

REVIEW
on the PhD thesis of Zhu Fangzhou
entitled
"Professional Training of Future Journalists in the Conditions of Intensive Development of
Media Technologies in the People's Republic of China",
submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty
011 Educational, pedagogical sciences
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1. Research topicality of and its connection with the relevant plans of the fields of science

The professional training of future journalists is of particular importance in the context of the rapid development of media technologies, which are radically changing the ways in which information is created, disseminated and consumed. In China, as one of the leading countries in the field of digital technologies, the media space is characterized not only by technical progress, but also by specific socio-cultural and political conditions.

On the one hand, the development of digital platforms, artificial intelligence, algorithms for analyzing big data and other modern technologies opens up new opportunities for journalists, expanding their tools and methods of communicating with the audience. On the other hand, this places new demands on professional training, in particular the formation of competencies in the field of media analytics, ethics, digital security and adaptation to rapid changes in the media environment.

The People's Republic of China is an important example to study, since here the intensive development of media technologies is combined with control over the information space, which creates unique conditions for journalistic activity. An analysis of how China organizes the training of future journalists in such conditions may be useful for other countries that seek to adapt educational programs to the challenges of the digital age.

Thus, Zhu Fangzhou's research work is relevant both from a scientific and practical point of view. It allows us to understand the trends and problems that arise in the process of integrating new technologies into journalism education, as well as to develop recommendations for improving the quality of training specialists in this area.

The topic of Zhu Fangzhou's research work corresponds to the topic of scientific work Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of the Personal and Professional Development of a Modern Specialist in the Conditions of Integration into the International Educational Space carried out at the Department of Pedagogics and Innovative Education at Lviv Polytechnic National University (number of state registration 0121U113179).

The topic of this thesis was approved (Minutes N 6/22 dated 01.02.2022) and specified (Minutes № 8/24 dated 25.03.2024) at the meetings of the Academic Council of the Institute of Jurisprudence, Psychology and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

2. The most significant scientific results presented in the thesis

Based on the analysis of the research source base, the theoretical foundations of the professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies are determined in the work. The author characterizes the modern system of professional training of future journalists. Of great importance is the work done by the doctoral candidate, aimed at analyzing the development of the content of professional training of future journalists in Chinese universities and identifying the features of the technological component of professional training of future journalists in the People's Republic of China. The current state of the problem is also studied and promising strategies for using historical and pedagogical

experience to improve the professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies are developed.

3. The scientific novelty of the results obtained

The scientific novelty of the obtained results lies in the fact that *for the first time* the comprehensive analysis of the professional training of future journalists in higher education institutions of China *has been carried out* and the prospects for the further use of historical and pedagogical experience in order to improve it in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies *have been determined*. The theoretical foundations of the professional training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies *have been determined*: theories of media-intensive development and theories of journalism education. The modern system of professional training of future journalists at three levels *was characterized*: at the macro level – new concepts in journalism education, mezzo level – reform of journalism education, micro level – specific implementation. The development of future journalists' professional training content in Chinese universities *has been analyzed*, which made it possible to reveal the drawbacks, challenges, the peculiarities of its development). It was revealed that modern media technologies have a significant influence on journalism and journalism education and require the development of professional competencies (necessary for collection of multimedia news resources, knowledge management), as well as media literacy, excellent professional ability, high professional qualities, technical skills, etc. The current state of professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies was studied and promising strategies of using historical and pedagogical experience for its improvement *have been developed*.

The definitions of the concepts of new media, future journalists, learning models, journalistic education, and media technologies *have been clarified*. The scientific understanding of the concepts and terminology related to journalistic education, as well as the organizational features that characterize the Chinese experience, *has been improved and expanded*.

4. The degree of validity of the scientific statements, conclusions, and recommendations formulated in the thesis

The analysis of the content of the thesis and publications that highlight the results of Zhu Fangzhou's research provides grounds for concluding that the scientific validity and reliability of the presented scientific statements and results are sound. The relevance and scientific as well as practical significance of the problem is further emphasized by several identified contradictions between: the societal demand for qualified journalists with up-to-date knowledge and skills, contrasted with the inadequate alignment of journalist training programs in People's Republic of China with the modern requirements of rapid media technology development; the requirement to enhance the system of professional journalist training in China to meet societal demands in conditions of the rapid development of media technologies, and the current state of elaboration of the theoretical, organizational and pedagogical foundations for such training; the necessity to improve the journalist training education system in response to the rapid development of media technologies, coupled with the delayed modernization of educational programs, methods and curricula for future journalists at the universities in People's Republic of China.

The scientific apparatus set out in the introduction allows you to formulate a holistic idea of the structure of the work, methods of interpreting the information obtained. Other structural elements of the study are also performed at the proper scientific level, which logically and consistently reveal the main content of the work, as well as its design in general and supplemented with illustrative materials - tables, figures, appendices.

The study was carried out on a wide source base, which includes research work, monographs, articles, regulatory documents, etc. The novelty and reliability of the results and

conclusions of the research work are also ensured by the use of a complex of interrelated methods that meet the purpose and objectives of the study.

The content of the submitted annotations reflects the content of the thesis and highlights its essential aspects and main provisions.

The level of approval of the research results is sufficient and is confirmed by the participation of the author in scientific and practical conferences of various levels.

