, Ph.D.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis? Please give your reasons for the suggested grade in detail below.

*1.	Does the author show understanding of one or more theories, and use theory to generate a hypothesis or to make the problem area more understandable.*

Comments:

The author does not provide a very comprehensive theoretical framework on which to build her arguments. She briefly mentions some concepts and theories but does not discuss them or engage with them critically. Although she works with literature that offers these concepts (neoliberalism, anxiety, "pseudo-documentary", "beautification of authenticity", etc.), she works with them superficially, without a deeper knowledge or the need to synthesise them. The pure theory (without the history of the reality show, which is written superficially and whose presence is unnecessary in my opinion) is 7.5 pages (chapters 3 and 4).

*2.	Is the research question articulated clearly and properly? Is the research question sufficiently answered in the conclusion?*

Comments:

The work is relatively descriptive, it does not put a specific research question or hypothesis at the beginning, but aims to find out in general what effects reality shows can have on the audience. In the practical part, she establishes hypotheses to verify and then discusses specific results, but the work lacks a solid framework that would express the intention or the goal of the author.

*3.	Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?*

Comments:

As said, the work basically lacks a clear goal and a solid theoretical part from which the practical one would develop. It follows that the literature selected is also arbitrary. If the given

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Sociological Studies, Department of Sociology
Pekařská 641/16, 155 00 Prague 5 / iss.fsv.cuni.cz / jana.vojanova@fsv.cuni.cz / +420 778 465 054

www.fsv.cuni.cz
1/3

concepts (anxieties, authenticity) would be deepened, it would be necessary to add basic cultural and media studies literature.

4.   What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sample method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?

Comments:

The analytical part is unclear and confusing. It is not always clear what data the author is working with and how she arrives at the results. Moreover, the theoretical framework for the hypotheses is not established - why is it important to look for a correlation between anxiety and gender? Anxiety and age? Looking for the correlation between these variables is interesting and important, but it needs to be clearly explained.

5.   Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?

Comments:

The theoretical part is almost devoid of important concepts and does not create a framework for the actual analysis. The results are interesting, but do not rely on the strong arguments.

6.   Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?

Comments: No major issues

7.   Is the thesis containing original/innovative research (in terms of topic, approach, and/or findings)?

Comments:

The author has chosen a very important topic and indicates quite interesting findings. Unfortunately, the way in which she theoretically covers it and how she arrived at her findings relativizes its importance.

8.   What is the quality of style and other formal requirements?

Comments:

The language level is one of the weakest aspects of the thesis. The text is written in strange English, which often makes impossible to understand the idea. From a formal point of view, the text would deserve more care - there are many typos, missing or improper words and inappropriately chosen punctuation.

9.   Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.

Comments: None

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Sociological Studies, Department of Sociology
Pekařská 641/16, 155 00 Prague 5 / iss.fsv.cuni.cz / jana.vojanova@fsv.cuni.cz / +420 778 465 054

www.fsv.cuni.cz
2/3

10.   What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?

Comments: None

11.   Declaration that the supervisor has read the result of the originality check in the system: [   ]   Theses   [   ]   Turnitin   [   ]   Original   (Urkund)

Supervisor's comment on the originality check result:

Overall assessment of the thesis:

The author presents an important and interesting topic, which unfortunately is not handled very carefully and appropriately. The theoretical part is superficial, it lacks a critical framework and important concepts from media or cultural studies. Therefore, it does not prepare a solid basis for the analytical part, which is unclear and confusing.

(Please, state clearly whether the thesis is or is not recommended for a defence and write the main reasons for the recommendation).

Proposed grade:

(A- B: excellent, C-D: very good, E: good, F: fail)

D-E

Date: Signature:

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Sociological Studies, Department of Sociology
Pekařská 641/16, 155 00 Prague 5 / iss.fsv.cuni.cz / jana.vojanova@fsv.cuni.cz / +420 778 465 054

www.fsv.cuni.cz
3/3