

Verrines 2.1.62

But I believe in these matters alone he had indomitable and unbridled desires: the rest of his lusts were restrained by some kind of reason or moderation. How many noble women, how many matrons do you think he offered violence in his foul and impure lieutenancy? Is there any town in which he placed his foot where he did not leave behind as his footprints his indecencies and crimes? But I will pass over everything which can be denied; even those which are certain and well known I will leave aside. One particular of his terrible deeds I will select, to more easily be able to arrive at Sicily, which has placed the weight of this business upon me.

Critical Analysis of Cicero's Verrines 2.1.63

This chapter will be analyzed with regard to two criteria related to connectivity, in order to facilitate understanding of the interrelation between them. The first criterion will be the language of hierarchy. It is characteristic of hierarchies that all nodes are connected and they are acyclic (there is no way of tracing chains of hierarchy back to where one started). Hierarchy will be identified from language of *'authority ranking'* using the framework of Fiske (1992) with the lexical fields of *'spatial order and magnitude order'*¹ but augmented with the author's suggested additional lexical fields of age order and decorative order. Authority is noted as a key *'mode of persuasion'* throughout Cicero's Verrines.

The second criterion will be that of the language of control. In these chapters, and indeed Cicero's Verrines more widely, self-control or the lack of it is a key theme with Verres often portrayed as *'a man ruled by his passions'*². The language of control will be considered using the framework of Fowler et al (1979) which identifies language of *'directives... and the syntactic structures that express them'*³, *'passivization'* and *'categorization... also classification'*.

The chapter considered here lies near the beginning of what is referred to as the Episode of Lampsacum which lies roughly in the middle of the second speech. There is considerable evidence of Cicero as a historical person, *'history has remembered Cicero'*⁴ and it is likely that the second speech was genuinely prepared by Cicero for delivery in court although *'the second hearing never took place'* as *'the mountain of evidence presented by Cicero convinced Verres that he had no hope of acquittal'*⁵. The Episode of Lampsacum is a further example of the very detailed evidence that Cicero presented. The immediately preceding short chapter which signposts a change of topic *'from Verres' illicit desire for works of art to his sexual licence'*⁶. In Chapter 63 then Cicero sets the scene geographically then the following Chapter 64 introduces the main participants.

Chapter 63 opens with information set out as if plainly and factually *'oppidum est'* *There is a town* and this information exposition highlighted by addressing the jury *'iudices'* *jurors*. Hierarchy is sufficiently important that even in this geographical scene setting the positioning of the town in a hierarchy is set out in the plain informational style *'primis Asiae provinciae'* and the spatial bounds of hierarchical statement clearly stated. The hierarchical positioning is then offset by control indicated by passivization as all the townsmen are *'cum summe in omnis civis Romanos officiosi'* *very helpful with all Roman citizens*. The passivization is somewhat less from the

¹ Fiske (1992) p691

² Gildenhard (2011) p122

³ Fowler et al (1979) p205

⁴ Tempest (2011) p1

⁵ Mitchell (1986) p 10

⁶ Gildenhard (2011) p121

accusative '*civis Romanos*' than if the dative had been used. The contrast between hierarchical language and the control language is emphasized by the conjunctive adverb '*autem*'. The passivization is further emphasized by engagement of the senses of seeing and hearing '*praeterea maxime sedati et quieti*' *moreover most sedate and quiet*. The spatial hierarchy is reiterated '*ceteros ad summum Graecorum*' *beyond that of the rest of the Greeks*. Romans had a complex relationship with the more ancient civilization of Greece, having '*awakened to ... her own intellectual inferiority*'⁷.

The circumstances of Verres coming to Lampsacus makes use of the language of directives '*a Cn. Dolabella efflagitasset ut... mitteret*' *he requested of Gnaeus Dolabella that he be sent*. Verres has used control in a circular way, virtually issuing a directive to Dolabella that Dolabella issue him a directive to go to Lampsacus. This circularity of control contrasts with the acyclic hierarchy indicated by the repeated parallel language of royalty '*regem Nicomem regemque Sadalem*'. When he arrives in Lampsacus, Verres is slightly passivized by '*deducitur iste*' *he is led* but the passivization is only slight as no agent is given. It is also offset by the person to whom he is led being classified '*quendam hospitem*' *a certain host*. Also his comrades are more definitely passivized as they are '*conlocantur*' *placed* and with a generic category of '*apud ceteros hospites*' *amongst other hosts*.

Chapter 63 starts to be brought to a close with Verres lack of self-control being highlighted. He issued directives by '*suae libidines*' *his own lusts* which '*admonebant*' *were urging*. The corrupt circularity of lust issuing directives is highlighted by the use of the reflexive pronoun. Verres issues further directives '*statim negotium dat*' *he immediately gave work*. The temporal word '*statim*' emphasises the control and the word '*negotium*' suggests an officialness which is actually at odds with the corrupt behaviour that follows. Again Verres is seen to be using control to subvert hierarchy as the directives are issued to '*suis comitibus*' *his comrades* which implies people on the same hierarchical level.

It has been seen that the language of hierarchy and control are interwoven through these chapters. Hierarchy is mostly either directly stated or referred to through the decorative or age orders. Control is mostly manifest through directives but also in places through passivization. References to hierarchy are often followed closely by subversions of the hierarchy such as issuing a directive to a superior or to an equal. These subversions are likely to have been intentionally highlighted by Cicero to prepare the jurors, and to some extent wider audience, for the direct examples of corruption that will follow now the scene and participants have been laid out.

⁷ Poynton (1934) p3

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