

Abstract

This thesis applies post-structuralist linguistic inquiry, specifically Critical Discourse Analysis, to the telegrams that had been addressed to the US Department of State in the aftermath of the Second World War, and sent by the Slovak Action Committee, a Nazi-adjacent Slovak separatist group. A large body of text is analyzed such that summary statements can be made about the specific semantic means this Committee used in its apologia of the Slovak State, its advocacy for US intervention in the trial of Jozef Tiso, its pleas to the international community to initiate certain countermeasures against Czechoslovakia for alleged mistreatment of the Slovaks, its demands that a plebiscite be incited in Czechoslovakia etc. To this end, the rhetoric of Tiso sympathizers mobilizes several (oftentimes mutually contradictory) discourses, leaning its arguments on almost anything, be it the doctrine of Self-Determination, international law and universal human rights, pseudo-biological justifications, theological and fatalist beliefs, anti-imperialist resentiments, anti-Communist hostility or national chauvinism. The desire for Slovak statehood in these texts is so strong, in fact, that it is entirely willing to plunge itself to the veneration of any political philosophy that might justify such an end. Sympathies for the cause of Slovak independence as well as for the absolution of Tiso from the side of Americans of Slovak origin is also touched upon. Feeling out the underbelly of this obscure fascist group may prove useful in the analysis of the discursive patterns employed by fascists today.