

Cultural and etymological considerations on the origin of the phobos concept and its use in the clinical and social context

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Abstract

The concept of phobia, coming from the Hellenic language, is today widely spread. However, its clinical and social use has significant differences that distort it and induce an erroneous interpretation. Originally associated with fear, it has now become related to hatred. To illustrate this misunderstanding, the case of homophobia is presented. This paper reviews the etymology of the term and its subsequent inclusion in the clinical and social area. With Greek language as parameter, this article proposes terms that describe in a correct and accurate way what is meant to be expressed. The correct use of language is the best manner to investigate, understand and deal with this phenomenon.

Author keywords

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