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Author: Pietarinen, Ahti-Veikko
Title: Peirce's Pragmatic Theory of Proper Names
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Abstract: The article discusses the pragmatism within the theory of proper names proposed by the American philosopher Charles S. Peirce. It describes Peirce's theory of the existential relation between an abstract proper name and the personal knowledge of the individual who owns the proper name. It then explains the relation of Peirce's theories to the broader discipline of the philosophy of language and logic, the relationship of Peirce's theory to causal-historical theory of reference, and the semiotics in Peirce's philosophy. Other subjects under discussion include Peirce's philosophy of identity, the epistemology implied by Peirce's theory of proper names, and the role of experience in affecting language.
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