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Place of the Language in the Platonic Ontology

In his philosophy Plato deals with two competing theories of the nature of language i.e. naturalism and conventionalism. In the first one names refer to things in an adequate way, and by the language we are able to get to things in themselves. The second one – conventionalism is a theory on the ground of which we do not have access to things by language, and the names are given by virtue of an agreement between the users of the language. Plato described this issue in the dialogue Cratylus. Apparently arguing in favor of naturalism, by reference to the etymologies which seems to be the evidence of the priority of names, he presents the basic principles of linguistic conventionalism, that he finally opts for. Plato wants to base his theory of the language on the rules of contract within the community established in the process of naming and communication.