SUMMARY

Theme of the graduation work:
«Investigation as the journalism method:
topical characteristics and practical application»

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Key words: investigative journalism, media content, journalism methods, objective observation, interview, work with documents, topical characteristics.

The actuality of the research: Nowadays investigation is taken an important place not only in the professional sphere of person’s activity, but also in the society in general. Connected with journalism investigation became to be the basic method of the research activity. There are many scientific works about this matter. Some researchers consider investigation to genres, some to the methods. This subject is continue to be discussed. Because of that, it is important to give a scientific comprehension in understanding of investigation as the journalism method. Both in theoretical and practical level.

Target of the research: To study particular characteristics of investigation as the journalism method.

Objectives’ of the research: 1. To study an historical and modern ways in understanding the definition of ‘investigative journalism’.

2. To know the place of the investigation in the system of methods and in modern media reality.

3. To analyze an investigative articles’ topical characteristics in newspaper ‘Sobesednik’.
4. To find out a particular characteristics of practical application of the method during the investigation on the author’s experience.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research:** The results of graduation work can be used in the educational process with teaching of such disciplines as ‘The basics of journalism work’, ‘Starting a newspaper’, ‘Journalistic skills’, ‘Investigative journalism’. The research will be helpful to journalists who specialize in investigative journalism.

**Results of the research:** Since the very beginning, investigation was a method of journalism for gathering a hidden information. The most important characteristic in investigation was to reveal the truth.

Nowadays investigation is consider to be a systematic method including two levels. There are gnoseological and representative structures.

Moreover, investigative articles became relevant among people. We can come to this conclusion based on the data obtained during the analysis of the newspaper ‘Sobesednik’. The number of such articles has increased in 1,3 times since 2003. The structure of investigative articles’ topical characteristics expanded. There are 63 articles in 52 issues of newspapers in 2013 and 2014 including such specific themes as corruption, politics, economics, social life, ecology and historical facts.

During our research connected with practical issues, we made a conclusion that the special characteristics of investigative journalism can be restricted with its own main point. It is resolve the truth and find out hidden information. When journalists do an investigation they usually use such methods as objective observation, interview and work with documents.

During objective observation journalists use participant observation and ‘journalist switch the profession’. They use it because investigation requires comprehensive study of the necessary information.
If we talk about interview as the second important method of gathering information, it must be noted that this process has two special sides. In one hand, interview is a structured method of talking with people. On the other hand, interview has his own unexpected and spontaneously empirical basis. The third method include traditional and formalized way of working.

**The recommendations:** There are some recommendations to journalists who specialize in investigative journalism.

1. Journalists should be objective. It is very important to work with facts but not with peoples’ point of view. Especially in investigative journalism.

2. It is good to combine different elements of different sphere of journalism. For example, the synthesis of report (‘the presence effect’) and investigative journalism (analysis and revealing the nature of the article).

3. A specialized or too simple language can make article unreadable.

4. The investigative article must include many different expert evidence.

5. The investigative article should include not only good text but also good graphic matter.