Intertextuallity in Seneca’s Dialogi: The Case of Plato

The object of the current dissertation is the systematic engagement with the intertextual tracing and study in the philosophical corpus of Seneca, of his references to Plato and the Platonic ideas. The starting point will be the unequivocal intertextual references, in the form of quotation marks and paraphrased passages, but also any piece of text in which there is a simple reference to Plato's name in the form of an exemplum (Plato has said or done something memorable) or a person of dialogues of the latter.

Among other things, one of the issues that is expected to be researched is the matter of Plato's reception in Rome during the Seneca era, in order to form a picture of Plato and Platonism in general through Seneca's point of view but also to give answers to whether Seneca has read Plato's dialogues, which dialogues he knew and what the philosopher's attitude towards him was. Additionally, interesting will be the finding of whether Seneca consciously paraphrases Plato or records from memory. During the study of his works, it will be researched how Seneca uses the intertextual references to Plato, in order to illuminate and transform his own ideas, but also how these references of Seneca to Plato function, in the respective Platonic texts from which they come from. Finally, it will be equally interesting to study the aphoristic character of Seneca's ideas and the words, phrases or rhetorical patterns he uses in order to give a more aphoristic character to his intertextual references to Plato, thus maintaining a key feature of his writing ability.

Therefore, the aim of the proposed dissertation will be, in addition to investigating the relationship of Seneca's work with Plato or the Platonic tradition in terms of conceptual assimilation, decoding and transformation by Seneca, in addition to verifying their conceptual relationship and of inventorizing the subjects on which Seneca uses the intertextual references to Plato (as defined earlier) and how he ultimately forms his own ideological basis. We expect, therefore, that the proposed dissertation after its successful completion will, as far as possible, contribute to the more systematic and comprehensive investigation into the issue of intertextuality in Seneca's philosophical writings.