

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: Erica Bernsten Strange

Thesis title: "Now is the time". Commemorative journalism and the rereading of 300-years of Greenlandic-Danish history

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Barbora Součková

Affiliation: ICSJ FSS CHU

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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):

Thesis adheres to the main research objectives, methodology and structure set out in the approved thesis.

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	B
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):

Theoretical part: Erica Bernsten Strange presents the theoretical framework and literature review following the standard, in two separate chapters, which are well developed. The theoretical framework is grounded in the concepts of collective memory and the politics of regret, which are further developed in the literature review (e.g. the perception of the media as vehicles of memory, commemorative journalism or postcolonial theory and the concept of "The Other"). The theoretical body of the text is of a truly high quality - it presents the most important concepts, but it is also enriched by contemporary studies, and at the same time the author provides a critical reflection of individual arguments, which is not only superficial, but is really profound. The author's diligence and precision of argumentation is obvious from the text, and it is developed in a really powerful and convincing way. Despite this, there are still some minor objections regarding the theoretical background. For instance, it would be beneficial to theoretically situate concepts such as discourse or hegemony at the very beginning and determine how they are perceived by the author. Furthermore, when the author articulates the concept of "The Other", it would be appropriate to also include the cultural theorist Stuart Hall, who has made a significant contribution to the academic development of this topic. Also, when

discussing representation, it is essential to include Hall's work. It would also be appropriate to explain more about the role of documentaries in the context of journalism.

Methodology: The first two chapters of the Methodology should be rather placed into the theoretical framework, because they are related not to the method itself, but rather to the theoretical background of the studied topic. This thesis has a robust grounding for the theoretical foundation of the methodology, providing a very specific and high-quality support for the subsequent analysis. The combination of chosen methods (CDA, MCDA and commemorative journalism framework) and the amount of data sources (combining documentary series and media reflection) must be appreciated. Thanks to this combination, the author explores the topic comprehensively.

Analysis and Conclusions: The overall analysis is very detailed and precise, combining firstly the quantitative part, complemented by the qualitative research which is the core of this thesis. It first presents a detailed analysis of the four main discursive constructions that emerge from the documentary series. The author also supplements their description with concrete examples (textual and visual), illustrating and supporting her findings, which is appropriate and enriching for the text. The text is written logically and clearly. Overall, the author is able to apply the chosen methods correctly and is also able to contextualize and reflect on the findings. The theoretical reflection included in the chapter "Analysis" should be rather excluded in the final discussion. However, the discussion chapter itself is very well performed, and demonstrates the critical reflection on the findings. The author is able to reflect on her own subjective research position as well as the limits of the chosen research strategy (not only CDA, but also the sample design) and the conclusions. The findings are valuable, of high quality and the overall standard of the text presented is more than above the average.

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)	B
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 thesis has a logical and meaningful structure that appropriately presents and develops the text. Also, the quality of the argumentation itself is high, and the argumentation is convincing.

The language of the text is also of a high standard; the author uses academic language and style, terminology, and overall, the text is free of significant grammatical shortcomings.

The author adheres to quotation standards. The only objection is that the author occasionally uses secondary sources, which should be avoided. Only primary sources should be included. Furthermore, it would also be appropriate to reduce the number of direct quotations in the text (they should serve as a supplement or support to the argument; they should not be used to form a coherent text).

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

Erica Bernsten Strange presented her thesis ""Now is the time". Commemorative journalism and the rereading of 300-years of Greenlandic-Danish history". It is a very interesting issue that is original and ambitious. This thesis, using CDA and MCDA, explores the theme of the construction of collective memory of Greenland and Denmark's colonial past portrayed in the documentary series "Historien om Grønland og Danmark" on several different levels. Thus, it provides a very comprehensive overview of the discursive constructions of the relationship between the two nations depicted in the television series. The author analyses the discourse not only through the representation in the documentary series itself, but also adds other levels related to the production and consumption process and social factors. In

general, I highly appreciate the focus on the topic of postcolonialism, which is a burning and valuable one. The author's work is certainly a great contribution not only to the social debate but also to academic field. Overall, it is of a high quality.

Considering the aforementioned strengths, I propose to evaluate this thesis with a grade of A.

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

5.1	
5.2	
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 similarities are mainly in direct quotations or in the thesis template.
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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: 10. 9. 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.