

Perception of the Russian Threat in the Czech Political, and Administrative Discourse

Abstract

The goal of this diploma thesis is to find how the Russian threat is perceived in the Czech political, and administrative discourse. The author decided to use constructivism, and discourse analysis to achieve the goal. Concretely he was inspired by Teun A. van Dijk's approach. The author chose actors, which in his opinion are the most important for shaping of the Russian threat construct in the Czech political, and administrative discourse. There are two categories of chosen actors. First category is composed of relevant institutions: The President of the Czech Republic, and his office, and The Government of the Czech Republic. The author chose five sub-actors to represent the government: The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Defence and Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, and Ministry of Industry and Trade. Second category is aimed on parliamentary political parties, and movements in the Chamber of Deputies. The discourse could be characterized like fragmented. Chosen institutions mostly recognize possibility of Russian threatening behavior. They do not perceive any military threat for the Czech Republic, but there are concerns especially about Russian informational activities like propaganda, and disinformation campaigns which could influence Czech democratic system. Opinions of President Miloš Zeman differ from more or less unitary institutional discourse. He does not perceive Russian behavior like a threat. Amongst parliamentary political parties, and movements the situation is more complicated, the discourse is more fragmented.