

**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**  
**written by Lesia Stoliarchuk,**  
**Associate Professor, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences,**  
**Assistant Professor of the Department of Foreign Languages for Humanities,**  
**Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences,**  
**Lviv Polytechnic National University**

**1. Research topicality and its connection with the relevant plans of the fields of science**

In the period of intensive development of the media, when there are significant changes in the structure of the media sphere, new challenges and requirements for the professional training of specialists in the field of journalism occur. In the context of economic globalization, social diversification, digitization of the media space, progress in media technologies and global competition in the media sector, traditional models of journalistic education need updating, which requires future journalists to be able to adapt to new working conditions and master the latest media tools. The development of new communication platforms prompts future journalists to review approaches to professional activity and adapt their skills to current realities. Accordingly, education in the field of journalism needs substantial reforms and innovations, which leads to the active scientific research regarding the advancement and transformation of media education in China as one of the leading countries in the development of digital technologies and media.

Training future journalists is not only an important mission of higher journalism education in the modern era, but also a great opportunity for universities to innovate their models of media talent training. The study of new paradigms of professional training of specialists in the field of journalism is becoming a priority activity of media schools and university faculties that seek to adapt their programs to the requirements of a rapidly changing media environment. However, progress in reforming higher media education does not always meet the requirements of the times and many challenges remain unsolved, and current models of training journalists are not always able to respond to the demands of the modern media industry. Reforming journalism education and introducing innovative approaches to training media talents remain primary objectives for higher education in the context of the digital revolution.

The topic of Zhu Fangzhou’s thesis "Professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies in the People's

Republic of China" corresponds to the thematic plan of the research work of the Department of Pedagogy and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University "Theoretical and methodological foundations of the personal and professional development of a modern specialist in the conditions of integration into the international educational space" (state registration No 0121U113179).

The topic of the thesis was approved (Minutes No. 6/22 dated February 1, 2022) and specified (Minutes No. 8/24 dated March 25, 2024) by the Academic Council of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law, Psychology and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

## **2. The most significant scientific results presented in the thesis**

The most significant achievements obtained by the author on the basis of analyzing a fairly wide research source base include: determination of the theoretical foundations of the professional training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies; characteristics of the modern system of future journalists' professional training; performing an analysis of the development of the content of the professional training of future journalists in Chinese universities; identifying the features of the technological component of future journalists' professional training in the People's Republic of China. The study of the current state of the problem presented in the thesis and the development of prospective strategies for the use of historical and pedagogical experience to improve the professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies are of great importance.

## **3. The scientific novelty of the results obtained**

In Zhu Fanzhou's thesis, *for the first time*, a comprehensive analysis of the professional training of future journalists in Chinese higher education institutions was performed and the prospects for the further use of historical and pedagogical experience were identified for the purpose of its improvement amidst the rapid development of media technologies. The theoretical foundations of the professional training of future journalists in the context of intensive development of media technologies *have been determined*; the modern system of professional training of future journalists at three levels *has been characterized*; the development of the content of the professional training of future journalists in Chinese universities *has been analyzed*, which allowed for the identification of shortcomings, challenges and key features; it *was found* that modern media technologies have a significant impact on journalism and journalism education, influencing the development of professional competencies and media literacy, distinctive professional skills, high professional qualities, technical skills and more; the current state of professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies *has been investigated* and prospective strategies for utilizing historical and pedagogical experience for its improvement *have been developed*. The definitions of the terms "new media", "future journalists", "learning models", "education", "media technologies" *have been clarified*; scientific understanding of the concepts and

terminology related to journalism education, as well as organizational features inherent in the Chinese experience *have been enhanced and expanded*.

A significant volume of materials on the researched issue *has been introduced into scientific circulation*, as well as numerous facts, ideas, and approaches relevant to the field of journalism education in universities of the People's Republic of China.

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

The analysis of the thesis content and the publications highlighting the results of Zhu Fanzhou's research provides grounds to conclude the scientific validity and reliability of the stated scientific statements and findings. The results contribute to resolving a number of contradictions, including: between the public demand for qualified journalists and the inadequate alignment of journalism training programs in the People's Republic of China with the modern requirements of media technology development; the need to improve the system of professional training for journalists in China in accordance with societal demands and the current state of the theoretical, organizational and pedagogical foundations of such training; and the necessity to enhance the system of journalist training in response to the rapid development of media technologies, combined with the delayed modernization of educational programs, methods and curricula for future journalists in the universities of the People's Republic of China. The use of a combination of research methods, namely theoretical (analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, analogy, modeling, comparison, systematization, and generalization), and empirical methods (direct and indirect observation) contributed to obtaining well-grounded results and solving the set tasks.

The level of validity of the obtained results was further enhanced by the thorough study of a broad source base (267 items) and the effective implementation of the research findings into the work of higher education institutions in Ukraine.

Zhu Fangzhou's thesis is conducted at a high scientific level. The choice of the research topic is clearly justified, and its object, subject, aim, and objectives are well-defined. The content of the presented abstracts highlights the significant aspects and main provisions of the thesis. The dominant scientific principles and results of the conducted research have been widely tested at scientific and practical international conferences and fully covered in the author's scientific publications.

Thus, the high scientific level of the thesis, its relevance, completeness and practical significance are indisputable, which confirms the mastery of the theory of the investigated problem and the corresponding scientific research methods, the validity of the achieved results, the specified objectives and the conclusions drawn.

