



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Emmalyn Hansen

Title: Gendered Discourse: Latina Immigrant Identity Representation in American News Reports
Programme/year: MAIN/SS 2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): doc. PhDr. Běla Plechanovová, CSc.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	22
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	33
<i>Total</i>		80	
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	
TOTAL		100	79



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis deals with an interesting and relevant topic of media discourse on immigration of women from Latin America to the US. The Author aims to point to the fact that this discourse tends to be biased by the hegemonic patriarchal white western perspective while at the same time assuming that the mover factor is the globalization process. As a result, it negatively influences the public opinion and political discourse which then impact on the real-life conditions of Latina immigrants in the US.

The thesis is basically well defined in terms of the topic, the theoretical foundations of the approach chosen as well as the steps taken in the empirical analysis. As a source of the data the Author has chosen *The New York Times* as a leading American newspaper that has the largest number of subscribers and a generally recognized impact on the political debate. At the same time, it is perceived as a liberal venue where the issue of immigration is supposed to have more space and a more broad-minded approach or treatment. The Author declares her methodology is critical discourse analysis implemented on a sample of articles from NYT from year 2019. She explains her steps in a concise and orderly manner. All in all, the thesis is a good piece of research, but with some notable issues and questions:

First, the research design marked out by the Introduction, Background and Definitions sections assumes that the general mover of the migration flows is the globalization process. Unfortunately, the analytical part does not elaborate on the relation of the immigration discourse to the globalization process or globalization background.

The chapter on theories of hegemony is very well written but uses literature which is partly dated (had been used to describe similar topic decades ago). Does the Author expect that that these processes and mechanisms at play remain largely the same? There are some pieces of research dealing with similar topic/same approach published more recently that were not used by the Author (e.g. Martínéz Lirola, 2022).

Second, the analytical concepts:

The concept of inclusion is not, in my view, applied correctly. There is an assumption behind that when an explicit reference of women is missing, the discourse is understood to be inherently a male one. But there is no further evidence or explanation that could support that claim. Table with frequencies, top right corner, (p. 43) misses the cases when women are not mentioned but men are (explicitly or in relation to their gender-specific role or activity).



“These statistics shed light on the brutal reality...” (p. 43) – sorry, strong language should not be used in academic writing.

The concept of victimhood mentions only cases when women are mentioned in connection with pregnancy or motherhood and their insecure situation, but the Author does not reflect the fact of extremely dangerous environment of Mexico with one of the highest levels of violent crimes of which a large portion is aimed at women. This is something the American audience is aware of, so quite understandably is concerned about it.

Third, the data and method of analysis

The process of selection of the data is not described in detail. It is clear that the number of articles was to be limited for the purpose of this type of research, but the resulting numbers of gender-neutral and women-specific articles are, even then, rather low. I am not convinced that the selection by software was beneficial for the purpose as the algorithm used is not described and therefore cannot be assessed. Furthermore, for the number of articles for year 2019 (keywords Mexican migrant – 362 articles; keywords women Mexican immigrant – 102 articles; my own search in NYT) – selection by hand might have served better the purpose and could be explained to the reader.

The number of authors of the articles is rather small, therefore the authorship could have been included to the analysis as the idiosyncrasies of the authors matter for the language and style of the texts.

Quite significant space is devoted to the story of the first lady city councillor of Latin American origin (p. 53). The Author criticizes that the article mentions the challenges and injustice the lady had to face but does not deal with the causes of the injustice endured by her. In this case the Author has not reflected the genre of the article, a life-story, which simply does not include this perspective which would ruin the cohesion of the story.

Minor criteria:

The text reads well and qualifies in criteria that are followed. Nevertheless, it suffers from some level of negligence to individual facts or formal issues, e.g.:

- the name of Antonio Gramsci is incorrectly typed as Antonin (repeatedly);
- p. 34 – incorrectly is stated that more women than men are deported;
- p. 28 – the Author compares the treatment of the Latin American immigrants who are detained and deported with “privileged” immigrants from Canada who can move freely – this is quite manipulative comparison as Canadians have a visa-free regime with the US, so eventually can be prosecuted only after the six



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months of their stay in the US, while the Latin Americans need visa to travel to the US and large majority of LA immigrants do not have it;

- some pieces of bibliography are not listed correctly, namely chapters in edited volumes (editors are missing).

Assessment of plagiarism:

The thesis scores 3 percent similarity on Theses and 27 percent similarity on Turnitin applications. The second score may seem rather high, but is mostly due to rather more common use of directly cited texts. These places are correctly marked by quotes and reference in the text.

Overall evaluation:

The text meets the criteria for the MA thesis. The Author succeeded to present the topic based on the relevant academic literature as well as she mastered the empirical part in collecting and analyzing the data. The method chosen does not allow for any conclusive findings though.

Suggested grade:

C

Signature:

Martínéz Lirola, Mária. 2022. A critical discourse study of the portrayal of immigrants as non-citizens in a sample from the Spanish press. *Lengua y migración / Language and Migration*. 14:1 (2022), 69-91.