



MACEDONIA DEMOCRACY WATCH



TV 21

MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

46

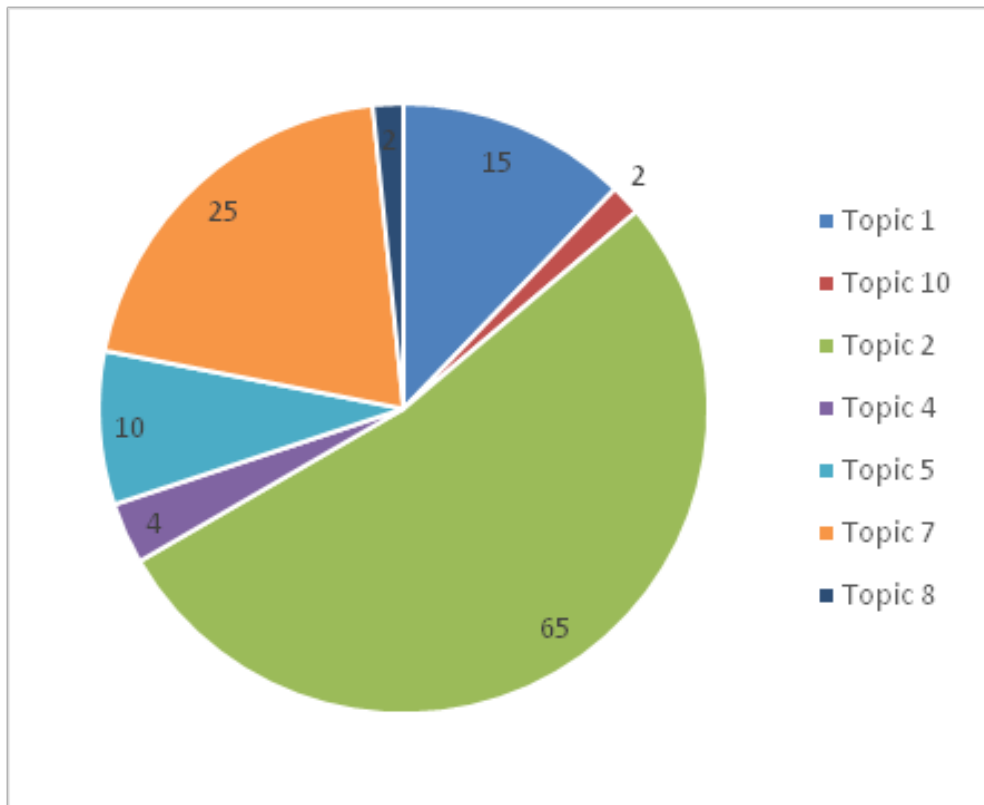
GENERAL CONCLUSION ABOUT THE REPORTING OF TV 21 IN MACEDONIAN

- In their news in Macedonian, TV 21 published a total of 123 reports concerning current political events. More than half of the reports (65) were about the pre-election activities of the parties, then followed the reports about state and local institutions (25), the activities around the preparation of elections (15), the work of the SPPO (10), the regular activities of ministers and deputies (4), state bilingualism and federalization (2) and Albanian Flag Day.
- Also judging by the number of reports and the manner of reporting about the role of Government and opposition representatives in daily political events, this TV station showed a balanced approach. Most of the reports were conveyances of the opinions of actors in daily political events, however there were also reports that were argument supported criticisms for political entities (9 in total).
- Linked to the topic of 'activities of the political parties in the campaign', except for the major political parties and coalitions, for which there was balanced reporting, this TV station allotted space in their news programme for all new pre-election coalitions and smaller entities. In none of the reports a favourizing or demonizing attitude was observed.

1. COVERED TOPICS

The TV station followed all current events related to the elections, as well as the work of the institutions such as SPPO, courts, regular statements from officials, as well as events that are of interest for the Albanian community. They analysed current issues through debates, where

they confronted different opinions of experts and political party representatives. The reporting was mostly communication of entities' messages, and in rare cases the journalist made critical observations of an issue, however there was no favourizing or demonizing overtone.



