## **Contents**

	Introduction	vii
	rt I The overture to the Enlightenment debate: language in the erstices of the intellectual and physical nature of humanity	1
1	Interpretations of language as an argument for and against dualism: Descartes and his sensualistic opponents in the seventeenth century	3
2	Language and the affects in the Port-Royal Logic	24
3	Cordemoy and dualism: consequences of a Cartesian theory of signs	33
4	The Cartesian argument: rationalism and empiricism in Bernard Lamy's conception of language	38
5	Language and sense perception in the controversy between Arnauld and Malebranche	44
6	Language and the epistemological evaluation of the senses from Descartes to Locke and Du Bos: the outcome of the seventeenth century	51
Pa	rt II Language, anthropology and history in the Enlightenment	61
7	A century of controversy	63
8	From Locke to Condillac: the development of the sensualistic theory of language	70
	On the status of language in Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding Condillac and the further development of Locke's sensualism	70 77
9	Grammar, philosophy, anthropology: the problem of word order	111
10	The origin of language and the historical view of humanity	134
11	Language and evolutionary thinking	149

## vi Contents

12	The "abuse of words"	160
13	Language and knowledge: theoretical sources of the "Linguistic Relativity" of cognition	174
14	The French Enlightenment and its aftermath: linguistic theory	
	and language debates from the Enlightenment to the Restoration	191
	The "grammairien-patriote" Urbain Domergue	192
	Louis-Sébastien Mercier and his "Néologie"	199
	The Ideologues: continuation and retraction of the sensualist	
	theory of language	206
	The verdict of the Restoration	220
15	Concluding remarks: assessment of the discussion of language	
	in the French Enlightenment	226
	Notes	233
	Bibliography	259
	Index	281