

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):

Review by thesis supervisor Review by opponent

Thesis author:

Surname and given name: Abbasli Pari

Thesis title: Behind the Byline: Gender Dynamics in Azerbaijani Media from the Perspective of Female Journalists

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Hrbáčková Anna

Affiliation: ICSJ FSS CU

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific): There is only slight change regarding the title of the thesis, but the decision is well explained and appropriate.

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	A
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	A
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	A
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	A
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	A
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	A

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems): In her thesis, Pari Abbasli focuses on very important and interesting topic of female journalists in Azerbaijan, examining their experiences, challenges and struggles. The author works very well with the literature - critical feminist theory followed by gender issues female journalists face in newsrooms globally. At the same time, she provides very thorough overview of Azerbaijani's journalism landscape examining this sphere through critical lens. The method is clear, the choice of participants is well explained. The author also presents detailed interview guide and is aware of a sensitivity of the topic itself, thus, ethical procedure of this research is also provided. Even though the topic of gender dynamics and challenges of female journalists in the newsrooms is something that has resonated in the academic research quite a lot, the originality of this thesis definitely lies in the environment it was conducted in. Pari Abbasli is aware of this gap and comes up with research that aims to fill it. At the same time, she takes into consideration possible limitations of her study and articulates the possibilities for future research.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	A
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	A
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	A
3.4	Quality, quantity and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	A
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	A
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	A
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	A

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):

The structure of the thesis is clear and logical, the author uses appropriate academic terminology and the writing style is on a high-quality level. I am not aware of any problems regarding quotation standards. The thesis also includes the original set of questions both in English and Azerbaijani.

4. OVERAL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis’s strengths and weaknesses):

From the very beginning, Pari Abbasli approached her thesis with eagerness and clear vision. Even though being personally interested in the topic might not always be easy to handle, Pari's knowledge of the examined environment and valuable personal contacts enable her to conduct thorough and original study bringing very interesting data from Azerbaijan that enrich the global research regarding gender issues in newsrooms. During the whole process, she was constantly striving to improve her work, kept me updated and consulted her progress regularly. Her commitment and proactive approach is truly commendable and I wish every supervisor to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated student like Pari Abbasli. Therefore, I suggest a grade A.

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

5.1	As one of the limitations, you mentioned the focus on Baku-based media outlets. Do you think the experience of female journalists might differ in other cities in Azerbaijan?
5.2	In your opinion, could the quite frequent arrests of Azerbaijani female journalists lead to more of them losing interest in the job, or more of them working remotely?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

The reviewer is familiar with the thesis‘ score in plagiarism analysis in SIS.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	The Turnitin control showed 10% of similarity, however, these parts covered mainly references or thesis structure, thus it was not found problematic.
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7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

- A
 B
 C
 D
 E
 F

If the mark is an “F”, please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

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Date:16. 06. 2024

Signature:

A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer's behalf.

Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.