

REVIEW
of **Nataliia Paziura**,
Professor, Doctor of Sciences (Education),
Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages for Specific Purposes
State University “Kyiv Aviation Institute”
of the **thesis**
**Professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive
development of media technologies in People’s Republic of China**
written by
Zhu Fangzhou
submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in the specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences

1. Topicality of the performed work and its connection with the relevant plans of the branches of science

Globally, journalism education has changed significantly over the past decade to keep abreast with the profession which has been through huge upheaval. The profession is transforming itself to keep relevant with the technological, audience and business model changes. It has also to deal in many countries with declining public trust in journalists and increased threats to both journalists’ safety and media freedom. The challenge for educators and the profession is only just beginning given unrelenting pace of change.

Educators must plan for this ever-changing profession’s future, and prepare teachers and students to cope with even greater turbulence throughout their careers. The education authorities face the future where the boundary between the digital and human world become increasingly blurred and the technical future may be something not even the most far-fetched sci-fi films could have predicted. Some scientists postulated that a key future challenge will be teaching those in the profession to learn: “Journalism education also needs to take more seriously the need to not just train journalism students but to give them the tools to deal with a fast-moving world where things can change almost month by month”.

Thus, the importance of a robust professional education system as the profession has a strong ethical and public interest requirement in addition to technical skills is beyond any doubt. The aforementioned gives us the background to say that Zhu Fangzhou’s thesis contributes to debates around professional journalism education internationally.

The theme of the thesis research corresponds to the scientific and research work of the Department of Pedagogy and Innovative Education at Lviv Polytechnic National University, titled “Theoretical and methodological foundations of the personal and professional development of a modern specialist in the conditions of integration into the international educational space” (number of state registration 0121U113179).

The topic of this thesis was approved (minutes № 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 contained in the thesis

Among the most significant results of Zhu Fangzhou's thesis we should mention: - substantiation of the theoretical foundations of professional training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies; - characteristics of the modern system of professional training of future journalists in China; - the analysis of the development of future journalists' professional training content in Chinese universities; identification of the peculiarities of the technological component of the professional training of future journalists in the People's Republic of China; - development of prospective strategies for the improvement of the professional training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies.

3. New facts obtained by the dissertator

The scientific novelty of Zhu Fangzhou's thesis is obvious and lies in the following results.

For the first time the comprehensive analysis of the professional training of future journalists in higher education institutions of China was 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 were determined. The theoretical foundations of the professional training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies have been determined. The modern system of professional training of future journalists at three levels was characterized (macro, meso, micro levels). The development of future journalists' professional training content in Chinese universities was analyzed, the drawbacks, challenges, the peculiarities of its development, and its main features were revealed. A significant influence on journalism and journalism education of modern media technologies, requiring the development of professional competencies, media literacy, excellent professional ability, high professional qualities, technical skills, was detected. The promising strategies of using historical and pedagogical experience for professional training of future journalists' improvement were developed. The definitions of notions new media, future journalists, training models, journalism education, media technologies, *were clarified*.

The scientific understanding of concepts and terminology related to journalism education as well as organizational features which characterize the Chinese experience *were enhanced and expanded*.

The significant volume of materials, numerous facts, ideas and approaches relevant to the field of journalism education in Chinese universities *were introduced into scientific circulation*.

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

The analysis of Zhu Fangzhou's thesis and publications allows us to make a conclusion about undeniable validity of the scientific statements, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis. A number of contradictions in the sphere of journalist training in China has been found 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.

To achieve the goal and objectives of the research Zhu Fangzhou applied a number of theoretical (analysis of pedagogical, psychological and philosophical sources, regulatory and program documents, synthesis, induction and deduction; analogy, modeling, comparison, systematization and generalization of theoretical material) and empirical methods (direct and indirect observation) to obtain reliable results.

The reference base formed by the author is characterized by diversity, including 267 scientific publications, legislative and regulatory documents, which serves as proof of the validity of the presented work. Appendices, which are presented on 27 pages of the dissertation, are of value to researchers and practitioners in the field of education.

The thesis is characterized by an appropriate scientific level. It clearly justifies the choice of the research topic, defines its object, subject, aim and objectives, and the content of the abstract highlights the essential aspects and main provisions of the thesis. The scientific propositions, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis are based on a wide approbation of the research results. The author presented the main points of his research at numerous scientific-practical and scientific-methodological conferences of various levels, as well as other scientific-practical events.

The scientific level of the thesis, its relevance, accomplishment, and practical significance are undisputable.

5. Significance for science and practice of the author's obtained results

The practical and theoretical significance of the research results lies in the fact that the research materials are used in institutions of higher education in the process of teaching subjects "Comparative pedagogy", "Comparative studies in education", "Media literacy" at the 30 second (master's) and the third (educational and scientific) levels of higher education (specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences). The main provisions and conclusions were used in the process teaching subject "Information security and information warfare in mass media" at the second (master's) level of higher education (the educational and professional program "Journalism". The research materials presented in the thesis may be used in the development of educational programs and training plans for specialists in the specialty "Journalism", as well as for the continuation of research in this field.

