

Abstract

The diploma thesis titled "Media as a Pillar of Democracy: the Austrian Government Crisis in 2019 and the Role of the Media on the Example of Der Spiegel and Süddeutsche Zeitung" focuses on the analysis of the role of the media in democratic societies, specifically during the Austrian government crisis in 2019. The main object of investigation are two important German media - the newspaper "Süddeutsche Zeitung" and the magazine "Der Spiegel". The main methodological tool is discourse analysis, through which the author analyses the discourses and contexts used in the analysed articles. This method provides a deep understanding of the content and style of reporting, but also of the meanings and contexts targeted by the media. In the theoretical part of the thesis, the author presents theoretical approaches to the role of the media in a democratic society. The thesis also discusses the media system in Germany, which is important for understanding the background and functioning of the media analysed. In the analytical part of the thesis, the author examines specific articles from the two mentioned media. The aim is to find out which discourses were used to present the Austrian government crisis and how these events were reflected. This part provides a detailed insight into the relationship between politics and media, taking into account the theoretical models described and their mutual influence on democratic society.