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School of Humanities
Education and Social Sciences
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**- A study of Hollywood movies with and about
journalism**

MA Thesis
Journalism Connected
Supervisor: Johan Nilsson
Author: Oliver der Nederlanden

Abstract

The relationship between journalists and film makers have always been one of love and hate, and many journalists dislike how they are being portrayed in feature films. Journalists have always figured in the film history, especially in Hollywood, there they hold up a cultural myth. The representation of journalist do not reflect the reality, it is rather the idea of journalism that film makers want us to believe in.

The purpose of this study was to see how journalist are portrayed in their profession through a gender perspective and how the technology that they are using is being represented. The research includes two Hollywood feature films from different time periods and by different directors.

The result of the analysis shows that women are represented as journalists to a greater extent in the later film and that these characters seems more career driven and complex. Still in both films the women are often set aside by a male counterpart that takes the important decisions. We can also see how they in the earlier film rely heavily on the representation of technology as the telephone, typewriter or notepad, whereas they mix the later and earlier technology in the later film. The use of internet and other late technology is still a little bit absent.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Purpose and research question	2
1.2 Background	3
2. Earlier Research.....	6
2.1 Technology.....	6
2.2 Depiction of Female versus Male Journalists.....	8
3. Research method/material	10
3.1 The Front Page.....	10
3.2 State of Play.....	10
3.3 Choice of Material.....	11
3.4 Analytical Methods.....	12
3.4.1 Film analysis.....	12
3.4.2 Semiotic analysis	13
3.5 Approach	14
3.6 Limitation.....	14
4. Theoretical Framework	15
4.1 Representation.....	15
4.1.1 Stereotypes.....	15
4.1.2 Social Construction	16
5. Analys.....	17
5.1 Gender perspective.....	17
5.2 Technology.....	20
6. Conclusions.....	28
6.1 Future research.....	29
Bibliography	30

1. Introduction

Journalists has always figured in the filmhistory, especially in Hollywood, there they hold up a cultural myth (Ehrlich, 1997). Stuart Hall argues that in a film that myth could be linked together with its messages. He exemplifies it with an ad of Panzani pasta that sends out a message of italinaicity (Hall, 1997). This means that the occupation of journalism could be associated with characteristics that is not necessarily facts. For example that you have to be a grumpy workaholic/alcoholic in order to be a newspaperman, or that journalists are divorced and barely see their children. It is therefore understandable that real life journalists are not always fond of how they are being represented in the movie industry. (Deuze, Bruns & Neuberger, 2007) This could of course lead to very strange ideas of the occupation from an outsiders point of view.

Films with journalists in leading parts or films in a journalistic enviroment appears in different genres, as described by Brian McNair in *Journalists in Film: Heroes and Villains* (McNair, 2010). This amount of films containing journalists helps the research and selection because it is thereby easier to get a sample that is relevant for an academic study. The study of the journalistic profession can therefore be as relevant in a comedy as a drama or thriller, and the focus should therefore be on the representation rather than the genre.

The idea for this thesis is to study two films from different time periods that are both made in Hollywood, which will also be the demarcation. There will be a case- and comparative study. The movies that are the aim for this research is the 1974 version of *The Front Page* and the 2009 *State of Play*. *The Front Page* is a black comedy about a newspaperman that intends to leave the business in Chichago, but at the same time is forced to cover the hanging of an innocent prisoner named Earl Williams. *State of Play* is a poltical thriller set in Washington, circulating around three murders that takes place in a very short period of time. The story goes through a corrupt military company, to a pr-firm and ends up with an army veteran that has an unhealthy relationship to a top politician.

The two movies will be analysed by a gender- and a technological perspective, and are choosen from a bigger sample of films to be representative for these perspectives. It is relevant to see if the perception of women in general can be reflected in the movies(Blewett, 1974). There is a lot of discussion in society about women liberation and women´s rights today, can we see that female characters are taking a more important part in films about

journalism? And even if they get more roles, which characters do they play? Does a woman have the same ability to be a careerhunter as a man or is there still boundaries in how to portray women? Previous research in the field is a little doubtful about that, it shows that women often has to take a bigger responsibility for home and family than their male co-workers (Ehrlich, 1997). It is also useful to know that the journalistic business is very male dominant and has been for quite some time (North, 2016).

The technological perspective is also relevant because a field that is so dependent of technological development as journalism should take advantage of every new device out on the market. The rise of Internet and other technology has changed the way journalists work and the structure of the newsorganization (Pavlik, 2000). Which technology is represented in the movies? Is it the world wide web, the telephone, telefax or an old notepad. Is the technology rather underrepresented and held back in favor for more traditional methods, like knocking doors or speaking with people in a bar. The technology has also raised a lot of problems for news reporting. For example the use of Twitter or live blogs in news reporting has led to a slightly less thorough fact checking. And much of the information from social media is scattered around in different websites without certain ways to confirm it. (Hermida, 2012)

The representation of technology and gender could say something of how we perceive the cultural myth of journalism because we associate journalism with a certain idea of a person. The image of women has progressed very much during the last decades and we can see that women are taking a bigger role in the occupational life. Likewise the use of technology has changed our way of working, we are no longer dependent on wired telephones or a piece of paper, but we can instead work very broadly with smartphones, advanced computers and social media to get access to information. Could this development change our image of the cultural myth of journalists?

1.1 Purpose and research question

The purpose of this study is to see how journalists are portrayed in their profession, in the movies *The Front Page* and *State of Play*.

The research questions is:

How is technology represented in *The Front Page* compared to *State of Play*?

How is gender perspective represented in *The Front Page* compared to *State of Play*?

1.2 Background

The relationship between the film industry and the press has always been fairly ambivalent, and could be described as one of *love and hate*. The journalists themselves have not always been happy of the way they have been portrayed in the movie industry. Despite this, journalists have always figured in movies throughout film history and probably will in the future. (Ehrlich, 1997)

The 30s

During the early 1930s the image of the journalist was not always that flattering. The early version of *The Front Page* described the reporter as a person without any moral scruples, that often ended up in a copy desk. The reporter could sometimes do serious attempts to abuse the public trust, especially in *The Front Page* and *Five Star Final* (1991, Vaughn & Evensen)

Second World War

During the *Second World War*, the reporter was often depicted as a guardian of the republic and a defender of society. This positive portrayal of the journalist was affected by the pressure to have good relationships towards the press, in order to get favorable reviews. (1991, Vaughn & Evensen) An early version of *The Front Page*, called *His Girl Friday*, uses the development of late technology in a very innovative way. The journalists are constantly using the phone to report on the hanging of Earl Williams. It is very interesting to see how that technology can enhance the storytelling.

