

Internationalization of the Higher Education setting: How does it affect the English taught and used by scholars?

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Internationalization of Higher Education institutions has become a phenomenon in the last fifteen years; it has been included within university strategic plans and become central part of the university policies through many diverse actions such as the Internationalization of the Curriculum. The question is; what do we understand by internationalization? In general terms, it can be defined as the top stage of international relations among universities. A deeper definition delimits three main areas of application for the Internationalization of Higher Education and defines it as "the process of integrating an international/intercultural dimension into the teaching, research and service functions of the institution." (Knight & de Wit, 1997: 8)

However, this internationalization tendency does not seem extant and common in the publishing sector. Journal publishers, editors, publishing houses, conference scientific committees, etc. do not seem to take this international assessment when reviewing research papers or proposals, comments such as "please advise the authors to ask a native speaker of English to revise the text" or "exclude the sense of writing by a non-native speaker of English", are quite usual after a paper review written by a non-native speaker of English; the question arising here is whether these comments fall into the application of Internationalization of Higher Education institutions on research or, on the contrary, it strongly departs from the multicultural, multilingual and international existing societies that we currently aim at within the academic world. This paper is a reflection about the main conflicts of lecturers teaching English for Research Purposes, their struggles on what to teach and the everlasting dispute between the language demands of research publishers and the tangible international environment in European and overseas universities.

References

Knight, J. & de Wit, H. (1997). *Internationalisation in Higher Education in Asia Pacific Countries*. European Association for International Education: Amsterdam.

Biodata

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