



Author Pack

A guide to publishing in scholarly journals

Language editing and quality

How important is the quality of the English language in an article?

The findings reported in an article may be cutting edge, but poor language quality – including errors in grammar, spelling or language usage – could delay publication or could lead to outright rejection of the article, preventing the research from receiving the recognition it deserves.

With ever-increasing standards of excellence in both research and publishing, it is in an author's best interest to make sure his/her article is in its best possible form when submitted for publication - that includes the quality of the written English, adherence to the guide for authors and the presentation of factual, accurate data.

In fact, we hear from numerous editors that the poor quality of English masks the possible academic merit of some articles and they will return the article to the author. Editors find it increasingly hard to find reviewers for articles and so there is an increased pressure to send articles to review out in good English.

What impact does language quality have on the peer-review process?

Once an article enters the peer-review process, it will be evaluated by both reviewers and editors on its academic content and merit.

The responsibility of providing an article written in a reasonable standard of English, and structured with adherence to the guide for authors, lies with the author. Editors and reviewers are not responsible for making language corrections.

Well-structured articles with correct language usage help ensure that the peer-review process runs smoothly by allowing editors and reviewers to focus on academic merit, and could result in the faster publication of research.

What should authors do before submitting an article?

We suggest authors consider using a language editing service to improve the English language usage and quality of an article. A number of language editing companies provide their services to our authors at competitive rates. Details can be found at <http://www.elsevier.com/languagepolishing>