

Satire et transgression dans l'*Eloge de la folie* d'Erasmus. La construction argumentative du sens de *fou* et de *sage*

Satire and transgression. The construction of the meaning of *fou* and *sage* in Erasmus' satire *In Praise of Folly*

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Abstract: Using an argumentative approach to semantics, the present article explores the construction of the meanings of *fou* and *sage* in Erasmus' satire *In Praise of Folly*. The argumentative analysis builds on the notion of the doxa as the common opinions shared by speakers, the role of which in satire is to establish a form of community of belief between the author and the reader. We survey two approaches to argumentative semantics: the former integrates the doxa through pragmatic topoï – a set of common beliefs that influence the argumentative force of sentences; the latter considers as doxastic an argumentative sequence in which the lexical meaning of a word deploys itself. What makes *In Praise of Folly* so relevant for an argumentative analysis is the fact that the structural meaning of words is suspended in favour of a contextual meaning. The notion of a semantic block proposed by Carel (2011) brings together argumentative sequences that spell out the meanings of *fou* and *sage* as a particular form of opposition, namely transgression. We show that paradox is absent in Erasmus' work on the semantic level: following Carel, paradox can only be analysed from the structural meaning, which is only marginally present in Erasmus' work.

Key words: doxa, paradox, transgression, semantic blocks.