Opponent's review of Anastasiia Stepanenko's Bachelor thesis "The Impact of War on Ukrainian Women Refugees"

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Anastasiia Stepanenko's bachelor's thesis attempts to analyse the impact of war on Ukrainian women refugees by particularly focusing on psychological consequences of war, including survivor's guilt, and changes in the mental health of Ukrainian women refugees in the Czech Republic. At least this is what the student sets out as her goals of the work on page 7. However, these objectives are not achieved in the thesis. Moreover, there are also other problems with this work, as they pertain to data, citations, and methodology.

First, throughout the thesis, the student is mainly summarizing various secondary sources, without providing any critical analysis of the data. Therefore, there is no academic value added in this work. Moreover, in relation to the main goals, the student only provides some abstract theoretical considerations of psychological consequences of war, without discussing any particular (empirical) cases that would pertain to psychological, mental health, or survivor's guilt issues among specific Ukrainian women refugees (in Czech Republic). In the latter chapters, there is some discussion about Ukrainian women's agency in relation to the war (in the form of uncritical summarizations), with some cases probably taken from popular media (unclear), which gets a bit more specific, but these are secondary concerns of tangential value to the main goals of the work. Second, there is also no clear referencing of sources that are used in student's summarizations. There are many paragraphs and pages in the work which do not have any references, and only occasionally there appears a footnote with a reference to a particular article, but without any explanations in the thesis about which data is taken from which source. Consequently, there is also no clear distinction established in the thesis between students' ideas and the ideas from other people's texts.

Third, there is a general lack of data (either primary or secondary) related to the psychological consequences of war in Ukraine that could be analysed in the thesis. There are two sources on this topic listed in bibliography (Rizzi et al 2022, and Shevlin et al 2022), which could be potentially used for this purpose, but these are not referenced or analysed in the main text. However, I doubt it would even be possible to achieve the goals of this work only by analysing (two) secondary sources about psychological consequences of war in Ukraine. In my opinion, this could only be realized through an analysis of interviews, or perhaps also through an analysis of some other primary sources (e.g., analysis of medical records, personal testimonies, diaries, perhaps also blogs, etc). In consequence, it is not only data that is missing from this thesis, but also any kind of effective methodology that could be successfully connected to the goals of the thesis. Some potentially existing methodology would then also enable the procurement of data, which could then be further analysed in the text. However, the work in its current form does not contain any of these otherwise necessary academic elements: no methods, no data, no analysis, no findings, and in the theoretical part, also no referencing.

While I believe the goals of this thesis appear very relevant, and therefore particularly worthy of academic consideration, the execution itself in the form of writing of this thesis unfortunately does not manage to provide any results relevant for the main topic of the work. Moreover, the student does not demonstrate the basic mastery of academic skills needed for a successful defence of a thesis. Therefore, I recommend grade 4.