

1ST STEP – Germany Group 1: Television

1. What is populism? In which context can it be found?

Which context are inflicted?

Populism is a political form of manipulation and is often used before elections, because the politician wants to convince the people that his point of view is the right one and that they have to elect him. He is doing that by acting like he shares the opinion of the disadvantaged people, taking advantage of their fear among them and by speaking against the "elite". But in general there are many definitions and you can not always really say who is a populist and who is not. Most of the time politicians are just accusing each other of being one. Populism is often used in right- or left-wing topics like immigration.

2. Do you think populism is present in your country? in what way?

We feel like populism is really present in our country, because we have many extreme right-wing- and extreme left-wing politicians and parties. Also our current situation (pension system, immigration, etc.) is causing many people to be afraid and that makes it easy to influence them in a populist way.

3. Type of language. Role of body language.

Our example is a populist speech, by the head of the German party "AfD", about the immigration as a solution for the lack of population growth in Germany. Bernd Lucke speaks very intellectual and makes his speech therefore rather like a lecture. He spreads his view, but does not carry away the audience. Lucke used short and turning introduction words like "but, in principle" or "especially". Important statements are emphasized by him and he used one time a very conspicuous metaphor. He keeps eye contact, but leans loosely against the lectern. Lucke's gesticulation is very reserved and naive. We think in a populist speech a self-confident performance, focusing, emotion and intimidation are always present. Besides fears and prejudices are served, it is clearly subdivided into good and bad and the intended wickedness of the speaker will be pointed out. The lecture of Bernd Lucke is a populist in its topic but is at first sight not to be recognized as this.