



Research topic of doctoral theses

“*Τῇ φιλιᾷς ἢ χάρι:* an inquiry of the terms of love in Vincenzo Cornaro’s *Erotocritos*”

Abstract

The terms of friendship and friend (φιλιὰ καὶ φίλος) abound in a remarkable frequency in the rhymed verse poem of Vincenzo Cornaro’s *Erotocritos* (late 16th-early 17th century). It is observed, that these terms are mainly used by the poet in order to define the different stages of the relationships between the two main characters of the poem, the love between *Erotocritos* and *Aretousa*, but also their relationship with their confidants, *Polydoros* and *Frosini*. The previous observations consist the begging of the research in a scientific field which hasn’t yet been studied adequately. The recent researches have made interesting annotations about the depiction of friendship and its different functions in the poem. These studies focus their special interest in the philosophical roots of the theme of friendship by the dissertations of the greek classical antiquity and the latin of the augoustian period. The philosophical texts of Aristotle and Cicero which were highly known to the reading audience of that time seems to have affected in a circuitous way the rhymed verse poem of *Erotocritos* thanks to their multiple Italian translations of the 16th century. Besides that, it is noticed that the theme of friendship and love remains very common in theoretical texts, letters and poems in the works of the contemporary poets of the West in the same period. The upcoming research aims to deepen the study on the different facets of friendship between all characters in the poem of *Erotocritos*. Furthermore, the research will analyze the various ways of approach, negative or positive, carried out by Cornaro with his earlier literary tradition. Specifically, the research will focus on some rhymed verse novels of the post-Byzantine period, as well as with contemporary italian literary, particularly the epic poetry of the 16th century. In addition, the research will take under consideration the philosophy and aesthetics of the 16th century, that can provide the theoretical background regarding the topic of the theses. Most importantly, it is anticipated that the study will define the holistic function of friendship in the prime work of cretan renaissance literature. Additionally, will arise from the research the literally briefing of Vincenzo Cornaro and its relation to modern Italian literature, whether it is a matter of confrontation and rupture or of literary continuation of the same tradition. Finally, based on the results of the research, we will be able to detect the immediate renaissance mediator of the theme of friendship in the rhymed verse poem of *Erotocritos*.

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