Number of reports on TV 21 Macedonian language, in relation to the different topics (November 21 - 29)

Topic 1	Organization of early parliamentary elections (voters' registry, issues with the number of voters, following up on potential irregularities, etc).
Topic 2	Pre-election campaigns of political parties (all activities including rallies, announcements for rallies, meetings with the people, promises, press releases, reactions, etc.).
Topic 3	Promotion of Government projects and measures
Topic 4	Other activities of Government officials (protocol meetings, statements and other regular activities)
Topic 5	The work of the Special Public Prosecutor's Office
Topic 6	The work of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAMS) and the Ad Hoc body
Topic 7	Regular operations of state institutions, courts, local self-government (reports in which the media do not report about political parties, rather they report of various public interest problems and issues)
Topic 8	State bilingualism and federalization
Topic 9	Public opinion polls
Topic 10	Other topics (celebrating Albanian Flag Day)

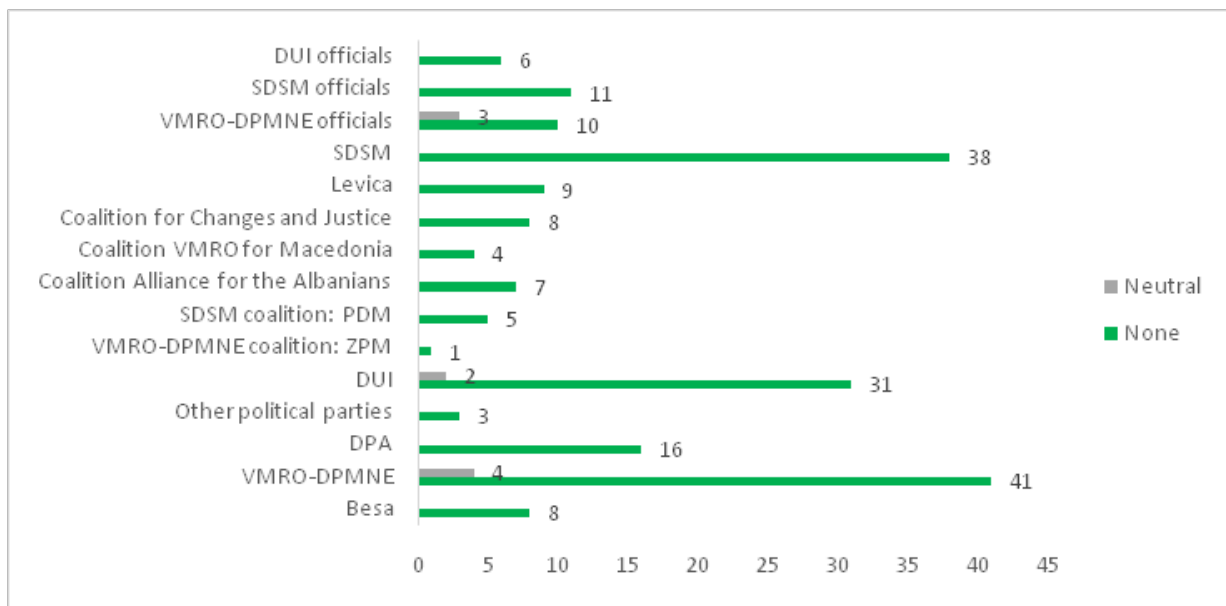


2. POLITICAL PLURALISM IN THE OVERALL REPORTING ON DOMESTIC EVENTS

Also judging by the number of reports and the manner of reporting about the role of Government and opposition representatives in daily political events, this TV station showed a balanced approach. This TV station also allotted space in their news programme to all new pre-election coalitions and smaller entities. The most commonly mentioned subject in the reports was VMRO DPMNE, their coalition and officials (59), then followed SDSM, their coalition and officials (54), DUI and their party officials (47) and DPA (16), Levica (9), Besa 8, the Coalition for Change and Justice 8 reports, the Coalition for Alliance of Albanians 7, the Coali-

tion VMRO for Macedonia 4 and other parties were subjects of 3 reports.

