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Alvaro Uribe was the presidential candidate in the era of deep disappointment and crises of state legitimacy. The state was then in the midst of armed conflict and the citizens had little confidence in the institutions which were seen as corrupt. The president, apart from concrete actions to achieve the peace with the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia - AUC, decided to take advantage of his symbolic power and to try to legitimize the state through the speeches. To show his basic speech strategies of his first mandate, I decided to analyze the speeches of the New Year that usually summarize what happened during the whole year and focus on the most important events.

In 2006, parapolitics scandal broke out and caused that the state had to face another crisis of legitimacy. The aim of this article is to analyze some of his speeches after 2006 that would enable to answer the following questions: How did the president justify the state in that new socio-political context and how did he defend it from criticism? How did he refer to parapolitics? How did the groups of speech actors change? Did the president's relationship to these groups change?

On the most general level, I'll investigate the role of language in the process of ideological construction of the state and its legitimacy.

Key words: análisis de discurso, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, conflicto armado en Colombia, legitimación del Estado.