

Jonathan Swift's keen interest in language in general, and in the English tongue in particular, appears in a large number of his works: the attention he pays to the written as well as the spoken word seems to be that of a linguist. In the 1712 pamphlet entitled *A Proposal for Correcting, Improving and Ascertaining the English Tongue*, Swift even states his linguistic preoccupations unambiguously. My dissertation aims at exploring and giving a detailed account of Jonathan Swift's linguistic ideas; I will try and throw light on their origin (Swift's education/cultural heritage, 17th- and 18th-century linguistic theories...) and show how they are embodied in Swift's fiction -- *Gulliver's Travels* essentially.