

This third Companion is devoted to ancient theories of language. The chapters range over more than eight hundred years of philosophical enquiry, and provide critical analyses of all the principal accounts of how it is that language can have meaning and how we can come to acquire linguistic understanding. The discussions move from the naturalism examined in Plato's *Cratylus* to the sophisticated theories of the Hellenistic schools and the work of St Augustine. The relations between thought about language and metaphysics, philosophy of mind and the development of grammar are also explored.

The essays will interest those studying ancient philosophy and philosophy of language, the history of thought about language, and linguistics.



COMPANIONS TO ANCIENT THOUGHT: 3

Language



Companions to Ancient Thought

In recent years philosophers have radically reappraised the importance and sophistication of the philosophical texts of the ancient world. This new series of Companions is intended particularly for students of ancient thought who will be reading the texts in translation but approaching them with the analytical skills of modern philosophy and with an eye to their contemporary as well as their historical significance. Each volume is devoted to a specific field of philosophy and contains discussions of relevant ideas of all the major philosophers and schools. The books do not attempt to provide a simplified conspectus of ancient views but rather critical discussions of the central and therefore representative arguments and theories.

A particular feature of the series is its exploration of post-Aristotelian philosophy, which has been shown by recent scholarship to be both philosophically exciting and historically important.

Already published

- 1 Epistemology
- 2 Psychology



COMPANIONS TO ANCIENT THOUGHT: 3

Language

Edited by Stephen Everson Lincoln College, Oxford





> Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 IRP 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1994

First published 1994

Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Language / edited by Stephen Everson.

p. cm. - (Companions to ancient thought; 3) Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Contents: Plato on understanding language / David Bostock -Cratylus' theory of names and its refutation / Bernard Williams -

Aristotle on names and their signification / David Charles -Epicurus on mind and language / Stephen Everson - The Stoic notion of a lekton / Michael Frede - Parrots, Pyrrhonists and native speakers / David K. Glidden - Analogy, anomaly and Apollonius Dyscolus / David Blank - Usage and abusage: Galen on language / R. J.

Hankinson - Augustine on the nature of speech / Christopher Kirwan

- The verb 'to be' in Greek philosophy / Lesley Brown.

ISBN 0 521 35538 9 (hardback) ISBN 0 521 35795 0 (paperback) 1. Language and languages - Philosophy - History. 2. Philosophy.

Ancient. 1. Everson, Stephen. 11. Series.

PIO6.L3127 1994 401-dc20 93-27234 CIP

ISBN 0 521 35538 9 hardback

ISBN 0 521 35795 0 paperback



Contents

I	Introduction	page 1
2	Plato on understanding language	
	David Bostock, Merton College, Oxford	10
3	Cratylus' theory of names and its refutation	
	Bernard Williams, Corpus Christi College, Oxford	28
4	Aristotle on names and their signification	
	David Charles, Oriel College, Oxford	37
5	Epicurus on mind and language	
	Stephen Everson, Lincoln College, Oxford	74
6	The Stoic notion of a lekton	
	Michael Frede, Keble College, Oxford	109
7	Parrots, Pyrrhonists and native speakers	
	David K. Glidden, University of California, Riverside	129
8	Analogy, anomaly and Apollonius Dyscolus	
	David Blank, UCLA	149
9	Usage and abusage: Galen on language	
	R. J. Hankinson, University of Texas at Austin	166
10	Augustine on the nature of speech	
	Christopher Kirwan, Exeter College, Oxford	188
II	The verb 'to be' in Greek philosophy: some remarks	
	Lesley Brown, Somerville College, Oxford	212
	Bibliography	237
	Index of names	264
	Index of passages discussed	269
	Index of subjects	277

vii