

SUMMARY

The Free Indirect Speech in Sophocles' *Electra* 32-37: A tentative hypothesis

In this paper I examine the oracular response of Apollo as reported by Orestes himself in Sophocles' *Electra* 32-37. Orestes' words and especially vv. 36-37 have been interpreted in different ways. This is an essay about reading this controversial passage from the angle of narratology. This alternative approach can offer an important insight into the interpretative problem concerning ἐνδίκου χειρὸς.

The narratological strategy employed here, i.e. the Free Indirect Speech (vv. 36-37) shows how Orestes' and Apollo's perspectives merge in ἐνδικος so as (1) to confirm the validity of Orestes' report (2) to reflect a response to matricide shared by Orestes and Apollo and (3) to convey the same evaluative responses of the audience to the matricide.

From a Bakhtinian point of view ἐνδικος should be viewed as dialogical or polyphonic.