

**JOURNALIST COMPETENCE - AT THE CENTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF
FOREIGN AND UZBEK RESEARCHERS*****Ravshan Rayimjonov Zakirovich****Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of UzJMCU*

Abstract: This article analyzes the essence and content of the concept of journalistic competence, its components, and the scientific and theoretical approaches to their formation. Specifically, it examines the perspectives of foreign and Uzbek researchers on identifying, developing, and assessing competencies related to the journalistic profession through comparative analysis. Skills such as information handling, critical thinking, professional ethics, and mastery of digital technologies, which are essential for a journalist's professional activities, are highlighted as the main components of competence. The importance and practical application of the competency-based approach in training journalists within the framework of Uzbekistan's higher education system are substantiated.

Key words: Journalistic competence, professional qualifications, media education, information processing skills, critical thinking, and professional ethics.

Journalism is one of the fields that has undergone significant changes under the influence of new technologies. Since the late 1990s, the Internet has become the main medium for collecting information, publishing materials, and collaborating with colleagues. Social networks, which became widespread by the end of the 2000s, led to a sharp increase in both the number of authors addressing the mass audience and the volume of content produced, which prompted journalists to search for new ways to compete for audience attention.

The on going changes are at the center of attention of journalism researchers. One of the most comprehensive studies on the study of journalistic competencies was conducted by the European Association of Journalism Teachers (EJTA). This study was conducted in three stages. In the first stage, a survey was conducted among members of the European Association of Journalism Teachers. 60 educational institutions from 25 countries participated in it. The survey was completed in 2008.

The second stage included an online survey of leading professionals in the field of journalism. It was attended by 360 media workers from more than 20 European countries. The survey was completed in 2010.

In the third stage of the survey, teachers and students of journalism faculties and schools participated, the results of which were published in 2011.

The study conducted in 2018 differed methodologically from previous surveys. In 2008-2011, surveys were conducted in the form of free questionnaires, and ten years later, respondents were provided with 22 competencies for assessment:

- Faith in democratic values;
- Ability to see the connection between events of local, national and global scale;
- Awareness of current events and their context;
- Relying on in-depth research when identifying events that are important for illumination;
- Working in conditions of time constraints;
- Establish feedback with the audience;
- Having a broad worldview;

- Possession of specialized knowledge in any field;
- Ability to approach the phenomenon from the prism of different points of view;
- Determining the quality of the source;
- Collaboration with the audience;
- Sorting information based on the principle of reliability;
- Sorting information according to the principle of relevance;
- Application of various storytelling methods;
- Application of modern ICT in professional activity;
- Ability to create content by optimally combining text, sound, and image;
- Sense of responsibility for actions in professional activity;
- Responsibility for the consequences of actions in professional activity;
- Understanding media market opportunities;
- Ability to create new products/formats;
- Reflection on the future of journalism;
- Ability to propose feasible solutions for complex problems in practice.

The purpose of the 2018 study was also to identify and study the understanding and perceptions of the academic community regarding the competencies of journalists that they should acquire in the coming decade. Professor Nico Drok of the Media School at Windheim University of Applied Sciences explained that this goal is explained by the fact that the analysts who conducted the survey understood their colleagues as the main consumers of the research results. The reason is that they are “more interested in reflection on this topic than any other group related to teaching journalism, and this, in turn, allows the survey organizers to compare the results with their own judgments”.

In the 2018 study, the main focus was on the expectations of teachers involved in the process of training new personnel. According to the organizers of the international survey, their understanding of the profession has not been studied as thoroughly and fully as that of professional journalists and representatives of student groups studying journalism.

Research conducted by foreign scientists allowed for a holistic understanding of the changes taking place in editorial offices in the context of convergence and digitalization. Therefore, we can conclude that all aspects of journalism have changed. Moreover, despite the existence of initial scientific hypotheses, it can be concluded that in the context of convergence, the method of remote work did not occupy a dominant position among journalists, and the "universalization" of journalists was focused on the production of less audiovisual content and the collection of more content for different platforms. Currently, journalists are working more efficiently, and the requirements for technical literacy of employees have increased. The Internet and, in particular, social networks and messengers have become a communication channel with newsmakers, a source of information gathering, a platform for publishing and transmitting journalists' materials.

Of course, it is necessary to take into account that changes occur at different rates. Not all editorial offices operate promptly and dynamically. For conducting research at the Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University named after M.V.Lomonosov, media market leaders were selected who are highly professional, technically well-equipped, and able to work in a competitive environment.

Finally, it should be taken into account that the citation of research conducted by foreign scientists in this part of the dissertation is only a fragment of modern reality. Due to rapid changes, this process may fundamentally change in a few years, of course.

This, we learned that professional journalism is experiencing both a financial and a functional crisis. Financial crisis before journalists How to survive in a market economy? How to expand the personal audience? and the functional crisis poses the problem of how to bring more benefits to society and people. Research conducted in recent years shows that, despite the changes taking place in the political and economic spheres, despite the strengthening of technical progress and commercialization, the competencies of a journalist, based on the social mission of the profession, are still primary.

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