The results of the research have been implemented at the following higher education intuitions: Stepan Gzhytskyi National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies of Lviv (Certificate 310-16.02 dated 26.06.2024); Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University (Certificate 03-24/04/1836 dated 01.07.2024); Lviv Polytechnic National University (Certificate 67-01-1423 dated 22.08.2024);

Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University (Certificate 1955 dated 15.11.2024).

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

The author's suggestions can be implemented by: - the university authorities for content improvement in the programs of the future journalists professional training in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies in order to form their excellent professional ability, high professional qualities, and necessary technical skills; - teaching personnel in delivering materials in Comparative Education in order to widen the scope of knowledge; - scientists in order to carry out further educational researches.

7. Assessment of the content of the thesis and its completeness

Zhu Fangzhou's thesis is a complete academic paper with a clear structure and sequence content of scientific statements, which are relevant to the purpose and the research objectives. The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions for each chapter, general conclusions, a list of used references (267 items), and 6 appendices.

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 providing definitions for news media, journalism education, and related fields. The thorough analysis of the theoretical foundations of the training of future journalists in conditions of intensive development of media technologies, encompassing the historical and foundational theories of journalism and education, is performed. The examining current research on journalism education in the context of media convergence and artificial intelligence, allows the author not only to offer a clearer and more systematic understanding of the current state and shortcomings of journalism education, but also to deepen our comprehension of relevant concepts, broaden perspectives, consolidate and expand achievements in journalism education reform and innovation. In the chapter the theoretical foundation of journalism education is enriched, and more suitable educational models for cultivating future journalists are explored.

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 social, economic, cultural aspects influencing the professional training of future journalists as for undergraduate education in Chinese journalism are clarified. The three-level system of professional training of future journalists in the People's Republic of China is characterized (at macro-, meso- and micro- levels). Special attention is paid to the content of journalism education and its technological component in the process of journalists training. 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, which encompasses technical skills and media literacy is carried out.

The third chapter *“Prospective ways of professional training of future journalists in higher educational institutions in China”* highlights the problems in the organization of professional training of future journalists on the basis of an analysis of the peculiarities of the organization of future journalism education. The current state and perspectives for the development of journalism education in China have been presented. Prospects for using historical and pedagogical experience in China in conditions of intensive development of media technologies are presented. The author’s vision of the possible implementation of progressive ideas and experiences in the future of Chinese journalism education in the context of media technology intensification to improve the professional training of future journalists has been suggested.

The carried out detailed analysis allows us to state that the thesis of Zhu Fangzhou is an independent scientific research in terms of structure, content, validity of the main provisions and conclusions.

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

Positively evaluating Zhu Fangzhou’s thesis, we consider it appropriate to express certain comments and wishes:

1. We believe the thesis would have been more robust had the candidate provided a detailed analysis of the mechanism for involving practicing journalists in teaching roles at universities in the People’s Republic of China. This is only briefly mentioned in Subchapter 1.1 (p. 50) as an innovative approach to staffing higher education institutions in China.

2. In our view, the research should have been conducted across three educational levels (bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD), as stated in the dissertation title. However, the text and appendices primarily focus on bachelor’s-level educational programs in Chinese higher education institutions.

3. To better highlight the significance of preparing future journalists, the candidate should have offered a comprehensive overview of the institutions that specialize in this field. This overview should include details on the number of students, geographic distribution across the country, teaching staff, and other relevant factors.

4. To effectively organize the recommendations for modernizing the training of future journalists in China, the proposals should have been categorized by educational level.

5. The thesis contains certain technical shortcomings: large tables (2.2, 2.3, 3.2) should have been moved to the appendices, and some Subchapters (1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1) lack summarizing conclusions.

9. Completeness coverage of results in publications

The main statements and results of the thesis are sufficiently fully presented in Zhu Fangzhou’s 13 publications (among them 9 individual): 1 article in Scopus journal, 5 articles in journals included into the list of specialized scientific publications of Ukraine, 7 works which certify the approbation of thesis’ materials on the conferences.

Conclusion

The analysis of the thesis, abstracts and published works gives grounds for the conclusion that Zhu Fangzhou's thesis on the topic "Professional training of future journalists in the conditions of intensive development of media technologies in People's Republic of China" is an independent and complete academic paper that has scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance for pedagogical science and practice.

The thesis deserves positive evaluation and meets the requirements of the Order On Approval of Requirements for Thesis Formatting (as amended) No. 40 of 12 January 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 Specialized 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). Its author Zhu Fangzhou deserves the award of the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences, field of knowledge 01 Education/Pedagogy.

Reviewer:

Professor, Doctor of Sciences in Education,
Chair of the Department of
Foreign Languages for Specific Purposes
State University "Kyiv Aviation Institute"

Nataliia PAZIURA



*Зігналиа Іванівна Пазіура
Висший середній державний
спеціалізований підприємство
Київський авіаційний інститут
Державний університет
Київський авіаційний інститут*
I. Paziura