

Abstract

This thesis examines compliance with the normative requirements imposed on Czech television broadcasters by Act No. 231/2001 Coll. on the Operation of Radio and Television Broadcasting and on Amendments to Other Acts. It focuses on the requirement of objectivity and its compliance in the period before the parliamentary elections. In particular, it focuses on the postulate of impartiality as part of the scheme of objectivity as defined by Jürgen Westerstahl in 1983.

The sub-objectives of the thesis were to find out how much attention was given to individual candidates by the TV stations examined in this study, whether the journalists' speeches separated facts (news information) from opinions (commentaries) and, finally, whether the journalists' speeches did not contain explicit evaluations.

For this purpose, a quantitative content analysis of six episodes of the main news broadcasts broadcasted during the three-week period before the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic held in the autumn of 2021 was used. Specifically, I selected three episodes of Události broadcast by Czech Television and three episodes of Hlavní zprávy CNN Prima NEWS.

It was found that Czech Television did not give any space in the examined pre-election coverage to the candidates standing outside the Chamber of Deputies. More coverage was devoted to government parties on both TV stations. In particular, the speeches of the ANO movement dominated the election coverage on Czech Television, while the representatives of the ČSSD party spoke the longest on CNN Prima NEWS. On the other hand, the KSČM party received the least amount of space despite its representation in the Chamber of Deputies. In addition, misconduct of the presenters and reporters of CNN Prima NEWS in terms of the neutrality criterion was found.