

"Dualism" and "Philology"

Post by "Hiram" of January 24, 2020 at 8:45 AM

[Quote from Mike Anyayahan](#)

Just like my reply to Godfrey, I acknowledge that Philology is important not only in the study of Epicureanism but also in the study of everything. But my question is "Did Epicurus think of Philology whenever he mentioned philosophy? We know how Epicurus reiterates the importance of philosophy.

First: I don't know whether the word "philology" was directly used by the early founders but a. By the time of Philodemus there were "professional" philologists as a category of hierarchy (teachers or assistant teachers) who helped to teach Epicurean philosophy, and b. we know that one of the other founders, Polyaeus, wrote a treatise "On Definitions". This means they had discussed the subject enough to have formed clear ideas about the problem of definitions.

Second: We also know that one of Epicurus' books "On nature" was a sermon he gave "against the use of empty words", and I refer you to it here:

<http://societyofepicurus.com/reasonings-abo...of-empty-words/>

This is the most important source to consider in these matters. It delves into how to reason empirically about both things and actions (based on their consequences). It also talks about their practice of re-assigning meanings to words according to the concrete impressions (or "attestations") we get from nature in our senses and faculties, and on specific terms that had been redefined.

It restricts "redefinitions" to only words of which we have evidence. Words that are not available to our faculties can not be redefined following their methods. It also mentions that Metrodorus and Epicurus had had conversations about this in the past and their ideas had evolved.

Also, [Mike Anyayahan](#) its possible you will later take an interest in Philodemus' scroll "On methods of inference"

<http://societyofepicurus.com/reasonings-abo...s-of-inference/>