In 9 of the published reports, the TV station made neutrally critical observations (21.11 'TV 21's camera noted a huge poster of DUI leader – Ali Ahmeti as a young man in uniform from the days of his service in ONA..., the list of candidates from VMRO DPMNE also included Johan Tarculovski who was convicted of war crimes in the Hague Tribune', 24.11. 'The residents on 'Partizanska' boulevard are angry because cars are being towed away for VMRO DPMNE's rally'), most of the reports had the ruling party VMRO DPMNE and their officials as subjects (5 reports)



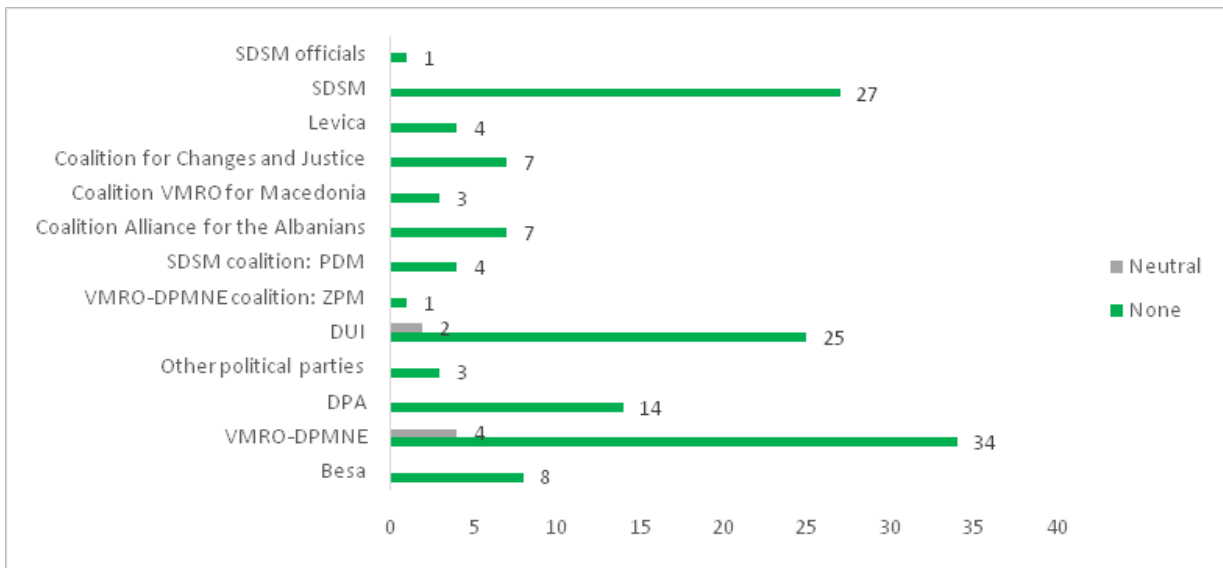
Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the total number of reports) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

3. BALANCE IN REPORTING ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL ENTITIES

When it comes to reports shown specifically about political party campaign activities, it can be concluded that TV 21 in Macedonian showed a balanced approach during the analysed period. The ruling VMRO DPMNE, the coalition and officials (39), then SDSM, their coalition and officials (32), DUI (27), DPA (14), Besa (8), the Coalition Alliance for Albanians (7), the Coalition for Change and Justice (7), Levica 4, the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia (3).

The journalists from this TV stations published 6 reports in total on the topic of campaign elections that were neutrally criticizing (4 of them observed VMRO DPMNE, while 2 were about DUI), while the rest of the reports were mere conveyances of the messages from

pre-election events of party representatives. The only 'opinion' was contained in the on-screen captions that announce the reports (23.11. 'Electoral caravan for VMRO DPMNE, Gruevski is 'realistically' envisaging numerous investments', 'Electoral caravan of SDSM, Zaev's plan for life and justice for all in Macedonia'), while the reports did not contain any journalist opinions. The questions that discuss dilemmas about current issues were contained in the topics of the debates organized by this TV station, and afterwards they publish a resume from these debates in the news (23.11. "Why nationalism in election rhetoric, analysts are saying that people are interested in economy, not nationalism).



Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the reports on the pre-election campaign) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

4. APPROACH TO REPORTING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

Of the characteristic topics discussed during the period of analysis, the TV station published in their news only two reports about federalization and state bilingualism that referred to accusations of the Government to the opposition,

however a journalist opinion was not present in either one. An expert debate was also organized on this topic (23.11. 'Why nationalism in the election rhetoric, analysts are saying that people are interested in economy, not nationalism).



