
Abstract
It is argued that the Biblical book Ecclesiastes is the principle influence behind the thematic structure of the Old English poem The Wanderer. Specifically, the tonal disjunction at the end of the poem is directly analogous to a similar disjunction in the Judaic work. The recognition of this influence aids in determining the genre of the Old English poem as a sub-part of a Wisdom Literature tradition. Some insight is also gained regarding the number of protagonists in the work and the style of imagery presented.