

Abstract: This work originates from a consideration about the most severe editions of the text (Diggle 1994 and Kovacs 2002), which seem to motivate massive expunctions mostly on the basis of authenticity arguments and consequent deductions. In the light of a dramaturgic and linguistic analysis, this work puts emphasis on the motif of discontinuity, stressed in the text by the recurrence of the term *metabole* and listed by Aristoteles in the negative category of *anomalon*. Arguing that discontinuity is structuring mechanism and guiding principle in the construction of the plot by coups de théâtre and of the characters by sudden changes, this work proposes a complete reevaluation of the Prologue, appreciating its dramaturgic solidity and supporting its Euripidean authenticity.

Keywords: *Anomalon*, *Metabole*, *Poikilia*, Virgin sacrifice, Political intrigue.