

The Challenge of Scholarly Publication: Cross-disciplinary data from Turkey

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English is the “academic lingua franca” (Curry and Lillis 2004: 11) and is considered by many participants in text production –including scholars, reviewers, translators, editors– as the default language of science and academic research and dissemination (Lillis and Curry, 2010). Turkish academics, as in many academic institutions worldwide, where English medium publication is valued by institutional reward system, are called upon to publish academic writings in particularly Anglo-American journals that are indexed in citation indices to gain academic promotion in universities. This paper reports on the Turkish scholars’ publication experiences of their work in international refereed journals, and the impact that producing high-status scholarly publication in English has on them. Participants were 60 Turkish non-native English speaking scholars; 18 from the Social Science, 22 Hard Sciences and the remaining 20 scholars were from the Health Sciences. Each participant had at least one paper published in an international English-medium peer-reviewed journal. The theoretical framework of the study was the notion of discourse community (Swales, 1990), and the legitimate peripheral participation (Lave and Wenger, 1991). The scholars’ publication experiences were examined on the basis of in-depth exploratory interviews. Qualitative analysis of the interview data indicated that academic publishing in English posed a real challenge for Turkish academics, and that they displayed courage, patience and persistence to get their articles published. Some implications are offered for the kind of support to be given to promote the scholarly writings of Turkish scholars, and by implication to other contexts.

References

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Biodata

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