MACEDONIA DEMOCRACY WATCH



TV 21

ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

50

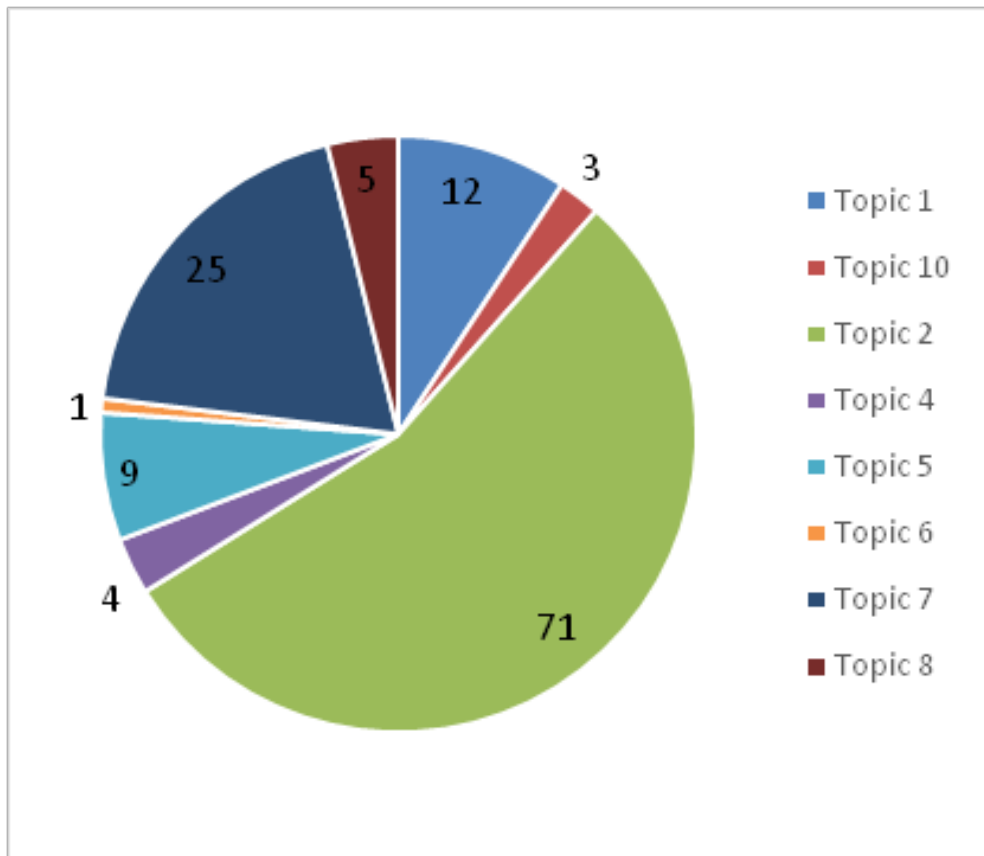
GENERAL CONCLUSION ABOUT THE REPORTING OF TV 21 IN ALBANIAN

- In their news in Albanian, TV 21 published a total of 131 reports concerning political events. More than half of the reports (71) were about the pre-election activities of the parties, then followed the reports about state and local institutions (25), the activities around the preparation of elections (12), the SPPO (9), state bilingualism and federalization (5), the regular activities of ministers and deputies (4).
- In general, the reports about daily political events and topics did not include an explicit journalist opinion. Also judging by the number of reports and the manner of reporting about the role of Government and opposition representatives in daily political events, this TV station showed a balanced approach.
- Relative balance both in a quantitative and qualitative aspect was also present in reports about pre-election activities of political entities. The ruling VMRO DPMNE and the Coalition for a Better Macedonia (40), then SDSM, their coalition and officials (32), DUI in 26 reports. The party activities of DPA were the subject of 15 reports, for Besa (11), the Coalition Alliance for Albanians (7), Levica 4, as many reports focused on other political parties and in 3 it was the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia.

