

Thesis Evaluation

Name of the author: *Berk Köksal*

Title of Thesis:

Critical Discourse Analysis of Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government

The bachelor thesis presented by *Berk Köksal* deals with Kurdish political discourses between 2003 and 2017 (from the US Invasion to Iraq to the Kurdish Referendum in September 2017). Structure of the thesis is well built. It consists of a relatively extensive historical contextualization (pages 3-15) and elaborate description of Kurdistan Regional Government (pp. 16-27). Main part of the text is analysis of discourses itself (pp. 28-59).

The research field is well defined in the thesis. It is „to reveal the actual ideologies, policies and objectives of the KRG by analyzing its discourses“ (with specific research questions: “What are the perspectives of the KRG after the US Invasion?”, “How the discourses are affected by the events occurred during this time period?”, “Do the discourses show any change in the policies of the KRG during the process that led to the independence referendum?”).

Theoretical framework I see as relatively weaker aspect of the thesis. The analysis is framed predominantly by description of historical development of the region and contemporary political context, not by some clearly defined set of theoretical concepts. Cited theories of nationalism and nation building (Hobsbawm, Anderson, Hroch) could play the role of theoretical base, but only if used more systematically. In my opinion this partial “neglect of theory” limits last step of analysis as seen by Fairclough – explanation at the macro-level of social context.

Methods and tools used for the analysis are suitable. As pivotal author Norman Fairclough is used here. Analysis itself is elaborate and competent. Probably analysis of metaphors or social categorizations used in discourse could be more detailed, but still the analysis is deep and it brings interesting conclusions (as is the described shift from rational assertions towards idealistic objectives).

Sources and literature used are adequate.

I recommend the bachelor thesis for the defense and propose the grade “excellent”.

Prague, 11. June 2018

Martin Vávra, Ph.D.