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

The results of Zhu Fanzhou's research are of great importance for the further development of pedagogical science and educational practice. The practical and theoretical significance of the research findings lies in the fact that the main statements of the thesis are being used and can be further implemented in higher education institutions in Ukraine, especially when teaching the courses such as "Comparative Pedagogy", "Comparative Studies in Education", "Media Literacy" at the second (master's) and the third (educational and scientific) levels of higher education (specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences). The main provisions and conclusions have been applied in the process of teaching the educational

disciplines "Information security and information warfare in mass media" at the second (master's) level of higher education (educational and professional program "Journalism"). The research materials presented in the thesis can also be utilized in the process of further scientific research, in the development of educational programs and curricula for training specialists in the field "Journalism". This has been confirmed by documents on the implementation of the main statements, conclusions and results of the thesis into the work of the Stepan Gzhytskyi Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Drohobych State Pedagogical University of Ivan Franko and Lviv Polytechnic National University.

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

The main provisions of the thesis can be used in further scientific research devoted to conducting comparative and pedagogical studies of the professional training of future journalists in universities of Ukraine and China. The results of the submitted thesis can also be applied by Ukrainian scientists as research materials for conducting comparative studies, as well as by academic and teaching staff interested in improving the process of training specialists in the field of journalism, enhancing their own professional growth, and increasing the competitiveness of the higher journalism education system in Ukraine. The outlined prospects of using historical and pedagogical experience to improve the professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies are significant for the development of higher education in Ukraine.

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

Zhu Fanzhou's thesis is a complete scientific and pedagogical work with a clear, scientifically justified structure that aligns with the purpose and logic of the research objectives. The work consists of abstracts in English and Ukrainian, a list of the author's publications, an introduction, three chapters, conclusions to the chapters, general conclusions, a list of references and appendices. The thesis content corresponds to the main research objectives and reflects their implementation.

In the first chapter, "Professional Training of Future Journalists in the Conditions of Intensive Development of Media Technologies as a Scientific and Pedagogical Problem", the results of the analysis of the main concepts and categories of research are presented. A theoretical analysis of the foundations of training future journalists in the context of intensive development of media technologies is conducted.

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 legal and regulatory framework for the 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 the content of future journalists' professional training in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies, as well as its technological component, is carried out.

In the third chapter, "Prospective Ways of Professional Training of Future Journalists in Higher Education Institutions in China", the results of the analysis of current issues in the organization of professional training of future journalists are discussed. The prospects for using historical and pedagogical experience to improve

the professional training of future journalists in China in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies are presented.

In the general conclusions, Zhu Fanzhou managed to clearly outline the obtained results, confirming the resolution of the identified objectives.

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

Along with a positive evaluation of the scientific and practical significance of the thesis results, we would like to express some discussion points and specific suggestions regarding the content of the work:

1. In our opinion, the first chapter of the thesis could benefit from a more detailed analysis of the establishment and development of the professional training system for specialists in the field of journalism in the People's Republic of China in the context of various stages of the information revolution, as outlined in the data presented in Table 1.1. This would contribute to identifying key trends in the development and reform of professional journalism education in the country under research.

2. In p. 1.2, the thorough analysis of a wide range of theories underlying the training of future journalists in the context of the intensive development of media technologies is commendable. However, we believe that it would be advantageous to also highlight modern approaches to professional training of specialists in the media industry.

3. The second chapter of the reviewed thesis is devoted to the organization of future journalists' professional training in the context of the intensive development of media technologies in the People's Republic of China. In particular, the author provides a detailed characteristics of the three-level system of professional training for future journalists and presents the analysis of the content component of media industry specialists' training. It would be advisable, in our opinion, to consider the issue of transforming the moral and ethical standards of the journalism profession in the context of new media technologies and their incorporation into educational programs in this perspective.

4. We consider that the work would have benefited from a comparative analysis of the Chinese system of journalist training with that of other countries, particularly by expanding the focus to include the experiences of other Asian countries that are undergoing similar processes of media technology development. This would offer a deeper understanding of the advantages and drawbacks of the Chinese educational model and uncover innovative approaches in these countries that might be valuable for the development of education in China in the context of rapid media technology advancements.

5. The thesis adheres to the conventions of the academic writing style, although it contains some technical flaws and stylistic inaccuracies.

### **9. The completeness of the results covered in publications**

The scientific results and main statements of the thesis are fairly fully covered in the author's 13 publications (of which 9 are individual): 1 article in a publication indexed in the Scopus database, 6 articles in publications included in the list of specialized scientific publications of Ukraine, 6 works that certify the approval of the thesis materials at international scientific and practical conferences.

### **10. Conclusion**

Therefore, the reviewed thesis by Zhu Fanzhou entitled "Professional Training of Future Journalists in the Conditions of Intensive Development of Media Technologies in the People's Republic of China" represents a comprehensive and complete scientific study, which addresses a number of research tasks and provides results that possess scientific novelty and have significant theoretical and practical implications for pedagogical science and practice.

We consider that the thesis deserves a positive evaluation and complies with the requirements of the Order of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Ukraine No. 40 dated 12 January 2017 "On approval of the requirements for the preparation of the thesis" (with amendments), the Procedure for awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and cancellation of the decision of the one-time specialized academic council of a higher education institution, scientific institution to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 12 January 2022 No. 44). 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.

**Reviewer:**

Associate Professor, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences,  
Assistant Professor of the Department  
of Foreign Languages for Humanities  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Lviv Polytechnic  
National University



Lesia STOLIARCHUK

**Scientific secretary**  
of Lviv Polytechnic  
National University



Roman BRYLYNSKYI

