

This bachelor thesis analyses the way in which the centrally oriented Spanish media El País and El Diario Vasco portrayed the autonomous tendencies in the Basque Country, focusing on the referendum on the Statute of Autonomy in 1979. The aim is to give analysis of published articles on this subject in the methodology of discourse analysis. In the theoretical introduction the thesis defines terms such as regionalism, nationalism, and others. The contextualization is characterized by the political-historical characteristics of the development of the Basque Country. In the analytical part the thesis focuses on the period of three months before the referendum until the ratification of the Statute of Autonomy in Congress and the Senate. The main analysed articles were editorials published by both journals, as well as subjective elements contained in articles on Basque autonomy. The thesis reflects on the influence of media on social consensus and on their objectivity and concludes that although both diaries supported the creation of Basque autonomy, the regional newspaper El Diario Vasco emphasized its neutral stance and tolerance to both sides, for and against the autonomy. El País, on the other hand, strongly condemned the parties that were refusing to vote in favor of autonomy and propagated the approval of autonomy as the only possible solution. The answer to the supplementary question, to which actors did the diaries allow express their opinion, was obtained from the analysis of contributions published in the column dedicated to them.