

This paper will be a discussion of Lucian's use of the words κοράκουϛ and ζίριϛ in Τόξαριϛ, which is a dialogue between a Scythian and a Greek concerning the topic of friendship. Specifically, it will determine whether these two words are in fact borrowed from Scythian, explain their usage in the text, and give possible definitions for each word.

A.M. Harmon uses the word κοράκουϛ as evidence that the Oresteum described by Τόξαριϛ was indeed an actual structure and that the cult to Orestes and Pylades was perhaps so prominent that the heroes were referred to by that name by some of the Scythic tribes in the region (Harmon (1936), 104-105 n. 2). However, it is the contention of this paper that the word κοράκουϛ is a play on words and that it might also be an allusion to Herodotus' Histories 4.7, within which a certain king Κόραξιϛ is named.

Unlike the word κοράκουϛ, the word ζίριϛ is in fact borrowed from Scythian. Vasmer suggests that it is related to the Persian word 'zer' meaning gold (Vasmer (1923), 39). However, a more fitting definition of the word can be found in the lexicon of Khotanese, an eastern dialect of Scythian. This paper shall parse and provide a possible definition of the word.