50s to 70s

After the *Second World War*, around the 50s, many of the films that contained journalists as main characters became darker in their style. The reporters were often described as a crook that risked everything for a big scoop. Some examples of movies from this time period are: *Ace in the Hole*, *Scandal Sheet* and *Sweet Smell of Success*. During the 1970s, after the Watergate scandal, the journalist was a person that could uncover the truth and expose conspiracies. We can see this in *All the President's Men* as well as in *The China Syndrome*. (Ehrlich, 1997) In contrast to these films the main character Hildy Johnson, in the 1974

version of *The Front Page*, is more of an unwanted hero and his contribution to the scoop is a result of dumb luck rather than of hard work. The righteousness that is often described during this time, is instead a result of coincidence in *The Front Page*. In a film like *The China Syndrome*, the use of broadcast technique is very present and important, the journalists is even catching the big scoop on camera and uses the broadcast technology to get all sorts of statements.

80s and 90s

During the 80s and 90s, journalists were still being depicted as ruthless - like in *Absence of Malice*, there a reporter ruins the life of an innocent citizen when publishing a story that covers the front page. In a film like *To die for*, the female protagonist seduces a teenager to commit murder on her husband, with the purpose to benefit her own career. Still there are movies during this time period that describes the journalist as brave and unscrupulous. Some examples are films like *I love Trouble* and *The Paper*. (Ehrlich, 1997) It is further interesting to see how the gender perspective is being represented in the movies. As in both *Absence of Malice* and *To die for*, women are described as someone that could commit a bad act, either by accident or out of ruthlessness. We can also see a change there more female protagonists are present.

Late 90s to 00

During more recent years, 1997-2008, there have been a lot of films starring journalists in supporting- or leadroles. Many of the films have a positive view of the profession, maybe thanks to the 9/11 incident in the United States. Some examples of this is *A mighty heart*, *Good night and Good Luck* and *Welcome to Sarajevo*. At the same time there are some negative portrayals of journalists there they are represented as villains. An example of this is films like *Paparazzi* and *15 minutes*. A film like *Shattered Glass* deals with the convention of traditional journalism contrary to the rise of online journalism. (McNair, 2010) *State of Play* which came out a little later, in 2009, connects to the idea of a journalist as some kind of hero, discovering corruption in the center of the political power. *State of Plays* adds to the tradition of portaying journalists as good guys, that is something that we can see in already mentioned films like *Good Night and Good Luck* and *A mighty heart*. It also adds to the notion that women are taking more space in the journalistic environment, due to having both female reporters and editors in the story.

Many ex-journalists are driven towards the film industry and are in many cases the master minds behind the image that we see in film. The film industry is also affected by the press association, a force that lobbies for a favorable image of journalism. (Ehrlich, 1997)

2. Earlier Research

In this chapter I will first give an overview of how journalists are being represented in general through earlier research, in the context of Hollywood. Then I will explain how technology is represented in the journalistic environment and how the gender perspective has been studied.

Journalists has been described in many different ways, both as a corrupt individual or someone who seeks the truth in the public's interest. McNair describes that films that involves journalists often attract big Hollywood Stars. Journalist appears in many film titles, over 2000 in the history of film. The reporter is often described as a guardian of moral values and a fighter against corruption and crime. They are often portrayed in the same way as policemen or detectives, but without the support of firearms or the backup of an authority. According to McNair 80 percent of these titles represent journalists in a heroic way. (McNair, 2011)

According to Ehrlich the motives for a journalist to discover things could be both good or bad, he either wants to benefit his or her career or serve the public's good. He or she could either find a big scoop by accident or by hard work/competence. When uncovering the truth the journalist can either do both good or harm a lot of people. The journalist is often an idealistic person, and if not so, punished for being negative or even cynical. (Ehrlich, 1997)

2.1 Technology

The journalistic profession is a work area that has changed a lot the last decades and has always been very technology driven. As described by Pavlik (2000) this affects the way journalists make their job, the structure of the news organization, how the news content will be structured and the relationship between other groups. Pavlik also describes that the environment and organization has become less hierarchic between reporters and editors due to internet. The journalistic ideas can arrive directly from the reporter instead of an editor. The journalists are also gathering more of their sources from internet and are not out in the field in the same amount of time, and much of the reporting is centralized to headquarters (Pavlik, 2000). According to Machin and Niblock (2006) much of the local press have been constructed in the same way when it comes to the use of news beats. The reporters are seldom digging around for information from bar- or cafe owners, but gets his or her information from ready made files that bureaucratic organizations distributes. Files and reports are produced from these organizations on a daily basis. This is also something that has been used even more during

recent years. (Machin & Niblock, 2006) The idea of ready made news exist in many other news organizations I think.

A study by Jung and Walden from 2015 shows that broadcast stations must put more effort in their websites, because the audience are more keen to be on this platform rather than only traditional tv. And in that sense, the broadcast stations should take more strategic advantage of their websites and include them in their brand. (Jung and Walden, 2015) This could be applied to the newspapers business as well, because the main audience are moving into websites and digital media sooner or later. And this development of technology could affect how the journalists are being represented as a cultural myth.

Another technological development that has been widely used by journalists is social media. An article by Paul Farhi(2009) reveals how american newspaper media have embraced the use of Twitter in the reporting. Twitter is a type of microblog that was founded round 2006 and there you can post short sentences and anyone with a computer can start a free account. Twitter is a very useful tool in a news enviroment there the event is constantly changing, and there you do not have all the facts. (Farhi, 2009). A good example of this could be how journalists covered the Stockholm terrorist attack with constant updates about the event, and there the full picture were revealed much later. The drawback with this new technology is that you really have to pick and choose from the massive feed of "not-news", like people twittering about nonsense (Farhi, 2009). Another problem with twitter and the massive feed of information, I think, is that it brings up a big possibility for fake news. It becomes easier to publish and harder to fact check because almost anyone can get access to a twitter account. As Bouvier(2017) mention a problem with social media is that it challenge the old established media with its requirment for constant updates, this has also led to the need of different business models from the industry. There have also become an issue with new groups as: social media phenomenoe, communicators and even normal citizens that enters the journalistic terriortory. This becomes a new way to work for a journalist and it makes the job more stressful. An advantage with the use of social media is that it allows journalist to customize content for a personal need and that it becomes a new way to crowdsource and to find interesting stories that would not been revealed otherwise. (Bouvier, 2017)

According to a study by Hermida(2010) the use of digital media/cyberspace in news production leads to a lot of raw-data that are hard to process and fact check. And the

technology also brings up questions of the journalistic role as more of an adviser rather than publisher, when it is so easy to publish tweets or other microblogs(Hermida, 2010).

