

# CONTENTS

---

---

Introduction		I
I The Corruption of Language		7
II “Words and Ideas”: Fielding and the Augustan Critique of Language		28
III Language and Society		54
Writers, Critics, and Hacks	56	
Politics and Politicians	89	
Polite Society	109	
The Professions	127	
IV Irony and Action		152
V “The Serpent and the Dove”: “Prudence” in <i>Tom Jones</i>		179
VI “A Mirrour for the Understanding”: The Irony of Dramatized Authorship		197
Index		221