

## Summary

This thesis examines how Turkey is being represented in Danish newspapers. The starting point of the examination is that the representation of others through language affects how we understand them.

Since the end of the 20th century Danish journalists have increasingly produced news about Turkey. In 1999 the member states of the European Union accepted Turkey as a candidate to membership. Since then the negotiations between the EU member states and Turkey have frequently been going on, and the expectations are, that these negotiations will continue for the next 10 to 15 years. Therefore European journalists have to represent Turkey continuously, as the country presumably will be increasingly closer attached to the EU. This is a perfect opportunity to examine and reflect on how journalists represent "the other".

Combining discourse theory with cultural studies it has been my attempt to find out how Turkey is being represented and to discover the reason for this particular representation. Inspired by critical discourse analysis, I have split up the understanding of discourse in three dimensions: 1. Sociocultural practice: The role of the media in society, 2. Discourse practice: The practice and way of thinking in journalism and 3. Texts: The articles about Turkey's relations with the European Union. Perceiving discourses this way offers the opportunity to find explanations in cultural studies for the representations in the articles.

The analysis of 383 articles from three Danish newspapers from 1997 to 2005, shows that Danish newspapers creating and existing on the premises of the Danish nation have difficulty writing about the EU. The journalistic practice depends to a certain degree on identification, which makes it difficult to represent the EU which Danish identification can not reflect in or contradict to. The EU consists of a variety of states which Denmark can not identify with because Danish identification usually is reflected in other countries. At the same time Denmark is a part of the EU, which makes it difficult to contradict to. This results in a late discovery of the importance of Turkey's relations to the EU. When the EU accepts Turkey as a candidate to become a member, very few articles reflect this decision. As Turkey moves closer to EU membership the press discovers the subject. This results in extensive resistance amongst the citizens of the EU member states against letting Turkey become a member of the EU. This way the media has not fulfilled its obligation to report to the citizens about the subject to a degree so that they could relate to the problem and put pressure on the politicians before the actual promise was given to Turkey.

In contradiction to the EU, Turkey is very easy to represent, though the identification criteria is not put into use. The newspapers most often use the conflict criteria to represent Turkey. It is easy to reflect in Turkey, but the consequence is, that Turkey is being represented as the opposite to Denmark in a negative way. Denmark and in part the EU is being represented as rational, powerful, responsible and the subject is most commonly seen from EU's or Denmark's point of view. In contrast to this, the articles only rarely show the subject from Turkey's point of view, and Turkey is being represented as irrational, powerless and irresponsible. This representation builds on an Oriental perception which according to Edward Said's theory about orientalism builds on more than one hundred years of the West's positioning of the Orient. Having built up a hegemonic relationship towards the Orient through colonialism, western writers can not help but to represent the Orient in a hegemonic way. Even though the colonies do not exist any more, the West and Europe in particular still represent the Orient in a hegemonic and stereotypical way. With my social constructive starting point I argue that this representation of Turkey and other countries influence on social, political and economic practices.

What is missing in most of the articles about Turkey is therefore a Turkish point of view through interviews with Turkish representatives: politicians, intellectuals and common citizens. Though many articles include quotations from politicians, the interviews rarely reflect the opinion of the interviewee but merely quote their statements and oppose them to quotations of politicians representing the EU.

Another problem with the representation is the way cultural differences are represented. The cultural differences like the religious differences between EU and Turkey are mostly mentioned in subordinate clauses. These function as condensed symbols, which symbol a whole package of understanding Turkey in a specific mostly Oriental way.

On this background I develop an alternative way of representing Turkey, which is based on seeing and understanding Turkey from Turkey's point of view.