These are just some general observations, and of course the industry is different from whichever perspective you look at, but it gives a hint of how fast the environment changes and what kind of threats or opportunities that are up and coming. It is therefore relevant too look at how technology is represented in an environment there people have to rely on it. Can we see that the journalist are taking bigger advantage of the new technology in a later film or are they still wallraffing with pen and paper? When *His Girls Friday* came out in the late 30s we could see that the director took big advantage of the telephone, that was a fairly new device. We could see that reporters were constantly calling each other in order to conduct their job. Is the internet represented in the same way as the telephone in a film like *State of Play*, or does the journalist take a minor advantage of the technology. As described earlier the rise of internet really changed the workenvironment for many practitioners, and it is therefore relevant to see if the journalists are portrayed in the same way as in an earlier film. Is internet or blogs as important for the story in *State of Play* as the telephone in *His Girls Friday*? The use of different technology could therefore say something about the time that is present and how the society looked like. If a film takes place during the second world war, it would be relevant to see traces of a phone in the story, which would represent that time era. A film that is taking place today would rather include smartphones or social media.

2.2 Depiction of Female versus Male Journalists

Women has often been marginalized in art, culture, labour and of course also in journalism. Much of the environment described by McNair(2010) excludes women from doing a proper job. For example, the reporter that has to mingle with male politicians or talk with mainly male soldiers to get the inside information. Women, in that sense, do not have the same key to the sources as a male reporter. As late as in the 50s there were very few female journalists in the mainstream media. (McNair, 2010)

The portrayal of female journalists in movies has been pretty different from the male portrayals. For example they are seldom portrayed as managers or editors, but rather as secretaries or assistants that help their male counterparts.(McNair, 2010) This is also notified in a study conducted by Lauzan, Dozier and Horan(2008), which reveals that female characters often have more marital roles, whereas male characters have more occupational roles. In a job situation female characters also have more interpersonal roles, whereas male characters have more operational and/or political roles. Although this study was made on

Television Series in US, it is likely to say that the gender stereotypes are the same in both Hollywood as in other popular culture. Ehrlich describe the business as male dominant there women has to do bigger sacrifices to pursue a career. They often have to balance home and work. Male journalists can on the other hand blend their private life together with their personal life in a more harmonic way. (Ehrlich, 1997)

In my study the focus will be on how women are represented in the journalistic profession, many earlier studies focus on the general representation of reporters in film. And the studies focusing on the gender perspective, looks more broadly on the gender perspective in television series or feature films. This obviously raises some question of female representation. Is it like Lauzan, Dozier and Horans says that women are taking more interpersonal roles and male counterparts are taking more workrelated roles? Can we see female characters focusing on career instead of being the object of affection for a male counterpart? And if they are described by their profession, are they rather hangarounds to a male colleague or driven by their own agenda. Does a female investigative reporter have the same attributes as a male investigative reporter, or is there any clear differences? And how does a woman in an editorial position affect the balance of men and women working beneath her.

3. Research method/material

The choice of material have been two Hollywood feature films, the first one is *The Front Page* from 1974, an adaptation of a Broadway play from the 1930s and the second one is the 2009 film *State of Play*, which is a political thriller about a cover-up in political environment.

3.1 *The Front Page*

The Front Page tells the story about the crime reporter Hildy Johnson, that is getting married with his sweetheart Peggy Grant and therefore wants to quit his job at the *Chicago Examiner*. Despite this he is sent to cover a last job by the editor Walter Burns, the hanging of Earl Williams, convicted for killing a policeman. Earl Williams escapes during the evening just before he is getting executed. But Johnson and Burns later finds and hide Earl Williams under a desk during their coverage of the hanging, and are arrested by the Mayor and Sheriff for doing so. They are later released because they can prove that both the Mayor and the Sheriff tried to conceal Earl Williams reprieve from the Government. Hildy then travels away by train with Peggy Grant, meanwhile Burns have plans how to lure Johnson back into the business.

3.2 *State of Play*

State of Play is a Political thriller set in Washington and based on a BBC television series (Wikipedia, 2018). One night a thief in Georgetown is shot along with a pizza delivery who witness the whole event. The next morning a woman, Sonia Baker, commit suicide in front of a subway train. The congressman Stephen Collins, who were having an affair with Baker, tip the investigative journalist Cal McAffrey at the *Washington Globe*, to dig into the story. Cal McAffrey is also a friend of Stephen Collins since college. McAffrey sees a connection between the two murders and the suicide of Sonia Baker. He and his female colleague, Della Frye, finds out that Sonia Baker were hired by a PR subsidiary to PointCorp, a private military corporation that Stephen Collins is investigating, to spy on Collins. But they also get to know that she later fell in love with Collins and became pregnant, before being killed by someone from PointCorp. They discover that Collins knew that Baker was spying on him and contacted the ex-soldier Robert Birmingham to spy/kill her. McAffrey reveals it all in front of Collins at his office, call the cops, and they arrest him. Ex soldier Robert Birmingham turns up and commits suicide by cop outside Stephen Collins office. At last the story goes to print in the *Washington Globe*.

3.3 Choice of Material

The main idea with comparing *The Front Page* and *State of Play* is the different time period they appear in, which represents different standpoints of female perspective and the progression of technology. In the 30s, when *The Front Page* is taking place, it was very few female journalists working in the field, whereas in the early 00s when *State of Play* is taking place, there are a lot more female journalists. Also the technology for a working journalist in the 30s was limited to phones and typewriters, whereas in the early 00s you could use internet, cellphones and other digital devices to do your work. In *The Front Page* the protagonist is an experienced journalist that wants to leave his occupation, whereas in *State of Play*, the protagonist is still dedicated but at the same time in the position to help his friend. It is also interesting to see how the technology has changed. As mentioned in *earlier research* the technology has developed the work environment for many of the on-field reporters. How big impact does computer and internet have on the movies and does it affect the way journalists is gathering data? *The Front Page* is taking place during the 1920/1930s and is based on a stageplay, whereas *State of Play* is set on the 00s and deals with the rise of online journalism.

Another relevant part is the gender perspective. McNair mentions how women has been excluded in the business and Lauzan, Dozier and Horan(2008) describe the interpersonal roles that female characters often have to relate to. Is the gender roles described in the same way in both films?

I selected the 1974 version of *The Front Page* because, according to Enrich, it is one of the classical films that represent journalists in a stereotype way (Enrich, 1997). Many of the journalists in the film are gamblers and drinkers, and are looking down on men that are a bit flamboyant or having a fancy education. It is a very masculine environment there you have to be one of the boys to have a membership. The journalists are also portrayed as sensational writers that could do everything for that front page scoop, including almost killing a person. This are all characteristics that could apply for the cultural myth of the journalistic profession. Many journalist were very upset of how they were portrayed in *The Front Page* when it first arrived (Enrich, 1997).

