

Abstract

The present master's thesis investigates the epoché as a performance and experience and its connection with alterity. It aims to provide a description of the epoché in its processual or executive dimension and thus to show the experience or the performance of the epoché in its existential depth dimension. This means to shed light onto the existential experience that underlies the epoché in order to examine the connection between the theoretical concept and the depth dimension of the experience. In order to accomplish this, the investigation develops its own method based on the eidetic variations of Edmund Husserl and the act of empathy of Edith Stein, which consists of the processual "passing through" six examples of the epoché. The examples are: the epoché in ancient skepticism, the practice of Samatha and Vipassanā and the experience of awakening (bodhi) in Buddhism, the contemplation (Nachdenklichkeit) by Hans Blumenberg, the epoché of Edmund Husserl, the epoché of Natalie Depraz, Pierre Vermersch and Francisco Varela and the epoché of Hans Rainer Sepp. After going through these variants, preliminary invariants and thus a preliminary description of the performance of the epoché can be obtained. This reveals a close connection between the epoché and alterity. The investigation ends with a brief analysis how it is possible for the human existence to encounter the Other without assimilating the him or her, to adapt itself and lose itself in the Other or simply to withdraw into itself.

Keywords: epoché, phenomenology, ancient skepticism, alterity, the Other, Edmund Husserl, oikology, Hans Rainer Sepp, Natalie Depraz, Sextus Empiricus, Buddhism