

## **Abstract**

Diploma thesis „National identity in France and its role in the politics of Nicolas Sarkozy“ deals with national identity as a political instrument used by the former French president Nicolas Sarkozy during his five-year term (2007-2012). The main objective of this work is to prove that the national identity in his discourse served to increase his popularity or to obtain far-right voters and that Nicolas Sarkozy used this policy instrument throughout his mandate despite the fact that he officially turned away from it after a failed public debate on the subject in 2010. As methodological basis for research on the topic and achievement of the objectives „critical discourse analysis“ was selected and also „analysis of metaphors“ was used as its complement. In the theoretical part of the thesis some of the basic scientific findings that deal with the "nation", "identity" and the development and construction of "national identity" are presented and discussed . The research consists of three main chapters devoted to the analysis of Nicolas Sarkozys' speeches during the given period. Chapters are divided according to the changing role of national identity in Sarkozy's political discourse - from the campaign tool in 2007, through the recovery of this instrument in 2009 and 2010 to its insertion in the unofficial secondary role before the presidential elections in 2012. Besides the answers to the research question asked in the introduction of this work, the thesis as well marginally handles for example the influence of national identity on the election results, why it did not effect on the French voters in the last election or what stands for election failure of Nicolas Sarkozy.