I selected *State of Play* because it contains strong female characters with occupational roles, oppose to what much of the research from McNair and Lauzan, Dozier and Horan says. The editor and the online journalist, which are main characters, are both female. It is also one of the few films, appart from *Shattered Glass*, that deals with the rise of online journalism. There

are of course more movies to choose from and *Shattered Glass* is one of them, but because of the demarcation to Hollywood feature films the sample had to be narrowed down.

As described the study will also look at the gender perspective. *The Front Page* is describing a work environment that is very male dominant, whereas in *State of Play* there exist female journalists, one of the lead roles are a female reporter and the work environment is more down to earth. It would therefore be interesting to see how the gender perspective is being represented in two different time periods in two different films.

3.4 Analytical Methods

A qualitative method will be used because this study involves two visual artworks. I will not be searching for quantity by any means, i.e. I will not compare a range of films and search for a pattern. (El Gody, 2017) I will instead mainly use *film analyses* as a method together with *semiotic analyses*.

The interview method was also thought to be used, to get a feeling of how real journalists think about the way they have been portrayed in many feature films. But there were two problems with this method which led to the decision to let it be. *One*, the films are from North America/Hollywood and would not reflect the environment in Sweden, and *two* it would be too much material to process using both methods. This is after all a small thesis and I think it would benefit from not being too wide. I therefore think it would be easier to focus on what I see and can interpret in the movies.

3.4.1 Film analysis

The film analysis is described by the University of North Carolina, as the process there a film is analysed in terms of semiotic, narrative, *mis-en-scene* and cultural context, among other ways. It has similarities with literature analysis but adds the audiovisual element into the context. In the film analysis you should think of the elements that makes up the scene: actors, lighting, editing and colours. Other things like the plot, structure and symbolism could be of interest. (the writing center, 2016)

Analyzing film can be done through looking at the components of a film's ingredients and then using them as a method. One way to analyse film is through *Mis-en-scene*. *Mis-en-scene* is described by Bordwell and Thompson (2001) as the things that happens in front of the camera. It is a term that is taken from the theatre and includes lighting, costume and settings. There

are different levels of mis-en-scene in different films, depending on how much control the director needs. There are, for example, very little mis-en-scene in a documentary compared to an animation, there you could control every inch that happens in front of the scene. One other keyfactor is the *cinematography*, which is described as: the framing, the photographic aspect and the duration of the shot. It concerns how a scene is shot and composed, in combination with the lightning. A third factor is the *editing*, the process there one shot is coordinated to another to achieve different effects. You can also use different cutting techniques like: dissolve, wipe and fade. At last the sound can achieve strong effects in the film and at the same time remain unnoticeable. It engages our emotions and accompany the visual experience of a film. (Bordwell and Thompson, 2001)

3.4.2 Semiotic analysis

In addition to film analysis, I will use semiology or *semiotics*, which aims to answer the question of how to make meaning out of images. In the toolbox of semiotics analysis the study of signs or the meaning of signs is the most prominent. In contrast to for example content analysis the images that are being selected does not have to be statistically representative, they are rather picked in relation to the semiological theory. Semiotics are therefore often used as case studies on relatively few images. (Rose, 2007)

Signs can be defined as the basic unit that a language exist of. It consists of two parts, first *the signified* which means a concept or an object, the second part the *signifier* is a sound or an image wich is tied to *the signified*. An example would be the name for baby, in Sweden it is bebis, which means that bebis is the word that is tied to a human offspring. The signifier can also change due to the language we use, for example the italian word for a baby is bimbo which in english is a stereotyped version of an adult woman. The relation between the signified and the signifier is essential for semiotic analysis. When looking at an image you have to find the signs that are part of the picture and is interesting to explore for an analysis. In many adverts the humans have signs that symbolize certain qualities for their audience. The qualities are being transferred from human to product. (Rose, 2007) A good example could be the TV-commerical for Volvo with Zlatan Ibrahimovic that aired some years ago, there the values that Ibrahimovic represented were transferred into those who bought a Volvo Car, because the audience wants to be like Ibrahimovic. And also Zlatan Ibrahimovic is seen as a national hero in Sweden because of his achievement in football, so he signifies trust and commitment.

Much of the semiotic analysis will melt together with the more technical parts of the film analysis, like mis-en-scene, cinematography, editing and sound, because it affects how we interpret a story. The qualitative aspect of semiotic analysis strengthens the choice of the method, because the analysis will consist of only two movies and not a dozen.

3.5 Approach

The approach for the study was first to read a lot on the subject to get a better understanding of journalists portrayed in film. Some of the literature is mentioned in earlier studies.

Afterwards I chose two films that would be suitable for the research question and the research problem, and started to watch them.

In the practical part of analysing the movies, I watched them from beginning to end and picked up key scenes that said something about the journalistic profession. I downloaded the two films to my computer and used VLC media player to scrub through them, pick the scenes and rewind them again. I was also trying to do some notes while watching. I then compared the scenes from the two movies.

3.6 Limitation

The limitation with a qualitative method is that it is harder to use to understand patterns in the artwork, and you can not do your decisions based on numbers or figures. The analysis will also be more subjective and open for interpretation, than if you had a quantitative method (El Gody, 2017). On the other hand it is hard, if not impossible, to do a quantitative research on only two films. You rather have to look at a range of films to draw conclusions based on quantitative research. Or rather look at text or articles where you can count words that could lead to conclusions. I do not think film as a medium is very suitable for doing quantitative research. This is also the reasons why content analyses was not suitable – because the thesis is not about analysing text (El Gody, 2017). The strength of using the qualitative method is that you can get more into details of the study. You can also interpret the object and the data in different ways than if you had to deal with numerical data, because numbers often exclude interpretation of things – things either are or are not. It is also easier to understand the research area with a qualitative method, rather than with a quantitative method. You get a possibility to discover your field, rather than say yes or no to a hypothesis.

4. Theoretical Framework

In this chapter the focus will be on the theoretical framework that will be used in this study. The theory of representation are the most useful concept, and representation can be used in the context of stereotypes and or social construction.

4.1 Representation

Theories of representation can be linked to semiotic analysis, which deals with the interpretation of signs, language and symbols, and is one of the methods that will be used in this study. The intention with representation is to use language to say things in a meaningful way. To place a equality sign to something and depict it to get something out of it, for example: " this picture represent the speech of Martin Luther King". The intention is also to symbolize things, for example that "the cross in christianity represents the suffer of jesus". It indicates that people, objects or events do not have a fixed meaning, but varies due to context. The meaning is dependent on people in a specific culture, and will change from one culture to another, which is what is called cultural relativism. It is important to accept culture relativism as a key factor to understand representation. Things that are different from what we represent is often referred to as "otherness" or stereotypes. (Hall, 1997)

The key to this study is to see how journalists are being represented in film and media, because of the misconception of how they are portrayed in film in contrary to reality. It is interesting to see what kind of ideas are connected with *The Front Page* and *State of Play*. Are there symbols that we are not aware of?