1. COVERED TOPICS

TV 21 in Albanian reported about all current topics from the pre-election activities, the court process of SPPO for the case 'Fortress', the expectations of the international represen-

tatives for the upcoming elections and topics of interest for the Albanian community, and about the commendations from Kosovo's Prime Minister to Macedonian nationals.



Number of reports on TV 21 Macedonian language, in relation to the different topics (November 21 - 29)

Topic 1	Organization of early parliamentary elections (voters' registry, issues with the number of voters, following up on potential irregularities, etc).
Topic 2	Pre-election campaigns of political parties (all activities including rallies, announcements for rallies, meetings with the people, promises, press releases, reactions, etc.).
Topic 3	Promotion of Government projects and measures
Topic 4	Other activities of Government officials (protocol meetings, statements and other regular activities)
Topic 5	The work of the Special Public Prosecutor's Office
Topic 6	The work of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAMS) and the Ad Hoc body
Topic 7	Regular operations of state institutions, courts, local self-government (reports in which the media do not report about political parties, rather they report of various public interest problems and issues)
Topic 8	State bilingualism and federalization
Topic 9	Public opinion polls
Topic 10	Other topics

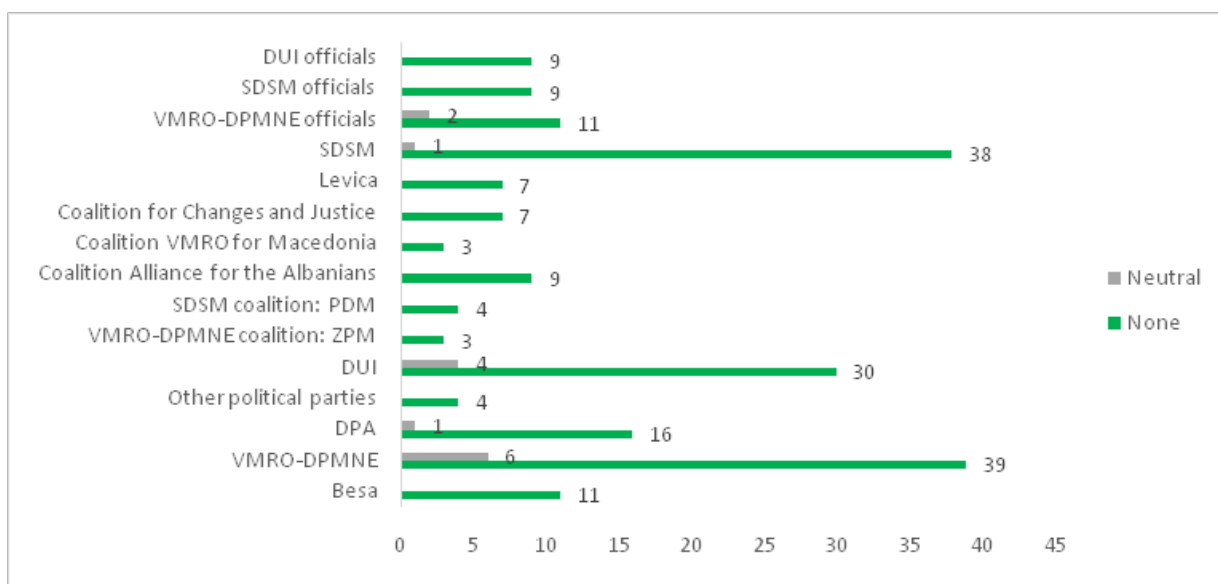


2. POLITICAL PLURALISM IN THE OVERALL REPORTING ON DOMESTIC EVENTS

In their news in Albanian, TV 21 in general presented reports without an explicit journalist opinion. Also judging by the number of reports and the manner of reporting about the role of Government and opposition representatives in daily political events, this TV station showed a balanced approach. The TV station also allotted space in their news programme to all new pre-election coalitions and smaller entities. The most commonly mentioned subject in the reports was VMRO DPMNE, their coalition and officials (61), then followed SDSM, their coalition and officials (52), DUI and their party officials (43) and DPA (17). The TV station aired 11 reports about Besa, 9 about the Coalition Alliance for Albanians, 7 each for the Coalition

for Change and Justice and for Levica, while 4 reports were about other political parties and 3 reports were about the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia.

