

Abstract

Horizon and Alterity in Husserl

The problem of alterity was not thematised frontally by Husserl, in contrast to the work of later phenomenologists. Notwithstanding, following the thesis that is defended here, it is possible to conceive of an implicit conception of alterity in Husserl's writings. Such a conception shows itself in a more precise analysis of Husserl's concept of the horizon which stands in an ambivalent relation to alterity: On the one hand, the horizon structure refers to a non-given excess, and thus opens up alterity; on the other hand, this excess is always already, at least minimally, prescribed and hence withdraws the otherness from the alterity.

This ambivalent relation is described in the course of this master's thesis on different levels. This allows to distinguish between the alterity of the immediately appearing, exemplified by things and the own self, and the alterity of the mediately appearing, such as the other person. While it is possible to directly explicate and hence test the horizons of the immediately appearing, such a possibility is not given for the apperception of the mediately appearing. In addition, the temporal structure of the appearance of alterity is determined, so as to distinguish between the sudden impact of absolute alterity and the horizontally integrated alterity. Finally, the question is posed to what extent the reflection on the horizons can alter the attitude towards alterity.

Key words: alterity, other person, alienness, horizon, excess, epoché, world