4.1.1 Stereotypes

Stereotypes are offering generalization of people based on their group belongings. A normal stereotype is the gender role, there females are being forced to behave in a specific way in order to fullfill the idea of being a woman. (Ghaznavia, Grasso & Taylor, 2017) The stereotype consist of mainly three components. 1: that a certain type of people are identified by some characteristics, which could be everything from nationality to ethnicity, gender or occupation. This type of characteristics makes them different from other people. 2. After being identified this group are getting more characteristics from people outside the group, a group of football-supporters can be described as aggressive, male and white. This characteristics could have to do with both their personality or their physical attribution. For example football supporters are either aggressive or male and white. 3. At last, when we identified the characteristics we gives them the stereotypical attributes that we mentioned. If

we have met one football supporter that are male, white and aggressive we draw the conclusion that all football supporters are like that. (Hinton, 2000)

Stereotypes are often used in all sorts of films, and they are often connected to a certain group. In this study we look at stereotypes connected to journalists. Are there different type of stereotypes connected to a female reporter in contrary to a male reporter. And what are the characteristics that we have too look for to identify this stereotypes. Are there stereotypes connected to the representation of a certain technology. Is a newspaper journalist constantly equipped with pen and paper, or can he or she be portrayed with different types of gear, and how is he or she using the technology that exist in the society.

4.1.2 Social Construction

Social Construction means that we see the world from inherited norms rather than objective observations. Our experience from different culture could affect the observations. A good example is how we perceive men and women in different categories and then give them different characteristics. Our perception has often changed during time, we now see children as "kids" rather than "small adults", which was not the case a hundred years ago. The idea of children as vulnerable and in need of protection is also very new. (Burr, 1995)

Burr(1995) mentions how Social Construction arrives from a construction between two people, through an interaction in the social life that is being fabricated. What is true are therefore rather our current understanding of life, not from objective research but rather from social interaction and how we perceive these interactions. Another important thing is to know that knowledge and social action goes together, and different social construction leads to different actions. For example, years ago a drunk person could be set into prison and fully responsible for his/her actions. Nowadays we look at a drunk person as an alcoholic who is a victim of a disease and rather give him or her treatment. (Burr, 1995)

It is relevant to look at social construction because it will change over time. We therefore tries to catch up with the ideas connected to journalism at the moment. Decades ago it would be impossible to associate a woman with the job of a newsreporter, and now we can se them both as reporters and editors. In the same way it would be almost impossible to predict the technology associated with today's journalism.

5. Analys

*In this chapter the focus will be on breaking down the scenes from *The Front Page* and *State of Play* into smaller pieces and do an analysis based on the theories and methods.*

5.1 Gender perspective

The Front Page

The *Front Page* consist of almost only male characters. The only two females are the prostitute Mollie Malloy and Peggy Grant, who is musician and soon to be married with Hildy Johnson. None of them is working as journalists and they have more interpersonal roles, especially Peggy Grant, who throughout the film is represented as very good and honest. Mollie Malloy's character is during the whole time portrayed as more outspoken and dominant, talking about her affection for Earl Williams. She is also the one doing big sacrifices for him, like at the end of the movie, jumping through the window to prevent the journalists from finding him. This are a sign of what type of sacrifice a female person has to do for a male counterpart, that would not been done by a male character. As described by Lauzan, Dozier and Horan(2008) the female characters is used to care more about relationships, and it is very clear that the two female characters are represented as inferior to all the male characters. This indicates that women are more caring rather than career focused in their roles. Also the social construction at the time the film takes place give us the idea that women are a tool for male success. Although the women have more interpersonal and small roles, they are also represented as people with higher standards. As an example we could see how Mollie Malloy jumps out of the window to cover her boyfriend Earl Williams. Many of the male characters are rather represented as unscrupulous, as for example the editor Walter Burns. Burns is lying about Johnsons having alcoholic problem to Peggy Grant, Johnsons soon to be wife, in the beginning of the film to get him back in the newspaper business and lying to reporter Roy Bensinger in order to get him out of the pressroom. These are two signs of how Burns as a male character can act as very unscrupulous and selfish, in contrary to the big sacrifices that the women in the film is doing.

The male characters are throughout the film represented in a very stereotypical way. Through mis-en-scene we can see how the characters are dressed and how the environment is described. At the beginning of the film when Hildy Johnson arrives to report about the hanging, the reporters drinks, smokes and play hazard games in the pressroom. The only one of the

journalists that feels different is the flamboyant reporter Roy Bensinger. He is also the one that are most proper dressed throughout the movie, with a blue costume and with a red flower tied to his neck. He also have pink toilet paper. These are the signs that represent a more unmasculine reporter that does not belong in a pressroom that covers hanging. And that the stereotype of a real newspaper man is the one that drinks, smokes and play cards. Throughout the film the other reporters sits mostly without a costume or suit. This is a sign of a more masculine lifestyle that is represented during that time era, and a symbol of extreme masculinity. When Hildy Johnson in the beginning of the film tells Walter Burns that he is gonna be a Copywriter, Burns think he is a sissy, " Jesus, Hildy! You're a newspaperman, not some faggot writing poetry about brassieres and laxatives." he says. At a certain point in the narrative the reporters, that covers Earl Williams hanging, teases the newcomer Rudy Keppler in the same manner, by telling him to get some of Bensingers pink toilet paper. The pink toilet is a sign that could symbolize a more flamboyant or even female lifestyle, in the way that Rose(2007) would have put it. Also Rudy Keppler, who is a new journalist directly from college, is representing wrong kind of masculinity. Real reporters should not go to college. So it is therefore very obvious how the social construction of male attributes are being reinforced through out the film. The values that Roses(2007) talk about, that a value could be transferred from one thing to another, is that real reporter is a man that drinks, smokes and covers hangings. Anyone that do not act according to this stereotype is being described as either a "faggot" or an unexperienced writer straight out of college. The world faggot is therefore becoming a sign of an unworthy lifestyle. The pink toilet and the red flower ribbon are also both signs that represent femininity that are far away from the newspaper business.

