

Anglická anotace

Sophism in the works of Plato

The present work focuses on Sophism mainly as viewed in Plato's dialogues. The first part of the work presents Sophism and its chief representatives, especially on the basis of the Platonic dialogues which are most closely tied with the theme of Sophism. Following a brief description of the atmosphere of that time and Plato's philosophy, we analyse dialogues related to Sophism and its protagonists. Next, we attempt to describe the reasons and ways of Plato's confrontation with Sophists and the characteristic features of individual Sophists. The following chapter on the ways of presentation and forms of Sophism, which is important for the theme, shows that Sophists were hard to understand and classify even for their contemporaries. The next chapter is a summary of essential notions and themes of Plato's confrontation with Sophists and a brief definition of Platonic Sophism in terms of Plato's philosophic teaching.

The second part of the work pursues to deal with the theme in view of current critical thinking. First, it presents criticism of Plato's treatment of Sophism and, by means of generalisation, it invents a figure personalising the Sophistic style. The presented paradigm linked with this figure expresses the Sophistic approach towards reality. The following chapter offers interpretation of the paradigm as presented by various qualified authors, including Plato in the first place.

Finally, we attempt to answer several questions which are related to the subject and which we consider important and to express our meaning regarding the core of the confrontation between Plato and the Sophists of his time – we suggest that the core of the confrontation could also be understood in religious terms.

Keywords:

Plato

Sophism

Protagoras

Man-Measure fragment

Greek anthropocentrism