

Abstract

This thesis *Discourse Analysis of Islamic Terrorist Propaganda on the Internet* uses the method of thematic discourse analysis to study jihadi discussion forums in the cyberspace. Since the beginning of the last decade of the 20th century the Internet has become one of the most powerful communication tools through which jihadi terrorists are able to reach thousands of Muslims worldwide. After the traditional Western media had intensively begun to filter terrorist messages shortly after 11/9/2001, jihadists found a perfect way how to draw attention of these media once more – not directly, but through the Internet communication which is widely used by traditional media as a source of their content.

The first part of this thesis presents theoretical framework for the second, purely practical part. Firstly, this paper deals with propaganda as a form of communication, shows the Internet as a medium that has absorbed all other media, and analyses the terrorism spread through the Internet.

The main part of this study focuses on the jihadi discourse, through which jihadists view the Islamic world as suffering under the oppression of the West to persuade passive Muslim audience to join the jihad.

This paper deals not only with different types of propaganda, but also with intentions of propagandists and the means how to achieve their goals. It analyses the text extracts of the three most popular jihadi forums (*Alqimmah*, *Al Fallujah* and *Ansar Al Mujahideen*) and demonstrates how terrorists think not only about Islam and its basic principles, but also about the Western civilization and its citizens.