

The aim of this PhD. thesis is to verify the hypothesis that the Northern League does belong to the populist radical right party family. The work is based on present politologic theoretic approaches, where the criteria determined by Dutch researcher Cas Mudde as typical for this kind of political parties have been applied for verification of the hypothesis. In verifying the hypothesis I worked on the sources content analysis. It was mainly the matter of Northern League's electoral programmes, political documents, party leaders and members' opinions published in the party daily La Padania, registrations of public speeches and interviews by party leader Umberto Bossi and other representatives, manifestos, radio Padania libera broadcasts and laws proposed by Northern League ministres to the Italian Parliament.

Northern League was studied in the context of political and party system development in Italy from the unification untill the present day. The results of the analysis have confirmed the presence of all the signs complying with Mudde's maximal and minimal definition ie. nativism, authoritarianism and populism. This result classes the Northern League among populist radical right party family.