

Name of the student:	Paulina Frank
Title of the thesis:	Exploring the Evolution of Media Representations - An Analysis of Russia-German Aussiedler in the German Print Media Surrounding the Ukraine war of 2022
Reviewer:	Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska, PhD Assistant Professor at the Institute of Journalism, Media and Social Communication of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Ms. Paulina Frank showed in her work a high degree of maturity as a young scholar and a good preparation in terms of knowledge of the problem under study. She raised relevant research questions. The research objectives were appropriate. The main focus of the thesis is the investigation on possible changes in the way the Russia-German minority group in Germany is portrayed in the public news coverage of the print media since the onset of the war in Ukraine. Ms. Frank's literature review was adequate.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The theoretical framework consists of parts dedicated to: ideology and the media, media and its impact on public opinion, media's influence on shaping the image of minorities as well as media coverage of migrants and ethnic minorities in Germany.

The research design is correct. A discourse analysis is a method used in this thesis which was a good decision made by Author to choose such a methodology. She examined a total of 104 articles, with 34 articles covering the period of the Crimean invasion and 70 articles covering the period of the Ukraine invasion. A total of 11 different German newspapers (mainly most widely read newspapers in Germany) were examined, where it is a matter of seven national and one regional daily newspaper, two national magazines and one national weekly newspaper. The chosen media represented different political stances: "the print media outlets Die Welt, Focus Online, Bild, and the Berliner Morgenpost belong to the conservative spectrum. The media outlets Die Zeit and Der Tagesspiegel fall within the liberal spectrum, while Spiegel Online, Süddeutsche Zeitung, and Frankfurter Rundschau are placed within the left-liberal spectrum. The daily newspaper Die TAZ, which is left-leaning, and Handelsblatt, which reports from an economically liberal perspective, represent the complementary media." The analysis was conducted using the software programme Atlas.ti, a software that enables a systematic analysis and interpretation of the qualitative data.

Ms. Paulina Frank used various sources in her work. They were mainly up-to-date, however some recent publications for methodology – discourse analysis – would be beneficial.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

There is a link between data provided and the conclusions presented by the Author. Generally, Ms. Paulina Frank achieved the research objectives described in the introduction.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE


(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The language used in the thesis was appropriate and adhered to academic standards. The Author used mostly a coherent citation style (APA), however there are parts of the thesis where a different citation style is used (cf. for example page no 12). The layout was well prepared. There are minor errors in editing.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis written by Paulina Frank is devoted to important question of how migrants are perceived by the receiving society which in the case studied is a Russian-speaking minority residing in Germany. The Author looked at how external events, such as wars or political tensions in the home countries of an ethnic group, influence the media's depiction of this group among the general public in the host society. The student presented a solid work which together with the extensive Appendix consists of 309 pages. The discussion in most of its parts was presented convincingly. The thesis offers an original answer which is some way advances our understanding of the matter under study, however it cannot be considered to be exceptional. The minor weak points of the thesis do not impact the general positive assessment of the work presented by Ms. Frank.

Grade (A-F):	B (8)
Date:	Signature:
29.06.2023	

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10	5,5 %
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.