

## Summary

Media discourse, including press discourse, is an interdisciplinary field of study. The approach adopted in the present work combines the assumptions of Critical Discourse Analysis and the New Rhetoric.

The main goal of the dissertation is to identify and analyse selected rhetorical strategies which were employed in Spanish and Latin American press issued during the 20 days following the death of Hugo Chavez, the Venezuelan president whose person and governing were described therein. The analysis is conducted in a critical way.

The corpus consists of online press texts coming from the abovementioned period of time. The use of the phrase 'press texts' is deliberate given that our goal is to observe certain discursive tendencies rather than analyse one specific genre.

The dissertation consists of three main chapters. Chapter one describes the socio-political situation in Venezuela under Chavez's presidency. This provides the context for the events analysed in the texts. Chapter two discusses the main assumptions of the key approaches employed in the thesis, namely Critical Discourse Analysis and the New Rhetoric. In chapter three the examples of the strategies discussed earlier are studied. They include the following: metaphor, irony, euphemism, hyperbole and rhetorical question.

The underlying assumption of the dissertation is the conviction that various newspapers describe the same reality with the use of the same rhetorical devices, but to a different end. It is positioned that the right-wing press is more critical towards socialist rule than its left-wing counterpart. The present work has a critical attitude towards any instances of authoritarianism and manipulation.

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