

THE ALBANIAN POLITICAL ELITE'S DISCOURSE TOWARD KOSOVO

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to investigate the Albanian political elite's discourse towards Kosovo during the period 2008-2015. The discourse is considered to be an important instrument in understanding state behavior. Hence, this paper aims to identify the key themes in elite's discourse used to portray bilateral relation as well as to detect important issues of concern among both countries. The main research question is: How is treated the relationship with Kosovo in the discourse of Albanian political leaders? This article seeks to investigate the basic discourse of the Albanian political leaders, especially the PM Edi Rama and the previous one, Sali Berisha, regarded to the bilateral relationship with Kosovo. The article is based on the constructivist approach. The method applied is the Discourse Analysis and the data include a group of texts, particularly statements and speeches of the two main leaders, as well as declarations of high representatives of state of both countries. The main argument is that by playing the idea of threatening with "national unification/union" by the Albanian political elite, eventually the EU is marked as a key external actor in the ongoing relationship between Albania and Kosovo. But as long as there is no resonance found among political leaders' discourse and official foreign policy discourse, we cannot talk for the stabilization of such a discourse.

Keywords: Political Elite's Discourse, Foreign Policy, Albanian-Kosovo Relations.