

Summary

Investigative journalism, which is an emanation of the fourth or first power, is sometimes idealised or denied. In its idealistic form, it causes the resignations of corrupt politicians and helps oppressed victims. Since the days of Watergate and the Pentagon Papers, many myths have grown up about what this journalistic specialisation is and is not. Although investigative journalism in Poland could develop only after 1989 and its history is not as rich as that of American journalism, the Polish government got used to the ubiquitous media, they have learned to coexist with the media, to use them, journalists have learned to criticise the authorities.

The topic is supported by the importance of investigative journalism for the political system and the reputation of journalism in general as well as the lack of empirical studies diagnosing the current state of affairs. The monitoring function, essential for democracy, forms the core of this consideration.

The main research objective set out in the dissertation is to conduct a comprehensive analysis and to examine how investigative journalism in Poland fulfils its control function vis-à-vis the authorities. The years chosen for the analysis - 2013 - 2017 are not accidental and represent the parliamentary majority periods of the two largest political parties in Poland: Civic Platform and Law and Justice. The press chosen for the analysis - opinion weeklies - is still an important platform for investigative journalism and the choice was justified by the full ideological range of the weeklies.

A hybrid version of content analysis, i.e. quantitative-qualitative, was chosen for the research on the above subject. In this way, both explicit and implicit data were obtained and subjected to multi-level interpretation. The dissertation consists of six chapters.

The first part of the dissertation emphasises the operating environment of investigative journalism: the political system and the media system dependent on it. The functions of the media resulting from both systems in the first chapter conclude with an emphasis on the control function.

The next chapter describes the essence of investigative journalism as a journalistic specialisation, definitions, methods, models of mobilising public opinion, stages, elements distinguishing it from scandal or legal conditions.

The third part is the historical context of the journalistic investigative from the United States and then Poland, with examples of the first investigations that shook public opinion and uncovered the demoralisation of Polish politics.

The fourth chapter explains the methodology of the research undertaken: the research method, the chosen sample and the research period, and presents the research objectives and hypotheses.

The last two chapters are a detailed presentation of data with visualisations and verification of hypotheses.

The dissertation is comprehensive in its scope. On the basis of empirical research, it attempts to assess the viability of investigative journalism in Polish weekly opinion magazines and to evaluate its genre quality, including its impact on the political system. As a result of the undertaken research, Polish investigative journalism in weekly opinion magazines appears as a specialisation willingly undertaken in the surveyed periodicals, mostly of an original character, i.e. from the beginning to the end as the actual work of a journalist (a topic undertaken, research). The research also made it possible to determine that journalists more often undertake issues which concern the current government, thus fulfilling the control function and the degree of bias of their editorial offices towards the political option "liked" or "disliked" by them, expressed, among other things, by the one-sidedness of the stories they tell. An important part of the research is also the conclusion that this journalism is not very efficient.