

## ABSTRACT

### Bernstein's Sociolinguistic Codes: A Logical Analysis

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This study focusses on Bernstein's notion of sociolinguistic codes, attempting to explicate them in terms of (i) the logical conception of ellipsis, and (ii) the conception of speech acts. Both these ideas are borrowed from contemporary philosophical logic. Bernstein's small rôle in Caribbean thought is recognized, but it is argued that with the fuller conception of his codes offered here there is a case for a more wide-ranging confrontation and testing of his ideas. The study concludes with some reflections on the methodological difficulties facing this interpretation of the codes.