

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis "Position of Occitan in France in the context of French and European language policy" deals with the problem of Occitan language in France. It aims to answer the research question: What attitude does France take towards regional languages, namely towards Occitan, in national and European legislature context? Considering the specific mention in the Constitution of French being the official language of French Republic, this paper follows the hypothesis that the position of Occitan is not strong and stable, and this language is systematically being sidelined. Therefore, the first part of this thesis presents Occitan as the subject of research. At first, the terminology is defined as it plays an important part in language policy discussions. After that, the overall linguistic situation in France is introduced taking into consideration its immense linguistic diversity. Then, Occitan as one of the regional languages of France is presented along with its linguistic, geographic and historical specifics. The second part of the thesis analyzes legal measures taken by the French Republic that regulate use and position of regional languages. Thereafter, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is examined including the French approach and discussions about its ratification, which was finally refused in 2015. The third and final chapter is concerned with confrontation of articles 8-14 of the Charter with the current situation of Occitan in public sector.