

The Use of Neuter in Oedipus Lines to Refer to Antigone in Phoenissae of Seneca

Authors : Cíntia Martins Sanches

Abstract : In the first part of Phoenissae of Seneca, Antigone is a guide to Oedipus, and they leave Thebes: he is blind searching for death (inflicting the punishment himself wished on the killer of Laius, ie exile and death); she is trying to convince him to give up such punishment and bring him back to Thebes. Concerning Oedipus lines, we observed a high frequency of Latin neuter in the treatment the protagonist gave to his daughter Antigone. We considered in this study that such frequency may be related to the sanctification of the daughter, who is seen by him as an enlightened being and without defects, free of the human condition (which takes on the existence of failures by essence). This study, thus, puts forward an analysis of the passages the said feature is present, relating them to the effect of meaning found in each occurrence. As part of a doctorate, this study investigates the stylistic idiom of Seneca in the Oedipus and Phoenissae tragedies, aiming at translating both tragedies expressively. The concept of stylistic idiom concerns the stylistic affinity required for a translation to be equivalent to the source text. In this wise, this study inquires into how the Latin text is organized poetically, pointing out the expressive features frequently appearing in both dramas. The method we used is based on the Semiotics theory — observing how connotation, ie a language use in which prevails the poetic function, naturally polysemous, acts to achieve each expressive effect.

Keywords : antigone, neuter, Oedipus, Phoenissae, Seneca

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