

Achieving visibility in international scientific community through publishing and presenting in English: the experiences of Bosnian-Herzegovinian scholars

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As English is nowadays the lingua franca of science, publishing and presenting in English is inevitable for obtaining visibility in the international scientific community. This visibility is difficult to achieve for any scholar, but it is even more so for non-native English speaking scholars coming from developing countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). These scholars from the periphery are likely to experience both linguistic and non-linguistic difficulties in their endeavor to become members of the international scientific arena. With regard to BiH scholars, it is presumed that their English language proficiency is generally rather low and that, therefore, they experience linguistic difficulties when trying to join the international academic community. However, the more pressing challenges they encounter seem to be mostly economic and political in nature. Nevertheless, regardless of the severely under-resourced context they work in, some BiH scholars succeed in overcoming the obstacles and achieving international visibility. This study investigates BiH scholars' general experience with publishing and presenting research in English, the challenges they encounter and the ways of overcoming them. Furthermore, the study also examines the availability of support and recognition provided by local institutions for the successful positioning of these BiH scholars in the international academic community. Questionnaire and semi-structured interview were used as data collection tools and eleven BiH scholars with experience of publishing and presenting in English coming from three disciplines, medicine, electrical engineering, and economics, took part in the study. The choice of disciplines was based on the research output history in BiH.

Biodata

Dr. Alma Jahić is an assistant professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla. Her research interests cover the following topics: writing for publication, plagiarism, and written feedback. Currently, she is taking part in the COST action IS1401 *Strengthening Europeans' capabilities by establishing the European literacy network* as a management committee member representing Bosnia and Herzegovina.