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Abstract

This interdisciplinary thesis deals with the processes of politicisation and depoliticisation in direct democracy. It aims to shed light on how (de)politicisation manifests itself at the level of the referendum actors' utterances and how actors use these strategies during the referendum to reproduce or change the existing ordering of the political space. The research is based on the concept of (de)politicisation as a form of political action and the premise that by the use of language as an instrument of symbolic power, one can shape the social reality. Based on the analysis of statements made by actors of a referendum held in Pilsen in 2013 and by applying critical discourse analysis approach, the following findings were made: At the level of language use, (de)politicisation occurs firstly in the sense of a shift between spheres of action or their hierarchization, through the use of a specific syntactic and semantic sentence structure, and secondly in the sense of forming of necessity or action contingency, through the use of verb voice and modality. However, the employment of (de)politicisation tactics can also be understood as an exercise of the actors' symbolic power. Consequently, the symbolic value of the capitals at the actors' disposal might increase and an overall transformation of the capitals as a differentiating principle and of the positions derived from the distribution of capitals might occur.