Also throughout the film the cinematography consists of big compositions, the use of full wide images and flat lightning, it also consists of slowpaced editing which altogether give the impression of an ensemble movie. An ensemble movie that during the whole movie only consists of boys disguised to reporters, this is the ultimate sign of a mans club. The ingroup are the male journalists, and the otherness are: the newcomer journalist, the gay writer Bensinger, the prostitute Mollie Malloys and the soon to be wife Peggy Grant. It is very clear that they do not understand "the reality" of the newspaper world. In Mollie Malloys case it is very clear that she is represented as an outsider, especially when the reporters mocks her in the beginning of the film while arriving at the pressroom. This is a sign that she is not one of the gang. The gang is consisting of male guys that smokes, drinks and play hazard games.

State of Play

In *State of Play* there *are* female journalists in contrary to *The Front Page*, even the editor for *The Washington Globe* is a woman. The female characters are also being described as more dominant and with an intention to pursue a career in the field. The online journalist Della Frye is throughout the film portrayed as very hungry with the intention to progress with a big scope. Thanks to the mix of men and women, we do not see as clear signs of male stereotypes as in *The Front Page*. The male protagonist Cal McAffrey, however, take bigger risks throughout the film, despite warnings from his editor Cameron Lynne. Who at a certain point in the film says he should not take this risks. He uses controversial methods like taping conversations, following a torpedo into his apartment and snooping around in a pathologists office during different occasions in the film. These are signs of how a male character can do what he pleases without be given any boundaries. He can be best friend with a congressman while he is set to spy on him. Della Frye, who is his colleague, is more casual and have very good merits for her job. She is also technical skilled with lots of competence in computers and blogs. She is also portayed as analytcal with the ability to think things through, rather than follow her gutfeeling. These are signs that says that she has to have very good merits to be at the same position as him.

By looking at the movie through a gender perspective there are still different kind of social constructions that we have created for these characters. This is stereotypes of women that says that you always have to be good and do your best, but as a man you can be a bit sloppy or act like a badboy and still be treated as a genius. McAffrey even uses illegal methods in a certain point of the narrative to get his sources into the direction he wants, and risks his life while meeting up with an ex-soldier in the middle of the film. This is a sign that the representation of male versus female journalists is not equal, the women have to go by the book and work hard whereas a male journalist can be seen more of an adventurer that risks his life for the sake of a story. This gender roles and expectations are therefore different on male versus female characters.

The Mis-en-Scene and cinematography consists of big contrast images with shadows, almost like a film noir and with a colder blue/greensish grading tone throughout the film. These are the signs, as Rose(2007) put, of a detective story there the journalists tries to frame a villain. Both men and women are involved, and they work together as a team, but when the moment of true comes, Cal McAffrey is the one that saves everything, which he does at the end of the movie. But as in *The Front Page*, there are no bad girls involved. The villain and the heroes

are portrayed by men. This are also very clear signs that could be led back to Roses theories there certain values could be transferred down to a certain person or an object(2007). Men can have a broader repertoar, they can be portrayed as both good or evil and often get away with more, while still being considered a delicate genius. Women, on the other hand, do not have the same diversity and are portrayed as the hard working girl that has to do everything right. A character as McAffrey are seldom played by a woman. Think of a wallraffing female reporter that lives in her car, misuses sources and internal connections and who still is represented as an adventurer. This character are seldom portrayed in a Hollywood feature film.

5.2 Technology

The Front Page

In *The Front Page* the technology are mainly represented through telephones. They are representing a time when later techology is still non-existent and not visible in the movie. If a reporter have a big headline he or she has to call the newspaper office rather than using fax or internet. But at the same time we can see that the phone is always present throughout the film. A good example of this is in the first part of the film when Earl Williams escapes from the prison. The reporters in the pressrooms sits and have a jolly good time singing old songs when they hear a gunshot. A blue siren appears outside in the jailyard and we can see how guardians is rushing around. A guardian/constaple rushes into the pressroom and screams "Earl Williams has escaped" which leads to that every reporter is trying to get hold of their editorial staff through their phones. The telephone is the sign of the newest technology and the reporters toolbox. The editor Walter Burns is for example constantly on the phone to get information or inform other journalists in the beginning, middle and end of the movie. But the phones are still stationary at the time, and this constrain the places there the scenes are taking place, mainly in different rooms or offices. The telephone is never far away from the protagonist or any other journalist, because it works as their toolbox.

The use of a slower paced editing and big wide pictures in the cinematography throughout the movie is also helping us to focus on the telephones. There is almost not a mis-en-scene in the whole narration there the telephone is out of frame. Therefore the phone is the sign of the ultimate technological toolbox for the journalistic profession. In a sense new technology of today have the same function. But the filmmakers of *The Front Page* does not think of the

problems that such technology could lead forward to. Bouvier(2017) states how social media has changed the conditions of the journalistic profession, and in the same way the phone must have changed the conditions for the journalists in that time period that the Front Page takes place, but very little of these issues are reflected in the story or by the characters in the film. The characters is just taking the technology for granted, and is only a tool.

In the early part of the movie, journalists are only using notepads or telephones to call into the newspaper office, a sign of an older technology. Only in a short scene in the beginning, when Hildy enters the newsroom to resign from his job, we can assume that the journalists are using some sort of late technology. But this scene are just briefly introduced, not revealing too much information about the work enviroment.

At the end of the film, when Hildy Johnson is going to wrap up the feature article, we can see the use of a typewriter. This is the scene at the end there Walter Burns enters the pressroom and command Hildy Johnson to write the newslead about Earl Williams. Burns "I don't hear that typewriter Hildy. Get your ass over there, I want some of that old Johnsson magic.(...) Get that machine and tear into it". Resulting in Johnson grabbing his typewriter and wrapping up the story about Earl Williams. The typewriter is the sign of an even newer technology than the phone. The typewriter is also the symbol of the romantized view we have on the journalistic profession, and that the reporter is tied to his workinggear whatsoever which he will not leave until deadline. Even later in the same scene when Peggy Grant arrives to tell Johnson that they have to catch that train to Philadelphia, this does not stop Johnson from typing down the story, because it is in his blood as a journalist. Peggy Grants then vanish from the scene without Johnson in her company. As described by Fahri(2009) this highpaced workpace is something that has become more usual with modern technology, but The Front Page is a good example of how the workpace could be already in the 30s then reaching a deadline. It reveals how much of the technology used by journalists helps them to report effectively for an audience. Because often the one that reports first is the one that gets the biggest audience and is seen as the best reporter. In someway that could connect to the idea of many of the media personalities or bloggers that has popped up due to the development of social media. (Bouvier, 2017). The idea is that the media have been and are still more about awarness than quility, if you are not visible you are not existing.

