The term ζῆλος, meaning ‘rivalry’ or ‘jealousy’, should be located amongst the lexical novelties of ~~those idioms characteristic of~~ Hesiodic language. While it does not appear in the Homeric poems, its existence may be assumed by the presence of two derivatives: δύσζηλος (*Od*. 7.307) and ζηλήμων (*Od*. 5.118), each of which can be found once in the *Odyssey*. This contribution aims to re-examine the Odyssean text with reference to the possible meanings of ζῆλος in order to reconstruct this term’s semantic field. The results of this research have led on the one hand to the discernment of negative emotions such as mistrust, obstinacy and irascibility, all of which can be located within the psychological ambit of jealousy, and on the other hand to the elucidation of the possible reasons that led to the absence of the term ζῆλος within the Homeric epic. As well as making the case for chronology, this contribution also highlights the argument also highlights the argument that ζῆλος could be perceived as excessively colloquial and allowed only through its derivatives.

~~thematic innovation present within the Hesiodic corpus, more receptive to base feelings such as envy or jealousy thanks to its greater engagement with realism. We may further add to the above arguments the hypothesis that this prejudice led to the branding of the term as excessively colloquial, leading to its rejection and allowing only the presence of its derivatives.~~