

The aim of the project is to analyze the impact of allegoresis on the development of post-Aristotelian theories of figurative language. The research hypothesis has it that the practice of allegorical interpretation created premises for theoretical considerations of the nature and functions of allegory, symbol and metaphor. When inquiring into the reasons that made the poet or the prophet express a given idea figuratively, the allegorists put forward numerous valuable observations regarding issues as important as definition of ambiguity, identification of expressions employed figuratively or distinguishing tropes (allegory, symbol and metaphor) from figures of speech. Thus, the present project will examine the extent to which ancient (Stoic, Alexandrian, Middle- and Neoplatonic) allegoresis can contribute to contemporary approaches to ambiguity, figurativeness and literalness. Analyses of ancient approaches to the aforementioned issues will reveal the profound debt that Western culture owes to the Greeks.