

*What's in a Name: The Ties Between Name and Identity As Shown In Translations*

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In the 1830s, British forces moved into Ireland for the completion of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, during which they mapped the country and anglicized its place-names for the purposes of the British empire. On the surface, the Ordnance Survey of Ireland claimed its mapping was to conceptualize the Irish landscape and to standardize its place-names, but underneath this rhetoric lay violent and deceptive motives: by weakening the Irish connection to their land and language, the English sought to pave the way for their colonization and assimilation into the British Empire. *Translations*, by Irish author Brian Friel, focuses on a small, fictional town, Baile Baeg, during the Ordnance Survey and on the interactions between the Irish and English. This essay seeks to explore the inseparable ties which exist between names and identity as well as the violence inherent to the process of renaming as a tool of colonization in light of the situation proposed by *Translations* and to illuminate this text's hidden prompting for the colonized to reclaim their identities through the very language used to subdue them.