

Abstract

In the context of secularization and the shaping of church-state relations in Italy, this diploma thesis deals with the legalization of divorce and referendum on its abolition in 1974. The aim of the thesis is to observe whether, in the debate on divorce, symptoms of secularization in Italy can be traced. Methodologically, this work is grounded in qualitative content analysis. The sources of this thesis are the journals of the three most prominent political parties of the period under study: the Communists (journal *L'Unità*), the Socialists (journal *Avanti!*) and the Christian Democrats (journal *Il Popolo*). The aim is to identify the thematic units, so-called topoi, within the selected articles, by applying the above-mentioned method. Selected topoi are subsequently subjected to analysis. In particular, the results of the analysis showed different conceptions of reality of the political parties. Thus, leading to the formation of two opposite camps during the referendum. On one hand, Christian Democrats, who based their conception mainly on the traditional Christian doctrine. And on the other hand, the Communists together with the Socialists, who defended the secular, pluralistic concept of state. The analysis shows that the so-called secularization currents can, to some extent, be traced in the divorce debate.