

Forbidden Words

Taboo and the Censoring of Language

Keith Allan and Kate Burridge



Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
1 Taboos and their origins	1
2 Sweet talking and offensive language	29
3 Bad language? Jargon, slang, swearing and insult	55
4 The language of political correctness	90
5 Linguistic purism and verbal hygiene	112
6 Taboo, naming and addressing	125
7 Sex and bodily effluvia	144
8 Food and smell	175
9 Disease, death and killing	203
10 Taboo, censoring and the human brain	237
<i>Notes</i>	254
<i>References</i>	277
<i>Index</i>	293