



# The discursive reality of a political party

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This empirical research studied the characteristics of FIDESZ – Magyar Polgári Párt, later Magyar Polgári Szövetség, with special emphasis on the period after 1988. Several member of the MTA PTI Centre for Political Discourse Studies participated in the research, which included three main topics. *Reflection* interpreted the discourse of Fidesz as a political language formed in reaction to particular situations and challenges, where such reactions were deeply embedded in the party's self-image and interpretation of reality. The research analysed the linguistic solutions to the problems of moderate political presence, losing the elections and organisational deficiencies. The topic of *Construction* focused on linguistic construction, that is, it interpreted the discourse of Fidesz as a general linguistic creation of reality. The studies analysed the remarkable process in which non-political expressions became dominant in the discourse of Fidesz. *Context*, in contrast to the previous two topics, analysed how other participants of politics talked about Fidesz and, through this, about themselves. The research studied in particular the kind of Fidesz image presented in a political weekly, a journal and a book, and also how political science itself participated in the “creation of Fidesz.” Our results highlighted two important conclusions. One is that in the given period Fidesz motioned the language and thinking of politics into a *moral* and *sacral* direction, in other words it conceived its own role as part of a world where morals and faith are the governing principles, and acted accordingly. This made the political views of the party intransigent. The other conclusion is that Fidesz *reconstructed* its own position and role together with several dimensions of Hungarian political life.