Analyzing the Audience in the *Dialexeis* of Choricius

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[A] Definitions of the preliminary speeches:

[B] The audience in scholarship:

[C] The audience in primary sources:
   Ael.Ar. Or. 51.32: ὡς ἑώρων εἰπεῖν βιαζομένους τοὺς νέους, οἴσθε, ἔφην, ἡμᾶς χρυσοχοήσοντας, τὸ λεγόμενον, εἰσίν, ἀλλὰ μὴ λόγον ἐπιδειξομένους ἀνδράσι δεινοῖς ἀκροᾶσθα;
   “Nevertheless despite my sudden entrance and the fact that many people were taken unawares, the Council was so packed that it was impossible to see anything except men’s heads, and there was not even room to shove your hand between people.”

[D] Choricius and His Students (and Friends)
   Chor. IX.1: ὡς ἑώρων εἰπεῖν βιαζομένους τοὺς νέους, οἴσθε, ἔφην, ἡμᾶς χρυσοχοήσοντας, τὸ λεγόμενον, εἰσίν, ἀλλὰ μὴ λόγον ἐπιδειξομένους ἀνδράσι δεινοῖς ἀκροᾶσθα;
   “When I saw the young men forcing me to speak, I said, ‘Do you think that I have entered here in order to smelt ore for gold, as they say, rather than to show off a speech to men capable of listening to it?’”
   Chor. XXVII.7: Εἰ τοίνυν, ὃ νέοι—πρὸς ὑμᾶς γάρ ήδη μεταστρέψω τὸν λόγον—οὐτέ Ἀρίονος λύρα οἶδε εὐφραίνειν πυκνὰ κινουμένη οὔτε ἄλλο τὸ ἁμαίνει οὐδὲν ἐν ἑμῖν κεφαλὰς ὁρᾶν καὶ οὐδὲ ἂν τὴν χεῖρα διέωσας μέσην οὐδαμοῦ.
   “Well then, young ones, for now I will turn my speech towards you, if neither Arion’s lyre being used too often can delight nor anything else that usually gives pleasure, how could my speeches be lovely to the audience when they frequently harass the theater?”
   Chor. XXVIII.2–3: Ἐγὼ μὲν οἴκαδε ἐνθένδε ἐπορεύομη, ἡγοῦντο δέ, οἷα νενόμισται, οἱ νέοι βοῶντες, τὸν δὲ τις ἐπηθήδειον ὅπισθεν εἴπεν ἐπεὶ ὁ πρῶτον τοῦτο πουεῖν εἰθόθας “I was walking home from the theater, and my young [students] were leading the way, as usual, talking loudly as they went. One of their friends followed behind them, someone who had not been in the habit of doing this previously.”

[E] Recurring Audience
   Surviving *dialexeis* believed to be given on the second day: XIX, XXV, XXVIII, and XLI.
   Chor. XV.5: ἡγοῦντο τὸς δὲ τοῦ ἐπιθετήδειον ὅπισθεν εἴπε ἐπεὶ ἐμὶ γραφῇ τῇ ὑστεραίᾳ κειμένῃ καὶ τὸ ἔπος αὐθαδείας ἐγκλήμα γεγραμμένον.
“Now if you remember, I had recently gathered together an audience at a wedding celebration. When I referred there to the line in which Homer calls Eumelus both last and best, I saw a charge brought against me the next day, and the line became the basis for a charge of self-importance.”

[F] Education Level of the Audience

Chor. XXXVI.3: ὃτι δὲ λόγοι ἐπιτήδευμα, ἀπας ύπάρχει καιρός ὤριος ἐς λόγου δημιουργίαν

“For a person whose business is eloquence, any time is the right time to compose an oration.”

Chor. XXXVI.5: …τα ἦτα με εἰκότως ἀνέπεισεν εἰς τόνδε ὑμᾶς ἀγεῖραι τὸν σύλλογον καὶ ταῦτα μεσοῦσαν ἄγοντας ἐς τὴν ἕορτην.

“…to gather you together at this meeting even though you were still in the middle of enjoying a festival.”


[G] Audience-Orator Interaction

Chor. XXVIII.2: Ἐπειδὴ τῇ προτεραίᾳ τοῦ λόγου μεσοῦντος ἄνεπτη το θέατρον, ἢ γάρ μοι φωνὴ οὐ διηκόνησε τῇ προθυμίᾳ…

“After the audience got up yesterday in the middle of my oration, for my voice refused to minister my zeal…”

Chor. XV.4 (Plat. Sym. 194b): ἄνδρες ὀλίγοι δεινοὶ λόγων ἀκούειν φοβερώτεροι τῷ παριόντι πολλῶν ἐς ἀγορᾶς ἀπειροκάλων ἀκροατῶν.

“A few men who are good at listening to orations are more intimidating to a person who comes forward to speak than an ignorant mob of auditors from the agora.”

Chor. XXII.3: οὕτως ἄρα ἑκάστῳ δεῖ τινος ἀναπαύλης, ἄλλως τε ὅταν τύχῃ τις ἤδη γεγηρακώς, οἵαν ὁ τοῦ λόγου φιλάργυρος ἡλικίαν ἄγων τυγχάνει.

“So everyone needs a rest, especially when a person is already well advanced in age, like the miser of this oration.”

Chor. XXXI.2: ἄρ’ οὖν, ὦ φιλότης — ἐς μήκος γάρ μοι ἐκτείνεται ἥδη ὁ λόγος — οὐ καλὸν ἄν εἴη μιμήσασθαι Πέρσας καὶ μεσοῦντος αὐτοῦ τραγήματα ὑμῖν διάλεξιν ἑπιδείξῃ…Ιδέα γάρ ἀνειμένη κηλοῦσα τὰ ὡτὰ τὸν ὑπὸ τοῦ συντόνου πραύνει τοῖς ἀκούουσι κόπον.

“So, my friends, since my oration is already quite long, wouldn’t it be good to imitate the Persians and serve you a dialexis as a side dish in the middle of my oration? …For a relaxed style, which charms the ears, relieves the audience of the effort demanded by the intensity of the oration.”

[H] Translations Provided by:
