

## **Abstract**

**Title: „The representation of Tuareg-rebellions in Mali in local and German speaking newspapers: an intercultural and textlinguistic analysis of media on the basis of a selection of newspaper articles,,**

Since 1960, the West African country Mali has been independent from France. Nevertheless, during the last 50 years of independence the country has faced several rebellions and insurrections of some Tuareg people in its northern part. The last rebellion, which began in January 2012, led to the separation of the country in two parts. After a coalition between Tuareg-rebels and different fundamentalist groups such as Al-Kaida in the Maghreb, MUJAO and Ansar Eddine against the Malian military, the rebels lost control over the northern part, where Islamists introduced sharia. With respect to this development, one should recognize that the unsolved recurrent rebellions of some people claiming to fight for the rights of Tuareg people caused the occupation of the whole northern part of the country and the above mentioned introduction of sharia in the same region.

The present research project aims to contribute to a better comprehension of the different rebellions in northern Mali called by the media the Tuareg ones and to criticize the way the same media simplify and present them just as a problem of minority or a war based on races and/or ethnic groups. I would like to find out in my project the following: How have German speaking and Malian newspapers been representing the phenomenon of Tuareg-rebellions in Mali in the last 50 years? Which are the typical mechanisms of construction of the discourse about the Tuareg-rebellions in these media?

The project will investigate the assumption that in their reports the mass-media do not really grasp the crucial origins of the Tuareg-rebellions in Mali, which result, so Thiessa-Farma (1997), from the difficulties for nomad people to live in their natural environments after the droughts during the seventies and eighties of the last century. The historical contextualisation will show that this situation forced the different ethnic groups such as Peuls, Arabs, Songhai, Bozos, Moors, Tuaregs in the northern part of Mali to share the last resources bounded with water und meadowlands. This development has led to the loss, for most nomad people like Tuareg and Peul, of economic and social privileges. Moreover, the presence of the new form of government as result of colonialism does not make better proposals to resolve the difficulties caused by the droughts.

As a research project in linguistics, the analysis will focus on particularities of German speaking and Malian newspapers in order to show differences between the perceptions based on economic, political, and cultural relations to Mali as a country and to the Tuareg people as a minority. Representation (Pitkin 1967) and social constructivism are main concepts used for the theoretical approach.

For the linguistic analysis, the methods of corpus linguistics will be used to find answers to the above mentioned questions. The project will focus on an international, intra-lingual (German-German) and inter-lingual (French-German) comparative critical discourse analysis based on corpus-driven methodologies.