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Summary

FORMULAS OF LOVE: ON THE FUNCTIONS OF REPEATED FORMULAIC VERSES AND SIGNAL WORDS IN THE GROTTAFERRATA VERSION OF THE POEM DIGENES AKRITES

In the first part, the article discusses the poetical and narrative functions of formulaic verses and the repetition and variation of *topoi* and signal expressions in the Grottaferrata version of the poem *Digenes Akritas*. How does their meaning change in a different context? How do the repeated formulas explain or contrast with one other? In the second part, the article examines the interpretation problems of the expressions ἀγάπη σου and σὴ ἀγάπη from the fourth and eighth books of the poem. The analysis of the formulaic repetitions might help reach an understanding of who loves whom. The question as to whether it is the hero or the heroine who is the first to start to love the other is crucial for a comparison with ancient love novels and with the love novels from the Comnenian period.

Keywords: Digenes Akritas; love; formulaic verse; narratology; epics; poetry

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