Abstract

The thesis presents a comparative analysis of the Scottish and Welsh Labour Party’s position. The work focuses on the change of regional party’s branches after devolution, which the Labour Party introduced in 1999. At the decentralized level was created a new devolved institution, a new party system and a new electoral system, which has brought the possibility of coalition government. These changes were meant a big challenge for the party. The party must adapt to new conditions and change access to regional affiliates. The changes are analyzed according to the theoretical framework created by J. Hopkin and supplemented by the theory of Laffin, Shaw and Taylor. Areas of party activities are being explored, such as election of candidates, electoral and governmental strategies, election leaders, organization and party financing, and party status in a party system based on elections to the Westminster and Regional Parliament or National Assembly. The thesis briefly describes history of the Labour Party and its organization, which is necessary for analysis after devolutional position of the party. There is briefly described the devolution itself in the British environment and the emergence and system of newly established legislative institutions, including the electoral system.