Abstract:

The aim of the thesis is to analyze different discourses about the COVID-19 pandemic in Taiwan in the period from the outbreak of the virus at the end of 2019 to the end of 2021. During this period, the virus was discovered in chinese Wuhan (*Wuhan* 武汉) and turned into a global pandemic and caused reactions of states and their governments. Taiwan has long been cited as an example of good practice with zero-case policy, introducing strict controls and measures that many world governments have admired. But how was the pandemic perceived and presented by Taiwanese political leaders? How did the individual political parties react to the pandemic? And how was it all communicated by Taiwanese newspapers?

To answer these question, the theses – in addition to secondary literature – will utilize discourse analysis of selected Chinese-language newspaper articles related to the pandemic from the two largest Taiwanese periodicals (up to several hundred item): 1) *Ziyou shibao* (自由 時報) close to the Democratic Progressive Party, and 2) *Lianhe bao* (聯合 報) leaning towards the National Party, the Kuomintang. At the same time, the thesis will focus on how the situation was presented – usually in English-language to international audience – by prominent political actors on the Twitter platform, specifically President Tsai Ing-wen (*Cai Yingwen* 蔡英文) and the then chairman of the Kuomintang, Johnny Chiang (*Jiang Qichan* 江啟臣). The work will use a qualitative approach using sample texts dated in different periods from newspaper corpora. From them, the keywords with the highest frequency will be selected, which will be monitored in all texts of newspaper corpora – the quantitative method. A comparison of the changes in keyword frequencies in the two main ideological camps indicates a change in the rhetoric of the main actors. The interpretation of this change and its contextualization in the contemporary political and geopolitical situation will clarify the priorities of the communicated content towards Taiwanese society (newspaper corpus) and towards the international community (twitter corpus). Twitter corpora are examined mainly qualitatively on the basis of reading the entire posts. It is accompanied by a quantitative frequency analysis.