

Abstract

The Thesis deals with two issues closely associated with the end of life. It explores the reasons and attitudes of healthcare workers, legislators and general public who are supporting implementation of euthanasia in the Czech legislation. The key impulse for taking up this issue as the topic of the Thesis was initiation of its discussion by and under the guidance of Zlatuška on the proposal of the “act on dignified death”. Additionally, the meeting stirred by Hamerský held in the Parliament on March 8, 2017 became another impetus for the work. As is elucidated further, activities of Hamerský, the assistant to Zlatuška, whose name is mentioned in the Thesis quite often, are closely related to the explored topic. The Thesis tries to unveil the exact reasons of the key actors and supporters for inducing some form of legislatively covered euthanasia, namely whether their effort is based on their true conviction. We will consider possible consequences should the euthanasia be introduced to the Czech legislation and analyse the reasons which lead to final rejection of the proposed act. The closing part of the Thesis will describe qualitative research done as an unstructured interview with two groups of physicians differing in the length of their medical practice by several years. Medical profession has been selected for this on purpose because euthanasia is not only a political, legislative and ethical issue but it is also a burning medical problem. The physicians to be interviewed will be also from two different hospitals – one will be a Prague hospital and one a municipal hospital in South Bohemia. Marginal attention in the Thesis will be paid also to the issue of palliative care and its implementation in clinical practice.

Keywords: Actor, Discourse analysis, Legalization of euthanasia, Palliative care, Agenda – setting, The law of dignified death