In 14 of the published reports, the TV station made neutrally-critical observations, in 8 of these reports the subject was VMRO DPMNE or their officials and in 4 it was DUI (21.11. 'The last thing TV 21's cameras recorded was a poster featuring DUI leader Ali Ahmeti back when he was a member of ONA', 24.11 'Cars are being towed away because of the protest of VMRO DPMNE, the people are angered'). The other reports were mere conveyances of statements of politicians and government representatives, without any journalist observations.



Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the total number of reports) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

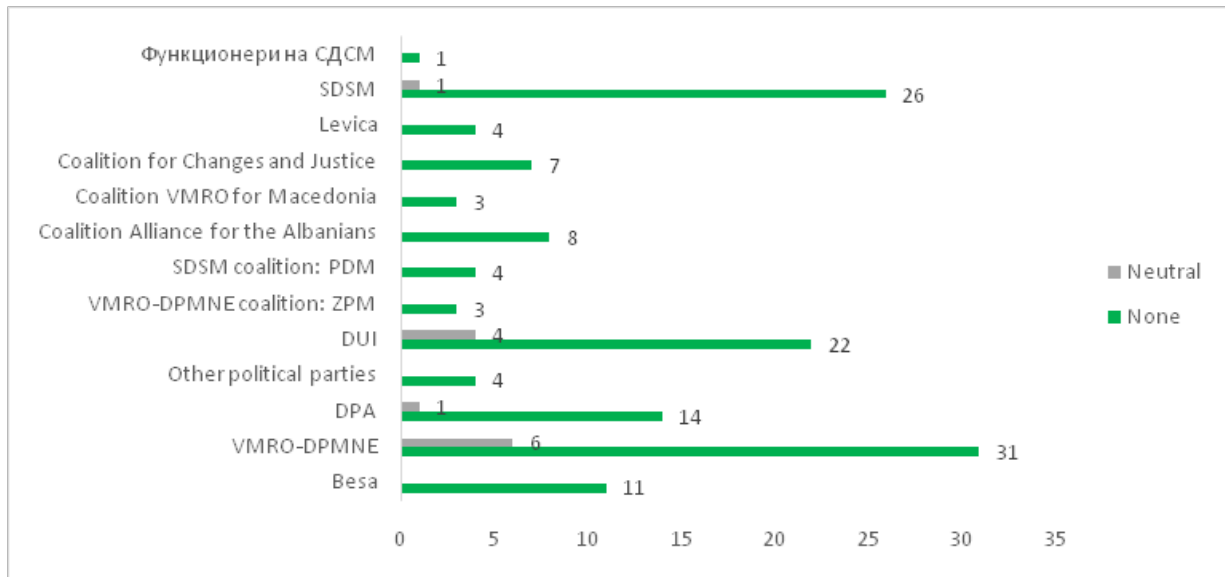
3. BALANCE IN REPORTING ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL ENTITIES

Relative balance both in a quantitative and qualitative aspect was also present in reports about pre-election activities of the parties. The ruling VMRO DPMNE and the Coalition for a Better Macedonia were mentioned in 40 reports, then followed SDSM, their coalition and officials (32), DUI in 26 reports.

The party activities of DPA were the subject of 15 reports, for Besa (11), the Coalition Alliance for Albanians (8), the Coalition for Change

and Justice (7), Levica 4, as many reports focused on other political parties and in 3 it was the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia.

A neutrally argument supported criticism was present in 11 reports (6 for VMRO DPMNE, 4 about DUI, one each for DPA and Levica), while the rest of the reports were just communicating the messages from pre-election events of party representatives.



Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the reports on the pre-election campaign) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

4. APPROACH TO REPORTING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

In reporting on topics imposed during the analysed period, in the news in Albanian, apart from conveying statements from Government and opposition parties about federalization and state bilingualism, TV 21 also published reports (8) what expressed the position of the ruling DUI, but only as part of their election platform,

through statements from high party representatives at the pre-election gatherings (22.11. 'DUI are presenting their platform, Albanian language is once again a 'top' theme', 23.11. 'DUI is promising equality of Albanian language, Grubi: after December 11 there will be a new law on language use')