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**The phenomenon of philosophical and medical *insania* in Seneca's concept of madness**

The aim of my thesis is to analyse Seneca's views on *insania* in terms of its different causes, manifestations, and treatments. As a Stoic philosopher, he focuses primarily on madness of psychic origin, i.e., the nature, symptoms, prevention and cure of *insania* due to passions, but we can also observe the influence of the theories of ancient medical literature on mental illness.

In the first part of my thesis, I seek the answer to what extent Seneca's writings can be considered as medically relevant observations, or their literary value is primarily significant. As a result of my research, it can be said that in Seneca's passages we can discover a kind of interdisciplinarity and complexity of madness, which may mean a new approach to the Stoic philosopher's holistic thinking about *insania*. Views consolidated in medical texts (elements and their accompanying features: cold-warm, dry-wet; the role of bile and *pneuma*), the characteristics and symptoms of different states of mind (fear, sadness, mood swings, aggression, desire to die, imaginations, hallucinations) can also be found in Seneca's works.

In the second part, my purpose is to investigate the relation of Seneca's philosophical works to his tragedies in terms of representation, nature, and treatment of *insania*. Based on the results of my dissertation, it can be said that Seneca presents the manifestation of madness in the analysed dramas in accordance with Stoic traditions. In each work, Stoic philosophical thoughts expressed in his prose can be discovered, suggesting that tragedies can be philosophically associated with them and treated together as a complete whole in Seneca's concept of *insania*. In each drama, I also highlight the anger metaphors and the pictorial representations, how these shed light on the author's relationship to Stoic philosophy, and how Seneca interprets these cosmic projections, the interdependence of the physical and the spiritual, of the cosmic and the personal.