

Abstract

The master's thesis focuses on the deliberations about European solidarity during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic in selected Czech and German newspapers. The thesis employs a mixed-method approach combining frames and discourse analysis. While the former examines the presence of crisis frames according to Ferrara et al., the latter explores the depiction of solidarity in both discourses through a procedure inspired by Paul Gee's critical discourse analysis. Given that the crisis frames from Ferrara et al. are founded on a public opinion survey that does not include Czechia, this paper contributes to the academic debate by validating them. The thesis is theoretically based on the revised assumptions of postfunctionalism according to Jachtenfuchs and Genschel. In line with the prior expectations, the frame analysis shows a prevalence of frames positively associated with the support of solidarity confirming the validity of the logic of Ferrara et al. study. In addition, a significant number of other inductively derived frames were identified, which were particularly prevalent in the Czech press. This demonstrates the importance of reflecting on different national discourses. The discourse analysis showed that European solidarity is perceived positively in the Czech and German press. Yet, in the German press, solidarity was accentuated more often and was perceived as crucial for overcoming the crisis and the cohesion of the EU. The emphasis on the economic interconnectedness of states and the substantial number of *existentiality* frames suggest that reciprocity and “self-interested” assistance were a key factor of solidarity during the pandemic crisis. The text is divided into four main sections; after introducing the findings from the academic literature, the theoretical and methodological foundations of the thesis are outlined. The third part presents both methods. The fourth part then presents an overview of the results and their interpretation.