5. The significance of the results obtained by the author for science and practice

The practical and theoretical significance of the research results lies in the fact that the main findings of the thesis are used and can be further implemented in higher education institutions of Ukraine, especially when teaching courses for PhD students "Comparative Pedagogy", "Comparative Studies in Education", "Media Literacy" at the second (master's) and third (educational and scientific) levels of higher education (specialty 011 Educational, Pedagogical Sciences). The main provisions and conclusions are used in the process of teaching the subjects "Information Security and Information Warfare in the Mass Media" at the second (master's) level of higher education (educational and professional program "Journalism"). This is confirmed by documents on the implementation of the main provisions, conclusions and results of the thesis research in the work of the Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology named after S. Z. Gzhytsky, Volyn National University named after L. Ukrainka, Drohobych State Pedagogical University named after I. Franko, Lviv Polytechnic National University.

The research materials presented in the thesis can be used in the development of educational programs and curricula for training specialists in the specialty "Journalism", as well as for continuing research in this area.

6. Recommendations for the use of the results and conclusions of the thesis

The results and conclusions of the thesis on the topic "Professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies in the People's Republic of China" can be used in several directions. For educational institutions, they serve as a basis for improving curricula aimed at integrating the latest media technologies and adapting to modern market needs. In particular, it is proposed to introduce courses that will contribute to the development of students' digital competencies, such as working with big data, multimedia journalism and content management. The Chinese experience can be used to develop training models that take into account the specifics of modern journalism, in particular socio-cultural and technological challenges. The journalistic community and media organizations can use these results to adapt the practical training of journalists to the conditions of rapid development of media technologies. Based on the conclusions of the thesis, it is possible to organize internships and international cooperation, in particular with Chinese partners, as well as to increase the readiness of specialists to work in conditions of information control, which is relevant for many countries.

State bodies responsible for educational and media policy can use the results of the study to form modern standards of journalistic education that take into account the challenges of the digital age. In addition, the experience of the PRC can become the basis for assessing the effectiveness of the introduction of technologies into professional training systems.

Scientific research in this area can be expanded through a comparative analysis of approaches to training journalists in different countries, as well as the study of mechanisms for integrating media technologies into educational processes. The results of the work contribute to the establishment of international cooperation, in particular between Ukraine and the PRC, in the field of journalistic education. This may include the creation of joint curricula, the exchange of experience between teachers and students, as well as improving the quality of training journalists to work in conditions of rapid changes in the media sphere.

7. Evaluation of the content of the thesis and its completion

Zhu Fangzhou's research work is a completed scientific and pedagogical work with a clear structure and consistency of the presentation of the content of scientific provisions, which

corresponds to the purpose and logical solution of the research tasks. The work consists of abstracts in English and Ukrainian, a list of publications, an introduction, three chapters, conclusions to the chapters, general conclusions, a list of sources used and appendices. The content of the work, which is illustrated by figures and appendices, clear conclusions and generalizations testify to the high degree of validity of scientific provisions and the quality of the research work. The degree of validity of scientific provisions, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis is largely ensured by the logical structure of the work.

The first chapter "Professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies" as a scientific and pedagogical problem presents the results of the analysis of the main concepts and categories of research. The analysis of the theoretical foundations of the training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies is performed.

The second chapter "Organization of professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies in the People's Republic of China" highlights the regulatory and legal basis of professional training of bachelors in the field of journalism in Chinese universities. The three-level system of professional training of future journalists in the People's Republic of China is characterized. The analysis of the development of future journalists' professional training content in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies, as well as its technological component, is carried out.

The third chapter "Prospective ways of professional training of future journalists in higher educational institutions in China" highlights the results of the analysis of the problems in the organization of professional training of future journalists. Prospects for using historical and pedagogical experience to improve the professional training of future journalists in China in conditions of intensive development of media technologies are presented.

8. Discussion points, recommendations and comments on the content of the thesis

While positively assessing the scientific and practical significance of the obtained results, it is necessary to express certain discussion points and suggestions:

1. It is recommended to supplement the research work with an analysis of global trends in journalism education, comparing the experience of China with other countries, in order to give the work a broader international context.
2. The research should pay more attention to the formation of ethical principles in future journalists, taking into account the challenges of the digital age and the specific conditions of the media sphere in China.
3. In our opinion, it would be useful to include practical recommendations for the integration of media technologies into training programs for journalists, such as the use of artificial intelligence, multimedia platforms.
4. It is recommended to show the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in the training of journalists, which includes elements of sociology, technology, communication and cultural studies, in particular in the context of the Chinese experience.
5. In the work, it is important to emphasize the need to develop critical thinking skills in future journalists, especially in the context of intense information flow and state control over the media in China.

9. The completeness of results covered in publications.

The materials of the thesis are covered in 13 publications of the author (9 of them are individual): 1 article in Scopus journal, 6 articles in journals included into the list of specialized scientific publications of Ukraine, 6 works which certify the approbation of thesis' materials on the conferences.

10. Conclusion

Thus, Zhu Fangzhou's peer-reviewed research work on the topic: "Professional Training of Future Journalists in the Conditions of Intensive Development of Media Technologies in the People's Republic of China" is an independent, completed study that has scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance for pedagogical science and practice.

We affirm that the thesis deserves a positive assessment and meets the requirements of the Order On Approval of Requirements for Thesis Formatting (as amended) No. 40 of January 12, 2017 by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and the Procedure for Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Cancellation of the Decision of a One-time Specialised Academic Council of a Higher Education Institution or Research Institution to Award the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 44 of 12 January 2022).

The author Zhu Fangzhou deserves to be awarded the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences, field of knowledge 01 Education, Pedagogy.

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