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: Jay-vee Marasigan Pangan
Thesis title: Start Them Young: The Influence of Education and Digital Transformation on Student Publications' Practices and Reportage in the Philippines
Reviewer:
Surname and given name: František Géla
Affiliation: KŽ IKSŽ FSV UK

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)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
1.2	Methodology	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
1.3	Thesis structure	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific):
The final version of the thesis has undergone several changes. While some minor changes are appropriate, the methodological change, which involved analysing Facebook posts instead of news and editorial content, may be problematic due to the dissimilar nature of social media posts and the different practices associated with social media.

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

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems):
The thesis contains a commendable theoretical section, which is primarily based on the work of Estelle and Bronfenbrenner. Nevertheless, it would have been more appropriate for the author to utilise the primary sources, which are available, rather than references from secondary literature or citations in other texts (e.g. as the author cited his supervisor's book, 'Media Literacy and the Effect of Socialization' in chapter 1.1, or citations on pages 8, 12 and 22. A comprehensive description of the system in the Philippines is provided.

Except for the material used for the quantitative analysis (described in section 1 of the review), the research design is appropriate, well described in the methodology section and well executed. During the research process, the author has included important elements that are often absent in MA theses, such as ethical considerations and an intercoder reliability test for the quantitative analysis. The code books, lists of participants, and interview guide are included as appendices. The author demonstrates proficiency in

academic literature, but there is room for improvement in integrating the results and discussion more closely with the theoretical background.

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	C
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	B
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	B

(*) 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 thesis meets the requirements for an MA thesis. The structure of the text is logical and follows the citation standards. However, there are sections that are overly referenced (for example, subchapter 1.7 describes the framework by Estella, and in some paragraphs, there are references in nearly every sentence). In my opinion, this level of referencing is not necessary. The thesis uses academic writing style correctly.

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

It is always interesting to come across a topic as original as that explored by Jay-vee Marasigan Pangan. In my view, the examined material should have remained with the journalistic content initially outlined in the thesis proposal. However, the author demonstrated an ability to work with theoretical frameworks and to design a research project based on those. I recommend the thesis for defence with a proposed grade of "C".

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

5.1	Explain why have you examined Facebook posts instead of proposed materials?
5.2	How do you perceive education which is highly linked to the industry demands (ad statement on p. 13)?

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	Matching parts are cited correctly and include citations, general expressions and references.

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:

Date:11/09/2024   Signature: ……………………………..