Contents

	Preface	vii
	Introduction	1
1	Essentialist ideology. Its origins and its scientific form, the theory of natural aptitudes	6
2	The ideology at work in everyday speech. The rationalization of school choices	33
3	Language and class identity. The mark of dominant ideology	67
4	From the theory of differences in aptitudes to the theory of differences in linguistic 'codes'	90
5	Shortcomings in the theory of the 'unequal distribution of linguistic capital'	115
	Conclusion	142