

## ARISTOTLE ON LANGUAGE AND STYLE

This is the first systematic analysis of Aristotle's concept of *lexis*. Ana Kotarcic argues that it should be approached on three interconnected levels: the first dealing with language as a system, the second with actual language usage, in which sociolinguistic factors come into play, and the third with prescriptions for the kind of language to be used in poetic and rhetorical compositions. She introduces ideas and concepts from classics and modern linguistics into the analysis alongside the philosophical approaches which have prevailed until now. The results reveal that Aristotle's ideas on *lexis* are complex, well-developed and intimately connected to many other fundamental concepts in his works, such as *aretē*, *energeia*, *ēthos*, *logos*, *mimēsis*, *pathos*, *phantasia* and *technē*. A major component of his thought is therefore illuminated comprehensively for the first time.

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ARISTOTLE ON LANGUAGE  
AND STYLE

*The Concept of Lexis*

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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-73078-5 — Aristotle on Language and Style: The Concept of Lexis  
Ana Kotarcic  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108730785](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108730785)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108583442

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First published 2021  
First paperback edition 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-108-49952-1 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-108-73078-5 Paperback

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*To my parents*

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## *Preface*

This book is a slightly revised version of my PhD thesis, which was submitted at the University of St Andrews in July 2015. It includes supplementary discussions and additional secondary literature, while remaining true to the work I did at St Andrews. I would thus like to reiterate my thanks to the many scholars who supported me during my doctoral research and express my gratitude to those who have contributed to this book since then.

I am most grateful to my supervisor Professor Stephen Halliwell, who guided me throughout my doctoral research. I could not have asked for a more inspirational and supportive academic mentor. His advice, his comments and his rigour have not only contributed significantly to my research, but have also helped me develop as a researcher. I am, furthermore, thankful to Ms Jane Brooks, who supported me in polishing my academic writing style. Her flair for nuances contributed to the fine-tuning and precision in the expression of my arguments. My thanks also go to Drs Emma Gee, Janine Gühler, Henry William Jackson, Kleanthis Mantzouranis, Jennie Parkinson and Elizabeth Rhodes, who made valuable suggestions to drafts of my thesis at various stages in the writing process.

I would, moreover, like to express my sincere gratitude to Professors Malcolm Heath and Pierre Swiggers, as well as to Drs Alexander Long and Bram Demulder, who made valuable suggestions and read drafts of this book. I am also very grateful to the anonymous readers for carefully reviewing the manuscript of this book and to Dr Michael Sharp and his team at Cambridge University Press, including Natasha Burton, Hal Churchman, Anjana Karikal Cholan and Sophie Taylor, for their guidance, pieces of advice and effective work. A big thank you also goes to my copy-editor Dr Nigel Hope, whose efficiency and extraordinary eye for detail are commendable.



In addition to being indebted to many other colleagues and friends who accompanied me throughout my work, I wish to express my most profound gratitude to my parents, Selena and Ljubomir Kotarcic, without whose wholehearted support I would not have been able to undertake and complete this research.

## *Abbreviations and Conventions*

1. Abbreviations for Greek authors and their works mostly follow Liddell and Scott (1968), henceforth cited as *LSJ*; those for Latin authors and their works follow C. T. Lewis and Short (1879).
2. Abbreviations, editions, translations and commentaries used for Aristotle's works are as follows (Table 1):

Table 1 *Abbreviations, editions, translations and commentaries*

Abbr.	Name of work	Edition	Translation	Commentaries
<i>APo.</i>	<i>Analytica posteriora</i>	Ross and Minio-Paluello (1964)	Barnes (1984)	
<i>APr.</i>	<i>Analytica priora</i>	Ross and Minio-Paluello (1964)	Jenkinson (1984)	
<i>Cael.</i>	<i>De caelo</i>	D. J. Allan (1936)	Stocks (1984)	
<i>Cat.</i>	<i>Categoriae</i>	Minio-Paluello (1956)	Ackrill (1984)	Ackrill (1963)
<i>DA</i>	<i>De anima</i>	Ross (1956)	Smith (1984)	
<i>EE</i>	<i>Ethica Eudemia</i>	R. R. Walzer and Mingay (1991)	Solomon (1984)	
<i>EN</i>	<i>Ethica Nicomachea</i>	Bywater (1894)	Crisp (2000)	
<i>GA</i>	<i>De generatione animalium</i>	Drossaart Lulofs (1965)	Platt (1984)	
<i>HA</i>	<i>Historia animalium</i>	Dittmeyer (1907)	Thompson (1984)	
<i>Int.</i>	<i>De interpretatione</i>	Minio-Paluello (1956)	Ackrill (1984)	Ackrill (1963) Whitaker (1996)
<i>Metaph.</i>	<i>Metaphysica</i>	Jaeger (1957)	Ross (1984)	
<i>MM</i>	<i>Magna moralia</i>	Susemihl (1883)	Stock (1984)	

Table 1 (cont.)

Abbr.	Name of work	Edition	Translation	Commentaries
<i>Ph.</i>	<i>Physica</i>	Ross (1950)	R. P. Hardie and Gaye (1984)	
<i>Po.</i>	<i>Poetica</i>	Kassel (1965)	Halliwell (1995) Heath (1996)	Vahlen (1914) Gudeman (1934) Lucas (1968) Else (1957a) Schmitt (2008)
<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Politica</i>	Ross (1962)	Jowett (1984)	
<i>Pr.</i>	<i>Problemata</i> <sup>1</sup>	Mayhew (2011)	Forster (1984)	
<i>Rh.</i>	<i>Rhetorica</i>	Kassel (1976)	Freese (1926)	Cope (1867) Cope and Sandys (1877) Grimaldi (1980) Grimaldi (1988) Rapp (2002b) Dorion (1995)
<i>SE</i>	<i>De sophisticis elenchis</i>	Ross (1958)	Pickard-Cambridge (1984)	
<i>Top.</i>	<i>Topica</i>	Ross (1958)	Pickard-Cambridge (1984)	

3. With the exception of Isocrates' works edited by Norlin (1928–1945) and Van Hook (1986), works of other authors are cited from the Oxford Classical Texts and Teubner series, most notably Slings (2003) for Plato's *Republic*; Burnet (1900–1907) for references to other Platonic works; Dilts (2009) for Demosthenes' works; Wilkins (1902, I) for Cicero's *De Oratore* and *Orator*; Winterbottom (1970) for Quintilian's *Institutio Oratoria*.

<sup>1</sup> Even though the authorship and the date of the *Problemata* are disputed, it seems reasonable to include this work as evidence on Aristotle's thoughts, since (a) there is evidence that Aristotle wrote a work with this title and (b) at least some sections can be attributed to him. For detailed discussions cf. e.g. Louis (1991: I, xxv–xxx) and Mayhew (2011: xvii–xxiv).

*List of Abbreviations and Conventions*

xv

4. Unless otherwise indicated, the following translations are used for works by other authors: Shorey (1937) for Plato's *Republic*,<sup>2</sup> and Norlin (1928–1945) and Van Hook (1986) for Isocrates' works.

Frequently recurring Greek terms will be cited in transliteration, most notably *aretē lexeōs*, *diēgēsis*, *energeia*, *ēthos*, *genos*, *hexis*, *lexis*, *logos*, *mimēsis*, *pathos*, *poiēsis*, *pragmata*, *prepon*, *technē*. All other terms are given in Greek characters.

<sup>2</sup> Even though there is a more recent translation of Plato's *Republic* by Emlyn-Jones and Preddy (2013), Shorey's (1937) is closer to the Greek original and will therefore be used here.