

Thesis Title : **The Justification of Freedom in Journalism:
A Critical and Creative Study**

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ABSTRACT

Journalism is one of the most honorable professions and one of the most exciting works that could be involved in people lives. It spans all other activities and society itself, following new developments, criticizing current issues throughout the world. Tomorrow's society would have positive or negative information, depending upon the talents of a journalist who could explain or report events and ideas. The journalist has a great role to serve the public interest by presenting the truth with freedom and responsibility. Freedom and responsibility in journalism are the aim of philosophical discussion. There are two concepts of responsibility to be explored: legal responsibility and moral responsibility. The terms "legal and moral responsibilities" are explored through three metaphysical concepts of freedom: Determinism (Hard Determinism) Libertarianism (Free-Will), and Compatibilism (Soft Determinism). Hard Determinists like Elizabeth Beardsley and John Hospers believe that all human actions are caused and are determined by past events. So, human beings have no freedom and they should not be held legally and morally responsible for their actions and should not be punished or rewarded, or blamed or praised for their actions. Although Hard Determinists believe that they should not be responsible for their actions in terms of legal responsibility and moral responsibility,

there are some Hard Determinists who believe and think that man could never avoid legal responsibility. Thus, they require legal responsibility. Libertarians or Free Willists like Jean Paul Sartre deny Determinism and view that human beings have freedom and they should be held responsible for their actions, and should be punished or rewarded, or blamed or praised for their actions. Compatibilism (Soft Determinism), David Hume and John Stuart Mill assert that Determinism and Free Will can go together. A Soft Determinist holds that all human actions are caused and are determined by past events like Hard Determinism. They also believe that the actions could be free if they are not under compulsion. Thus, human beings should be legally and morally responsible for only free actions and they should be punished or rewarded, or blamed or praised for their actions. On the other hand, human beings should not be legally and morally responsible for unfree actions and they should not be punished or rewarded, or blamed or praised for their action. The argumentation of freedom and responsibility will be discussed in Chapter II and IV.

To discuss the freedom and responsibility of journalists, it is obvious that this is concerned with the concept of press or newspaper that is based upon the political foundation: Authoritarian Press, Anarchist Press and Democratic Press (Liberal Democratic Press). A new concept of press "Moderate Democratic Press, which promotes social responsibility of journalists, is adopted as a new vision in journalism. The discussion of these issues will be in Chapter III and also Chapter IV. To make clearer understanding about the freedom and responsibility of journalists, there must be a case study in journalism. The controversy about Princess Diana's death is an interesting case study which is explored in Chapter IV according to the concept of freedom: Determinism, Libertarianism and Compatibilism and ethical theories of Mill and Kant.