

PRISEAL 3

Researching, teaching and supporting research communication: Perspectives and prospects

Abstract

Using ELF to disseminate research in research group blogs

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New media are having a significant impact on scientific research, influencing the way scientists establish relationships and create networks with peers and opening new avenues for the communication of scientific activity and results. Blogs, in particular, provide an open space for both individual researchers and research groups to communicate research. Research groups harness the affordances of blogs to publicize the group's research and activities, make the work of the group members available both to the local and international disciplinary communities, become more visible in these communities, and seek collaboration. To achieve this international visibility, many non-centre research groups write their blogs in English or mix English and their mother tongue. This co-existence of English with other languages is frequent in some CMC (computer-mediated communication) contexts, where multilingual Internet users draw on resources provided by both their L1 and English (Leppänen, 2007).

The purpose of this research is to explore the use of English as a lingua franca in research group blogs written by multilingual Spanish scholars. I will address the following questions: (i) why do Spanish research groups choose to blog in English?; (ii) when both English and the L1 co-exist in the blog, for which functions do the bloggers use one or the other?; (iii) which are the lexico-grammatical features of ELF in these blogs?; (iv) which strategies are used by these researchers to negotiate meaning, communicate their research activity and disseminate their research results in the realm of English-medium blogs?

References

Leppänen, S. (2007). Cybergirls in trouble: fan fiction as a discursive space for interrogating gender and sexuality. In C.R. Caldas-Coulthard & R. Iedema (Eds.), *Identity in Trouble: Discursive Constructions* (pp. 156-179). London: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Biodata

María José Luzón is Senior Lecturer at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. She has a PhD in English Philology and has published papers on academic and professional discourse and on language teaching and learning in the field of English for Specific Purposes. Her current research interests include the analysis of online academic genres, especially academic blogs, and the analysis of ELF (English as a Lingua Franca) in academic written discourse.