

ABSTRACT

ENVELOPE JOURNALISM IN CHINA

Envelope journalism is the topic of this research. When journalists go to news conferences, they get envelopes containing money from their interviewees. This practice is called envelope journalism.

Interviews with reporters, editors and envelope givers found that Chinese journalists practice envelope journalism frequently in their daily work. Taking the envelope has been considered a normal behavior by both journalists and interviewees. Even editors and higher-ranking media leaders ignore this violation of journalistic ethics.

Envelope journalism influences journalists' professionalism to a certain extent. The level of its influence is determined by the amount of money in the envelope. Social, cultural and economic roots that can explain the existence and prevalence of envelope journalism in China are also discussed in the research.

Shanshan You
December 2004