

Accept or contest?: A life-history study of humanities scholars' responses to English-monolingualist research publication policies in Spain

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The adoption of globalized forms of knowledge production in a climate of economic downturn has led to a series of contradictions which impact on the working lives of Spanish academics. In this presentation I focus on the responses to these apparent contradictions by scholars working in the fields of linguistics and history. Although humanities scholars have received attention in a number of studies, most notably in the work of Flowerdew and Li (2009), Curry and Lillis (2004) and Lillis and Curry (2010), these 'niche disciplines' (Ammon, 2008) deserve still more attention as sites of potential resistance to the implicit privileging of publication in English encoded in recent Spanish national research evaluation policies and procedures.

Using the life-history approach adopted by Connell and Wood (2002) and endorsed by Connell (2010) as allowing for the analysis of labour processes in relation to broader cultural issues, I conducted semi-structured interviews at a provincial university with six scholars, three women and three men, each of whom had been interviewed on one of two previous occasions (in 2002 and 2010). Through comparison of the two sets of interview data I chart the effects of the changes in research evaluation procedures and the impact of language planning and policy decisions on the scholars professional lives over time, noting particularly shifts in attitude to publication in English and perceived need for training and support in English for Research Publication Purposes (ERPP).

Biodata

Sally Burgess is a lecturer in English at the University of La Laguna. Her main research interests are in cross-cultural rhetoric, the contribution of language professionals to the preparation of research publications, the teaching of writing in the university context and most recently, the effects of research evaluation policies on Spanish scholars' publishing practices. She has published on all of these topics. Sally is also a member of the Spanish Team for Intercultural Studies on Academic Discourse, based at the University of León and led by Ana Moreno. With Margaret Cargill she organized the first PRISEAL conference in early 2007 and has since that time also been a regular participant in the Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meetings. Apart from her interest in academic discourse studies and English for Research Publication Purposes, Sally has also published a number of literary translations in collaboration with the University of La Laguna's literary Translation Workshop.