DICES Database of Greek and Latin Epic Speech

The DICES database records the following types of information about
   a. Speeches
   b. Characters
   c. Character instances
   d. Authors & Texts

a. Speeches

Speaker: character instance name. Can be a named individual, an anonymous character or a collective.

Addressee: character instance name. Can be a named individual, an anonymous character or a collective. In principle all addressees are recorded, including the addressees mentioned in the speech introduction, and all addressees mentioned in the speech itself (addressed with a vocative). This may include absent or dead addressees.

Starting and end line: at the moment, the database records only the line numbers and not the exact starting and ending position of the speech within those lines.

Level of embeddedness: 0 indicates that a speech is introduced by the primary narrator. 1 indicates a speech within a speech, 2 a speech within a speech within a speech, etc.

Speech clusters
   - **S: Soliloquies** (a speech of a character to their own self)
   - **M: Monologues** (a speech situation with a speaker and an addressee. Only one speech act is reported in direct speech, but additional speeches may be rendered as indirect speech or speech mention)
   - **D: Dialogues** (conversations between two speakers in which at least two consecutive speeches are reported in direct speech)
   - **G: General Interlocutions** (group conversations in direct speech with more than two speakers).

Parts of a cluster/turn: only speeches rendered as direct speech are counted.

Speech type tags: One speech may receive multiple tags. The order of the tags does not indicate the order of different speech acts in a composite speech. The following content-based tags are used:

> Challenge, Command, Consolation, Deliberation, Desire and Wish, Exhortation and Self-exhortation, Farewell, Greeting and Reception, Information and Description, Invitation, Instruction, Lament, Praise and Laudation, Message, Narration, Prophecy, Oracular Speech and Interpretation, Persuasion, Prayer, Question, Request, Reply to Question, Taunt, Threat, Vituperation, Promise and Oath, Warning.

WARNING: Any content-based classification is highly subjective. The current speech type tags are up for further revisions, and should not be considered final.

b. Characters

Only **individual named characters** are recorded as characters. Anonymous characters and collectives can be found under **character instances**.

Gender: male, female, mixed/non-binary or not applicable
Being: mortal, divine, mythical creature, other

Characters that are known in Wikidata, MANTO and Topostext are tagged with a link to their record in these external databases.

c. Character instances

Character instances represent the character's attributes specific to a given context
- at the level of the poem (accounting for transtextual characters). Vergil's Venus and Homer's Aphrodite different character instances of the underlying character Aphrodite.
- at the level of a scene (accounting for a change of status and disguised identities). The ghost of Achilles and Odysseus-beggar are instantiations of resp. Achilles and Odysseus.

Anonymous characters and collectives are also classified as character instances.

d. author and work

Apart from the language (Greek/Latin), and the relationship between author and work, we do not record any data ourselves.

For easy reference, authors and works are tagged with their Universal Reference Number (CTS URN) and Wikidata record numbers.