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Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract <p>The thesis's main focus is discourse analysis (both textual and in the field of policy) of the securitization process in the Netherlands for the period 2004-2006, and the implications of it for multiculturalism. The emphasis on culture that multiculturalism entails is the issue at stake. In the Netherlands, especially immigrants are being addressed in relation with their national culture which creates separate communities centred on different ethnicities and cultures. I explore how cultural essentialism and cultural fundamentalism are perceived in regard to the national identity and culture of Dutch people. The assessment of the nature and extend of political discourse reveals to us whether securitization is among one of the causes of the new guises for cultural essentialism.</p> <p>The methodology of this thesis is embedded in a multidisciplinary theoretical framework pertaining to combination of critical discourse analysis (CD A) of Norman Fairclough (his three dimensional model for analysis of the relationship between discursive practice, linguistic analysis of text and social practices) and refined version of the Copenhagen school's securitization theory. Furthermore, the conceptual notion of multiculturalism and the problem of culture are central to this framework for the findings' analysis.</p> <p>The empirical data analyzed are composed by around 50 politicians' speeches, their opinion pieces and written statements on immigration. The social practice is analyzed on legislative acts, adopted policies, government's proposals and press releases of ministries.</p> <p>I claim that speech acts and policy practices are integral components for studying the securitization discourse. In line with Jef Huysmans, Didier Bigo, and Christina Boswell, I argue that securitization is not wholly dependent on the explicit naming of something in terms of security but also on positioning of an issue within a specific policy domain. Furthermore, I widen the assumptions concerning processes of infiltration of security professionals into previously immigration domains.</p>			
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