

The objective of my thesis was to explain the specificity of the Scottish electoral behaviour in the context of UK General elections as well as its development under the process of the devolution and consequently in the newly established Scottish parliament elections.

Firstly, I described the development of the Scottish electoral behaviour on the basis of the time and geographical horizons pointing out the increasing regional differences within the UK. Pursuant to the detailed analysis of the electoral divergence of the Scottish behaviour, I infer that its particularity consists in the existence of the different political values in Scottish society which became even more salient in the period of the Conservative government from 1979 to 1997. This development in the Scottish society hence made the successive Labour government accept the Scottish claim for devolution which led to the establishment of the Scottish Parliament and the first devolved election held on 6 May 1999

Next, I discussed the impact of the process of devolution on the Scottish electorate. Scottish voters demonstrated that they tend to distinguish their vote in the two different polls. The divergence of the electoral performance of the Scottish electorate in the devolved Scottish elections has been undoubtedly amplified by the operation of the different electoral law (Additional Member System) which enabled Scottish voters to refrain from the tactical voting often used under the UK electoral law of the FPTP. The Scottish devolved elections contributed to the creation of the indigenous Scottish party system which reflects the distribution of political tendencies of the Scottish society more precisely than the party system on the UK level.

Last, I refer to the regional parallel within the UK. I describe the development of the electoral behaviour in Wales and its analogy with the Scottish process of devolution.