Abstract

This thesis is focused on the media’s reflection of Vaclav Havel following his speech to the U.S. Congress in February 1990. Four Czechoslovak dailies have been analyzed – Rude Pravo, Mlada Fronta, Lidove Noviny, Prace – and three American newspapers – The New York Times, USA Today and The Washington Post. The period under consideration is from 15 February to 1 March 1990. I also looked at how the event was viewed ten and twenty years later. In that respect, only the Czech press has been analyzed in the period of February 2000 and 2010. For the purpose of this analysis, a qualitative research method was chosen, which allowed me to better assess and interpret the depiction of Vaclav Havel in the respective media.

The theoretical part focuses on the social and political situation in Czechoslovakia in the winter of 1990 and on the role of Vaclav Havel in the foreign policy. Each newspaper is described including differences in the historical development of Czechoslovak and American press. The objective of this thesis is compared with the social and media construction of reality.