

ABSTRACTS

Miklós Bakk: The Universality of the Freedom of Language. About the Book of György Andrásy

This review of György Andrásy's book (*Nyelvszabadság - Egy egyetemes elismerésre váró egyetemes emberi jog* [Freedom of Language: A Universal Human Right to Be Recognised]. Pécs, 2013) is an appreciation of the concept of freedom of language developed by the author. He derives freedom of language from the prevailing theory of human rights and the national and international law of human rights and shows that it was due to certain historical circumstances that this freedom could not be listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the UN in 1948. The way of justification for language rights remained, thus, connected to minority rights which lead to serious *misinterpretations*. *Such an interpretation is that language rights ensure "privileges" for national minorities.*

Keywords: freedom of language, language rights, György Andrásy

András Bethlendi: Case Study on Local Activists' Struggle for Bilingual Place-name Signs in the Town of Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár

Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár is the second largest city of Romania and it is the cultural and economical centre of Transylvania. The city has a long history of multiculturalism, where Hungarians, Romanians, Germans, Roma and Jews have lived together during long centuries. While in the 1960-1970's, the town's Hungarian population represented 42 percent of the total population, as the result of rapid industrialization and communist government-orchestrated integral migration of ethnic Romanians from other regions of the country, the ethnic composition of the city has been changed drastically within the last 40 years. Due to the former communist regime's strategy, that had the aim to change the ethnic composition of the city, the population of the city has tripled in less than thirty years, and today the Hungarian community represents 16% of the total population. However Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár is the home of the 2nd biggest Hungarian community (approx. 50,000 people) of Romania.

Given that in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár the local authorities and the Court are ignoring the prescriptions of art. 131 and art. 76 of Law No. 215/2001, and during the last 15 years no bilingual place-name signs have been installed at the entrances/exits of the city till present, a local advocacy group has decided to take steps in order to solve this long lasting illegality.

Keywords: minority rights, language rights, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Romania, Kolozsvár, Cluj-Napoca

Linda Cardinal: Language, Right and Politics: the Liberal Theory and the Debate on Minority Languages

Liberal theorists have proposed a number of normative arguments to justify linguistic rights and policies. However, their quest for a universal theory is problematic since linguistic issues are always shaped by politics. The author explores why law, despite its limits, has been given primacy over politics to justify the existence of linguistic rights and policies. She goes on to explain why a political theory that acknowledges the importance of context and power relationships is more promising for a thorough understanding of the language regime in Canada than liberal approaches.

Keywords: linguistic rights, linguistic policies, language regime in Canada

Vanessa Gruben: Language Rights in Canada: A Theoretical Approach

This paper explores the theoretical frameworks underlying language policy in Canada. It describes the principal theoretical frameworks that have been proposed by various scholars and examines how these have been implemented in working mechanisms to protect minority-language communities in Canada. In Part II, I review the various theoretical justifications or normative frameworks that justify protection of minority language rights generally. In Part III, I describe different models and mechanisms that states may employ to protect minority language rights. In Part IV, I show why there is no single theory of language rights in Canada. I explain how Canada's language policy is underpinned by many justifications which have evolved over time, under different policy imperatives, since Confederation. Central to this explanation is how the treatment of French minority-language communities evolved from nation-building to the protection of lin-

guistic human rights and the preservation of linguistic diversity. I endeavour to show that the principal objective is not simply linguistic security but linguistic survival. In Part V, I also briefly address Canada's language policy vis-à-vis non-official language minorities. This essay is not intended to be exhaustive. It is meant to examine the principal theories that have been advanced and to examine their practical application in the Canadian context.

Keywords: language rights, language policy, protection of minority language rights, Canada

Gábor Kardos: Language Rights, European Solutions?

The article examines the evolution of linguistic rights in the light of the two most important European legal documents, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Furthermore it analysis the two document's major weaknesses. According to this, in the case of the current situation of minority protection and minority language protection a rather gloomy picture unfolds. One key problem is related to the impact of their activity. Although neither documents are binding for the states, it seems that the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee working near the Framework Convention have a more significant political influence then the Committee of Experts supervising the implementation of the Language Charter. Yet, it seems that in spite of the greater political influence, the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee are much weaker and more general, which take a much smaller responsibility, since in most cases they use a very careful and interpretable language. In other words - unfortunately - there is a negative balance between the two documents concerned: the political weight of the more important body is lower, while the more important Committee can only act circumstantially.

Keywords: linguistic rights, minority language protection, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

József D. Lőrincz: The Evolution of Hungarian Politics in the 20th Century

The volume of Nándor Bárdi entitled *Otthon és haza* (Home and homeland) examines the 20th century history of Hungarians in a new approach:

it undertakes to present circumstances, problems and solutions, instead of unavoidable processes. By comparing issues specific to certain eras, correct and incorrect, good and bad decisions, the author attempts not only to explore more thoroughly his era of interest, but he also sheds new light on today's issues and actions, thus assessing them in a more intricate manner. Nevertheless, it makes possible to examine whether the Hungarian minority politics of Romania managed to produce a firm core, which would be persistent against all changes of social and economic systems, ideas, declared or apparent values. The review of the book also provides a critical approach to its content, discussing in detail certain connected issues considered important.

Keywords: Hungarian politics, Hungarian minority politics of Romania, 20th century history of Hungarians, Nándor Bárdi

The Public Policy Proposal of the Politeia Association

The document presented here is a public policy proposal worked up by Politeia Association from Cluj/Kolozsvar in 2015. The proposal was submitted to the local leaders of Harghita/Hargita and Covasna/Kovászna counties in order to create a common public service which facilitates and fosters the use of the Hungarian mother tongue in the institutes of the local authorities. The proposal describes the functioning of this public service. The main function of this service: translation of official documents.

Keywords: language policy, using Hungarian language in local administration institutions, Harghita/Hargita county, Covasna/Kovászna county

Tibor Toró: Marking Time? The Evolution of Minority Language Rights in Romania between 2008 and 2015

The study aims to present the results of a study conducted between May 2014 and January 2015 on the usage of Hungarian language in Transylvania. By comparing the collected data with previous researches, it examines how Hungarian language use in local administration institutions (mayor's offices, local councils and their subordinate institutions) changed in the 2008–2015 period, tries to presents some trends regarding minority language rights, and presents regional differences in terms of their implementation.

Keywords: minority language rights, using Hungarian language in local administration institutions, Romania

Tibor Toró: Multicultural University? Case Study on the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș

The creation of Hungarian departments at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș (UMPT) is on the public agenda since 2011, when the new Law on Education has taken effect, and the leadership of the University declined the claims of Hungarian teachers regarding the establishment of these departments. The case had political echo as well, as it was part of the “list of sins” forged by the opposition against the government that time, and which eventually led to its resignation. This case study presents the events and actions regarding UMPT in detail.

Keywords: University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș, creation of Hungarian departments at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș multiculturalism, multicultural university