Abstract

In his *Epistulae morales*, Seneca as philosopher and teacher guides his pupil towards moral self-improvement. In his teachings, which lead towards this goal, it can be seen that in the process the philosopher must take a position regarding other people whose values are completely different. Seneca terms these groups of people *vulgus* (occurs 21 times in the *Epistulae*), *populus* (occurs 56 times) and *turba* (occurs 44 times). The negative characteristic most frequently ascribed to all three groups is being subject to error. The highest degree of negative connotation is found in the case of *vulgus*, whereas *populus* and *turba* are judged somewhat less negatively. The measure of negative connotation calculated in percentages and shown in diagrams shows that this degree is lowest in the case of *turba*. 