Another interesting scene comes from the middle of the film, where Earl Williams has escaped from prison and the reporters are constantly calling their newsroom to finish the

before deadline. As the young journalist Rudy Kepler puts it when confronting Johnson "Its almost deadline time you know". Imagine doing this coverage during the 00s with the use of Twitter. As Fahri(2009) sees it Twitter is excellent for covering an event there you don not have full information. The aspect of the deadline is relevant because it romanticize how journalists are working hard to get all peaces together before sending a story to print. The escape of Earl Williams would therefore be better covered in a time with Twitter there the journalist could update a feed. These are also the signs of a time there you don not have the technological tools that is necessary to run a story as fast as you would. But much of the reporting is about calling to the office and update with news, so both the use of phones and twitter would benefit this need. Much of the problems with having short deadlines also deals with having the right facts, which can be a problem when you are being overwhelmed by raw-data as described by Hermida(2010).

A similar scene is described in the beginning of the film, when Roy Bensinger calls back to the newsroom and describes Earl Williams last day before hanging. Bensinger: "This is Bensinger. Give me a rewrite man.(...) New lead on the Earl Williams hanging. Yes the execution is still set for 7 o'clock in the morning. The authorities have prepared for a general uprising of radicals at that time." This is a sign of how the journalist constantly have to call the office to update new information, and rely on cathing the deadline for the prints, whereas nowadays he would have put everything online when it suited him. This is also a great scene that describes how the journalists in the film are constantly using their phone to update the newsroom with information, and shows how important the use of phone is for the storytelling in *The Front Page*. It is crucial to have a phone when reporting from another place, so that you can update the newsroom about what is happening on the event that your covering. The phone represents the ability to be the voice of the people, or at least the voice of the newspaper business.

Another example of how the technology could be further used as of today is in a scene in the later part of the film. Walter Burns and Hildy Johnson finds Earl Wiliams and hide him under a desk. Hildy Johnson begins to write down the story with his typewriter while Burns take a photo of Earl Wiliams. Burns then calls the newsroom and tell them that they are gonna print an exclusive story about Earli Williams the next morning. With todays technology this could have been reported much earlier (Fahri, 2009). They could have put the picture online and written the story in chunks through a feed. The picture would of course have been published online immediately with a short text. And the decision to publish would not neccessry have to

go through Walter Burns, because as Pavlik (2000) puts it, the news organization has become more slim with the possibility for newsreporters to take their own decisions. The fast paced environment that is being described shows how we as a society constantly wants to update juicy stories.

In the beginning of the film there is a scene with Walter Burns and Hildy Johnson there they discuss Johnsons career. Johnson is just paying a short visit. Johnson describes how the journalistic profession has crashed his earlier marriage because he is always on his way. Burns states: "That's what makes you a first-class reporter. You're always in the right place at the right time." Johnson replies " But never at home, Walter. Not for Christmas, not for our anniversary. When she was sick in the hospital and nearly died, I was stuck in Tennessee covering that goddamn Monkey Trial. It's not gonna happen again, Walter." This really adds to the romanticized idea that journalists are roving around somewhere in the field. Whereas as stated by both Pavlik(2000) much of the work is being centralized to the newsoffice.

A scene in the beginning of the film, when Johnson enters the newsroom, Walter Burns describes how they are gonna get out the story about Earl Williams as soon as possible. Burns has planned every minute of the hanging and how the story should be delivered to the newsroom. Johnson will, according to Burns, attach a camera inside his pants and snap it when the hanging goes loose, run through the jailyard and catch an ambulance equipped with a typewriter and a darkroom taking off with sirens, everything to get the story into the Front Page. This could also connect to the arguments that Fahri(2009) has about how streamlined the newsproduction has become, focusing on output. I think that this scene also is a sign of how stressfull the job as a journalist can be, but in a romanticized way. It is fun to have a short deadline, you work with your mates and you can always find out innovative ways to get your stories out in time.

At the end of the film there is a scene there Walter Burns and Hildy Johnson is brought into jail for hiding Earl Williams. There they are given proof from another prisoner that the Sheriff and the Mayor have been hiding a reprieve from the goverment about the hanging of Earl Williams. The Sheriff and the Mayor then releases Burns and Johnson to avoid a scandal. Had it been in a more technology driven society with websites and social media, the proof would have been put online or twittered about (Jung&Walden, 2015). It would have been a too juicy newsstory to give away. It is also interesting to see how they handle such a delicate situation there politicians have done wrong. The way Burns and Johnson handles the situation is in a

more pragmatic way, by obeying to be released and sent to the trainstation. The role of the journalistic profession is therefore more of a person that think of his own needs rather than being the defender of the publics good as Einrich(1997) describes it. Could it be that the cultural myth of the journalist is of a solitary man that only think of himself? A kind of lonewolf that is more interested in his own profits.

Because the play takes place during the 30s, but the film is made during the 70s, this is a sign that they are looking backwards, and not challenging the future. The way the technology is represented is almost like a farce, there the use of typewriters and telephones are the sign that almost make fun of the characters in it. In a sense the use of this equipment is portrayed in a stereotypical way. Men with symbols, as Rose(2007) would have put it, are not longer up to date, working in a slapstick journalistic enviroment. The representation of a male journalist is of a person that uses a phone a lot and goes around with his pen and notepad.

State of Play

In State of Play we can see that the technology has progressed. The journalists are rather using cellephones than ordinary telephones, and the typewriter has been switched to computers, but they are still equipped with pen and paper throughout the movie. Although the journalist make use of the modern techonogy, the filmmakers have not thought of how much the new media has affected the business and how the new technology could be taken a step further. With other words the complexity that the new technology brings forth. The journalistic industry is nowadays competing against constantly updated Twitter feeds(Farhi, 2009), and the undefined journalistic role competes against other types of actors in the media noise. The journalists in State of Play can not see the advantages, outside their mental boundries, that could be used with the new technology, i.e. crowdsourcing or other ways to personalize the news content (Bouvier, 2017). But the technology is also more present as a subject. When for example McAffrey talks to his editor in the beginning of the film he says: "I hear our online site is doing great." which are a sign of a new time era. Cal McAffrey represents something old, the old values of journalism and the old technology. Throughout the films he is driving an old car, using an old computer and uses an old messy desk with old newsclips. Whereas Della Frye, McAffreys colleague, represents later values, being uptodate with computers and blogs. McAffrey also says to his editor in the beginning of the film: "I have been here 15 yeas, I use a 16 year old computer. Shes been here 15 minutes and she

could lock a russian satellite with the gears she got.” This sentence is a sign of how newer values clashes against earlier ones, and how the new technology is taking over the world.

