ABSTRACT

The doctoral dissertation analyzes distinct forms of investigative journalism in American newspapers and examines the influence that media portrayals of investigative reporting between 1969 and 1980 had on reality outside media representation. The research aims to fill the gap in detailed analysis regarding chosen cases of investigative reporting, their socio-political effects, and legal outcomes, as well as to evaluate assertions made by other scholars in this context.

To achieve the research objectives, the theoretical framework extends the typology of investigative journalism proposed by B. Kovach and T. Rosenstiel (Original Investigative Reporting, Interpretative Investigative Reporting, and Reporting On Investigations) by adding an intermediary category: Disclosure/Investigative Reporting.

On the methodological level, the dissertation applies, verifies, and supplements the assumptions of the muckraking model and its variations (M.T. Gordon, H.L. Molotch, and D.L. Protess). Empirically, using the proposed research methods and typology, four cases of journalistic investigations were analyzed: the Mirage Tavern, the Pentagon Papers, the trial of the Chicago Seven, and the investigation of the murders attributed to the Zodiac Killer. The research encompasses the content of selected American newspapers, both local and national. The material was obtained from online newspapers archives (Newspapers.com™, N.Y. Times Machine, ProQuest) and through on-site queries conducted at the Library of Congress.

Chapter I discusses the historical context, including both an attempt to present a periodization of American investigative journalism from the late seventeenth century to the 1980s and also an analysis of the factors that shaped the practices characteristic of the new muckraking between 1969 and 1980.

Chapter II presents a summary of the research methodology employed in the study, which includes critical discourse analysis (CDA) in a media linguistic context, the theories of linguistic and media images of the world, as well as variations of the muckraking models. Chapter II also presents the characteristics of different types of investigative journalism and the techniques used by investigative reporters.

Chapters III–VI analyze the media representations of selected cases of investigative journalism, as well as their socio-political effects and legal outcomes. All case studies were interpreted within the frameworks of the muckraking model variations and completed with detailed contexts.

Research conducted as part of the doctoral dissertation demonstrates that critical analysis of initial media images of cases embodying the principles of investigative journalism, using

variations of muckraking models, allows for a thorough assessment of the nature of media discourse surrounding individual case studies and their impact on reality outside media representation. Regardless of the type of investigative journalism, reporters' actions are interventional and may lead to the mobilization of public opinion, policy initiatives, and reforms.