

Exchanging Messages in Ancient Greek Tragedy: The Use of δέλτος in the Euripidean and Sophoclean Stage

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Abstract : The part of communication holds a significant place in human life. From the early beginning of human history, humans tried to communicate orally with other people in order to survive and to communicate their needs. The level of education that the majority of the Athenian citizens had the opportunity to acquire in the Classic period was very low. Only the wealthy ones had the opportunity of the upper form of education that led them to a career in politics, while the other ones struggled for their daily survival. In the corpus of Euripides' and Sophocles' tragedies, the type of communication is written, too. Not only in the Iphigenia's tragedies of Euripides but also in the Sophocles' Trachiniae, the use of δέλτος bonds significant messages with people. Those written means of private communication play an important role in the plot of the tragedy and have hidden private messages from their owners. The main aim of this paper is to analyze the power of the deltos' written text in the tragedies of Euripides Ifigenia Taurica and Ifigenia Aulidensis and Sophocles' Trachiniae.

Keywords : deltos, ancient greek tragedy, sophocles, euripides

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