

Abstract

The thesis focuses on influence of the AMS (Additional Member System) upon party systems of Scotland and Wales. This system is used for elections to Scottish parliament and Welsh national assembly. It was applied for the first election that was held in 1999 and it is still in use. This means AMS is used in both regions for the same time period, which allows us to compare the influence which the system has in different environment. The thesis analyzes results of all elections that were held in Scotland and Wales and defines their influence on particular parties and party systems it operates in. On the basis of these findings the general influence of AMS is formulated. Theoretical concepts by Maurice Duverger and Giovanni Sartori are used as a background for study of election systems and party systems. The position voter support and its changes are analyzed through valence theory, which uses opinion polls to explain election results. At the first sight the AMS seems to be the same one as another election system – MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). These systems are often confused or perceived as the same ones. So except the election results analysis this thesis explains also the difference between these systems and classifies them into right categories. It shows up that each of the systems belongs to different category – AMS is classified as mixed electoral system and MMP as proportional.