

**ABSTRACT**

This paper examines Aristotle's critique of metaphor as a vehicle of knowledge in scientific discourse. It focuses on *Meteorologica 2* where, within an assessment of Presocratic theories about the origin of the sea, Aristotle argues against Empedocles' expression "the sea is the sweat of the earth" (DK 31 B 55). While elucidating Aristotle's own position on the origin of the sea vis-à-vis Presocratic theories, the paper shows the difference between Empedocles and Aristotle in the conception of metaphor. For Empedocles metaphors express identity. For Aristotle, on the other hand, they enclose analogies. In his *ad hoc* critique, Aristotle gives a lesson on scientific discourse. He deconstructs Empedocles' metaphor into a set of analogies and demands the definition of processes, an assessment of the reciprocal equivalence between processes, and the validation of empirical observation.