

Abstract:

Aristotle's theory of cause being a broad topic, this bachelor thesis focuses on Aristotle's theoretical treatment of causes in *Physics II*. It undertakes a detailed analysis of its most important chapters (II, 3 and II, 7) and deals particularly with division of causes into four types. It also included the topic of causal modes. Equally, it deals with the repercussions of the theory for the work of a natural scientist, which follow from the division into four types of a cause. Aristotle's attitude to the job of a natural scientist is that all four causes are to be demonstrated to make knowledge complete. The thesis also deals with the status of causes in general and inquires both into the meaning of causes as real and constitutive factors of reality and the role of causes as explanatory factors. Among questions relating to the explanatory function of causes is a consideration whether it is not just a linguistic analysis. Another question is the foundation of the theory of four causes. In the core chapter of the thesis are separately analysed four causes in their mutual relations. Analysis demonstrates causal interdependence resulting in recognition of causal unity. That is why the aspect of unity is next followed showing first the unity of non-material causes. Efficient and final causes form unity with the formal one, because they are considered aspects of a formal nature. The unifying aspect of causes is eventually shown on the unity of causes having formal and material nature. This unity forms natural substances standing at the base of Aristotle's science of nature. Natural substances are shown as unities, which need all four causes in order to become real. Natural substance is also presented as a possible source of the theory of causes. Aristotle's conception is different from the conception of some influential modern philosophers. That is why the thesis attempts to show Aristotle's theory in its complexity and to contrast it with the conceptions that understand natural processes as non-teleological.