

**Paweł RYBSZLEGER**

*Pictorial and Textual Communication  
within the Scope of Citizen Journalism in Social Media*

The impact of so-called citizen (or "street") journalism in today's world is getting bigger and bigger. This kind of participatory journalism is based upon citizens, who play a crucial role in the process of collecting (or reporting) important pieces of information outside mainstream media institutions. In this way come into being independent but often reliable sources of information and such semi-professional journalists try to get acceptance especially in social media like Twitter or Facebook (often co-working with professional journalists). Due to the availability of modern technology, citizens often can report breaking news more quickly than traditional media reporters (e.g. the Arab Spring in 2011). The author tries to present the phenomenon of citizen journalism in the era of social networking and media-sharing websites, which made such activities more accessible to people worldwide. The linguistic analysis of a few examples of such journalistic actions enables the author to answer some crucial questions about the importance of pictorial and textual elements in the kind of on-line communication discussed.

**Paweł RYBSZLEGER**, PhD, since 2005 lecturer in the Institute of Applied Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University. Scientific interests: text and pragma-linguistics, spoken languages, computer based communication and technology in social media (also: in the process of learning and teaching foreign languages). E-mail: pawerybs@poczta.onet.pl.

