

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis examines the relationship between the content and language of peace agreements and their acceptance by the population. It investigates the content on the basis of Johan Galtung's theoretical concept of positive peace and the language on the basis of structuralist linguistic theory. It is therefore an interdisciplinary research that combines the theoretical concept of the field of international relations with language theory. This thesis defends this approach by analyzing the concept of peace in international relations theories in which it identifies its shortcomings.

A comparative case analysis of two peace agreements is conducted, the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland and the Peace Agreement in Colombia. While the two conflicts and peace processes show many similarities, the outcome differed and while the agreement was accepted in Northern Ireland, the agreement was rejected in Colombia. This thesis is concerned with the search for the causes that may have led to the different outcome of the referendum on its adoption, and it seeks these causes in the content and language of the two agreements, rather than in the rejection of the referendum per se.

The main contribution of the thesis is the analysis of the content and language of the two peace agreements, which examines not only whether the different parts of the peace treaties are consistent with achieving a positive peace, but also the extent to which the agreements use inclusive language involving women and minority groups. Another contribution is the definition of the relationship between negative and positive peace in the context of peace agreement negotiations. The analysis of both peace processes concludes that negative peace is a prerequisite to achieving positive peace, meaning that failure to achieve negative peace prevents the establishment of a peace agreement, regardless of whether the content of the agreement is inclusive and one of positive peace.

### **keywords:**

positive peace, negative peace, Galtung, peace agreement, language, referendum, Colombia, Northern Ireland