

Turkish medical specialists in academia: Case studies of writing for publication

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As a medium of scholarly publication English is considered the international language of communication. However, there are marked disparities between developed and developing countries in the facilities and resources available for academic knowledge production, and there is now an established research tradition beginning to study scholars' experiences in these developing contexts (e.g., Belcher & Connor, 2001; Bennett, 2014; Curry & Lillis, 2004). The present case study focuses on the specific experiences of scholars in a non-Anglophone 'centre' context, Turkey. This paper presents the outcomes of a longitudinal study investigating the challenges of three Turkish medical specialists while writing English research articles to publish in their peripheral context, a context hitherto largely unexplored by academic literacy and L2 writing scholars. In line with our research focus, the theoretical framework we employed in this study comes from Lave and Wenger's (1991) 'situated learning theory' with an emphasis on John Swales's (1990) notion of "discourse community" and Wenger's (1998) "community of practice". The data was collected through face-to-face interviews in the native language of informants, Turkish. Following Curry and Lillis (2004), textual histories of the medical research article submission process were also investigated. The principal findings revealed details of the experience of Turkish medical specialists regarding disadvantages of being a peripheral researcher in the third peripheral country (i.e., problems encountered while collecting data, ethical issues in publication, plagiarism) and perceived prejudice from editors and reviewers during the publication process.

References

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Biodata

Neslihan Onder Ozdemir has had her postgraduate degree in the UK under the supervision of Dr Nigel Harwood. Currently, she is coordinating Medical English courses in the Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Turkey. Her primary research interests are English for specific/academic purposes,

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