

The subject matter of the thesis is the German dialect on the territory of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil): its origin, development and functioning.

In 1824, following the invitation of the king, the first German settlers came to Brazil to colonize Rio Grande do Sul, which had until then been uninhabited. The second chapter is dedicated to the settlement of Rio Grande do Sul. Soon the Germans, who were regarded as a closed community with no desire to assimilate, began to provoke fears. This culminated in the era of the dictatorship of Vargas, the so-called Estado Novo (New State), during which the two basic human rights, namely the right to maintain the mother-tongue and the language of education right, were taken away. The language policy of Vargas constitutes the topic of the third chapter.

German-Brazil is a cumulative name for the German dialects spoken in Brazil with a great deal of Portuguese language elements, on all language levels. Typologically, it is an example of a mixed language. The way in which this language functions is illustrated in the fourth chapter.

During the last four generations, the number of German-Brazil speakers has been falling. While the older generation is bilingual, Portuguese prevails in the younger one. German-Brazil is spoken predominantly in the rural areas, where it is a symbol of family and tradition.

The thesis describes the conditions in which the German-Brazil people have been living in Brazil during the last two centuries, the language p