

REVIEW

On the abstract of the dissertation by Niu Wenjuan “The commentary as a media discourse genre: the cognitive-pragmatic aspect (in Chinese and English)” submitted for the academic degree of a candidate of philological sciences specialty 10.02.20 – contrastive-historical, typological and comparative linguistics

I have familiarized myself with the abstract of the dissertation by Niu Wenjuan and consider it to be a significant contribution to the field of contrastive linguistics, media discourse studies and cognitive pragmatics.

The research is focused on the commentary as a genre of media discourse, examined through the prism of cognitive-pragmatic organization in Chinese and English. The author sets out to solve a complex set of tasks: to detail the definition of the genre, to establish its structural patterns, to identify the conceptual organization represented by the key concepts “news” and “opinion”, to determine the set of communicative strategies and tactics, and to build the cognitive-communicative model of the commentary. All these tasks have been successfully resolved, as evidenced by the content of the abstract.

What distinguishes this work is the author’s ability to integrate multiple levels of analysis. The structural level is represented by the PNAcC model, where each component (Problem, News, Author’s commentary, Conclusion) receives its own verbal characterization in both languages. The cognitive level reveals the internal structure of the key concepts, distinguishing between the core, the close periphery and the far periphery, with quantitative data supporting the distribution of cognitive features. The pragmatic level is represented by two main communicative strategies – the informative strategy and the strategy of persuasion – each implemented through a set of communicative tactics with specific language means of explication.

The material base of the research is impressive: 200 texts from the Chinese online newspaper “Guangming Daily” and 200 texts from the British online newspaper “The Guardian” covering the period 2014–2024. The use of quantitative processing elements adds credibility to the qualitative observations.

I would like to raise one point for discussion. In the abstract, the author

presents a detailed analysis of the cognitive features of the concepts “news” and “opinion” in Chinese and English. I would be interested to know whether the author observed any significant changes in the representation of these concepts over the ten-year period under study (2014–2024), and if so, what these changes might indicate about the evolution of the commentary genre in the two linguistic cultures.

The abstract is written in a clear academic style, the structure is logical, and the conclusions are well-argued. The author’s personal contribution is evident throughout, and the results have been sufficiently disseminated through 11 publications.

In conclusion, the dissertation meets the requirements for the academic degree of a candidate of philological sciences, and its author, Niu Wenjuan, deserves to be awarded the degree in specialty 10.02.20 – contrastive-historical, typological and comparative linguistics.

I hereby give my consent for the placement of my review on the abstract of the dissertation by Niu Wenjuan “The commentary as a media discourse genre: the cognitive-pragmatic aspect (in Chinese and English)” on the website of the educational institution “Belarusian State University of Foreign Languages”.

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