In *State of Play* they are also using technology to do research or investigate things throughout the film. For example, in the middle of the film, they choose to bug a pr-consult in order to get his confession about his involvement with Sonia Baker. In the middle of the film the reporters are using surveillance camera in order to discover a perpetrator who they think shot the victims. They are also, throughout the film, using telecommunication to talk to each other and contact new sources that could be of interest for the story. These are signs that the technology makes the journalist more creative in research and that the use of cellphones allows them to communicate in different places. This change make the storytelling more flexible and give the characters the ability to be more mobile during the story. It also changes the representation of the journalist and he/she becomes a person that is very mobile - kind of like a globetrotter. The protagonist is described as a MacGyver-character that uses technology to trap enemies and reveal the truth, through surveillance cameras, phonecalls and recording devices. Looking at the *mis-en-scene*, the technical object that mainly is in focus throught the whole film is the telephone. Sometimes together with a pen and a notepad. The computers are also present, but does not take that big focus from the other technical tools.

In the beginning of the film there is a scene with a media drive against Stephen Collins. The press finds out that he has been romantically involved with Sonia Baker. We see images from different websites and television channels that report about the event. One reporter says: ”The timing couldn’t be worse for Collins. He needs all the political leverage he can get, as he begins looking into the defense departments outsourcing practises.”. This scene are truly a sign of how aggressive the media drive has become. Some decades ago you could not use the technology of a website as Jung and Walden(2015) mention and now it is instead an valuable arena. The media drive could also be more aggressive if they had been using a Twitter storm or explosion in the coverage (Fahri, 2009). The coverage of politicians that make mistakes is probably more aggressive now since the ability to communicate with digital media is growing.

In the middle of the film there is a scene or a montage there the journalists are digging around to get more background information about Sonia Bakers. The reporter Della Frye is roving around and tries to get more information about Baker by knocking doors and by talking to people on the street. According to Pavlik(2000) much of the newsgathering is centralized to HQ and the journalist has no time to rove around looking for information by knocking doors

in an romanticized way, almost like a cop or a detective. This is a sign that there are still parts of the story that wants to give a romanticized description of the journalistic profession. That the journalist is someone that goes around and talks to people in a bar to get the right information. Later in that same scene, Della Frye tells Cal McAffrey that she has gotten key information about Sonia Baker roommate by dating a guy twice. Cal McAffrey asks "How did you get it?" Della Frye replies "I had to agree to go on one but two dates with this sweaty guy Dick" McAffrey looks at her and she replies by lifting her hand "Don't even ask me". This is a sign that the reporters are doing huge sacrifices for their stories, which are not totally realistic. Much of the information would rather be gathered online as Pavlik(2000) puts it, rather than putting the journalist in an awkward situation.

Just in the beginning of the film there is another scene that romanticize this vagabond lifestyle of the journalist. Cal Mcaffreys entries the scene driving an old SAAB 900 and occasionally entries a crime scene there two people have been killed. CalMcaffrey tries to smoothtalk the police officer that administrates the case. Cal McAffrey "You got the names of the victims for me?" The officer "You got to be kidding me?" McAffrey again "you know i'm gonna find out anyway". And at the end the officers confirms the victims identity. As Pavlik(2000) puts it there would not be time for a single journalist to go around and do this type of investigation. The journalist would rather have to call the press office to confirm information or get information through ready made reports (Machin & Niblock, 2006). It would therefore be unnecessary for a newsreporter to randomly drive around and pick up newsworthy information from a detective. This is therefore a sign of how Hollywood likes to portray journalists as vagabonds in a romantical way. Another good example of this is the scene in the beginning of the story there McAffrey entries the pathologists office to figure out who murdered the two persons in Georgetown. He digs around in the murdered persons belongings and says to the pathologist "Close you eyes, I just checken out hit cellphone." This are therefore another sign of the romanticized picture of how a journalist can enter every building.

Jung and Walden(2015) describes how the rise of websites are being more incorporated into news agencies. It is true that the journalists on McAffreys workplace is aware of the development, but without taking full advantage of its potential. Websites and other online media is described as a threat rather than an opportunity in the beginning of the movie, and are therefore not fully represented. The use of the new technology is also used with out thoughts of its complexity. As Bouvier(2017) states the use of social media has made the

news paper business more vulnerable and blurred the lines for other types of media professionals such as bloggers or communicaters. This is maybe something that the filmmakers has not thought about at this level. The idea that the new technology has changed the structure of the news organization(Pavlik, 2000) feels more likely to represent the organization in the film. Many co-workers have the chance to brief their ideas during the whole narration of the film, which are a sign of an outspoken enviroment, but this is still not a big change from The Front Page in that aspect.

6. Conclusions

In *The Front Page* there are no women working as reporters, so the representation of female journalists are non-existent. The female characters that exist are described as rather kindhearted and with high moral standards, in contrast to the male personas that are sometimes unscrupulous. This give us the idea that many of the attributes that the reporters have, like drinking or smoking, could only be applied to a male character. They are reinforcing the stereotype of a certain type of reporter.

In *State of Play*, many of the female characters are journalists and editors, which is a big contrast only seen in numbers. Despite this, there seems to be a higher demands on what a female person has to deliver in terms of work, whereas the male reporter can do whatever he wants and even use illegal methods. It is very obvious that the freedom as an adventurer are associated with a male persona. The female has to be a good girl that does her homework. This goes back to the study of Lauzan, Dozier and Horan(2008) there the female characters have more interpersonal roles. The male character are still the one that takes the bigger decisions. A character like McAffrey could never be female, because as Eihrllich(1997) describes it, a female character has to do big sacrifices to pursue a career and can not take chances like that.

In the *Front Page*, the technology is being represented by the telephone and occasionally a typewriter, so many of the technological phenomena is not being revealed. This symbolize an earlier, almost ancient period, when journalist did not use social media or pc-computers to publish information. The technological aspect of the journalistic enviroment is being described by Pavlik(2000) as something that constantly changes. The technology has not evolved that much during the time it took place, but the use of telephones is very obvious. In *State of Play* the technology has evolved, and the main character uses the technology in a very creative way, mixed together with older and more ortodox techniques. The diversity of technology is in other words better represented. Thanks to the use of cellphones the journalist in *State of Play* seems more mobile, whereas the journalists in *The Front Page* are more stationary due to the wired phone. The use of internet are present, but not as much as described in the article by Jung and Walden (2016), or in the article by Pavlik(2000).

To summarize there are female characters working as journalists in *State of Play* whereas *The Front Page* has none female journalist, but the female characters in *State of Play* are still having interpersonal roles while men are having more occupational roles. The use of

technology is more diverse in *State of Play*, incorporating both late and early technology, whereas reporters in *The Front Page* are still relying on their phones. The cultural myth are still portraying the journalist as a male adventurer, but the use of technology is often melting together with later and earlier technology.

6.1 Future research

For future research I think it would be interesting to know more about how the representation of technology is evolving on newer films. Which impact does social media have on the investigative journalism, and will it have an even bigger representation. And which roles are the women gonna have that are portrayed as journalists. Are we going to see more diverse female characters that think more outside the box.

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