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Analysis of the Funeral Discourse in Memory of Eolaie, the Pelasgian Hero

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Abstract

The aim of this research project is to study an inscription engraved on a funeral stele found on Lemnos Island, a document of paramount importance in the analysis of the evolution of conventional sign systems. Our main objective is to analyse the text (i. e. reconstructing the context of its production) as discourse from the perspective of discourse pragmatics. A couple of questions emerge from our endeavour: Is it possible for a text of this kind to be analysed from the perspective of discursive pragmatics, or are there any other modern methods in the field of communicative sciences more suitable for interpreting communicative instances belonging to ancient human phylogeny? Can discourse analysis provide sufficient and relevant data to our attempt of rebuilding the cultural context and identifying the role of the cultural context in the configuration of conventional graphic sign systems?

Key words: *tomb inscriptions, Eolaie Pelasgian hero, funeral discourses, discourse analysis, text de-sanctification*