

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: **Sebastian Toon Jan van Aert**

Thesis title: Traditional Foreign Correspondence in Crisis? A Dutch Perspective

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Veronika Macková

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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	X	<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): The author of the diploma thesis made one change compared to the approved theses in respondent selection. This change has been consulted on and is explained in the text.

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	B
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):

The author of the thesis applied the appropriate literature related to the topic, and he was able to interpret it well and relate it to his topic. The theoretical framework is comprehensive.

I very positively evaluate the semi-structured interviews conducted by the author. The preparation for these interviews is described in a separate chapter, including the scenario of these interviews (2.2.2 Interview Scenarios), which ultimately resulted in excellent material that could then be analyzed.

The conclusions of the thesis are substantiated. The Conclusion chapter is followed by the Discussion of Findings chapter, where the author compares his findings from semi-structured interviews with previous research, which I consider very beneficial.

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	B
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):
 Sebas van Aert writes very readably, although in several cases it is more of a journalistic style than an academic one, but even considering the topic, I do not find it inappropriate.

The text is organized clearly and according to the standards for a diploma thesis. I have one small complaint about the Czech abstract, where the last sentence is unfinished, but due to the lack of knowledge of Czech, I do not consider it a mistake.

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

Sebas Van Aert focused on the work of foreign correspondents from a Dutch perspective. Considering that the role of foreign correspondents is changing when some newsrooms remove their correspondents from different locations or reduce their number to save money, this topic is very relevant and current, and it is important to talk about what the position of foreign reporters brings.

The author of the diploma thesis wrote a very high-quality theoretical framework, he managed to apply research methods well and demonstrated good interpretation skills in the analytical part, which is why I propose to defend this thesis with an "A" result.

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

5.1	What statement (information) during the interviews surprised you the most?
5.2	In your opinion, is the role of foreign correspondents important and if yes, why? And what will newsrooms look like in the future? Will they still have foreign correspondents?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

X 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	13 %
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7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

- A Excellent (excellent performance)
- B Excellent (excellent performance)
- C Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)
- D Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)

- E** Good (generally sound work with a number of notable errors)
F Fail (unsatisfactory performance)

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

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Date:

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.