Complexity and dynamics of ELF publishing from the editors’ perspective

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Research in the domain of English as Lingua Franca (ELF) for international knowledge dissemination has revealed the multi-faceted nature of challenges faced by academics in various non-Anglophone contexts. To our knowledge, however, the perceptions and views of editors, especially those in local contexts where the switch to English-medium publishing has become prevalent more recently, have been less researched.

Building on research carried out so far in Romania, both among academics and journal editors (Muresan & Nicolae, 2015), this study aims to extend the area of investigation, so as to include respondents (journal editors) from other countries where ELF is used for knowledge dissemination. The current paper thus aims to explore if ELF has become the dominant language of research publishing also in other local contexts and if the linguistic and publication policies of journals in the contexts referred to are comparable to those adopted by research journals in Romania. The main instrument used in this qualitative study is a slightly adapted version of the questionnaire used in the survey carried out in Romania, complemented with follow-up interviews, where necessary. The main aims are to explore the editors’ perceptions of and views on aspects such as these:

- the quality dimension embedded in the manuscript evaluation process
- the editors’ dual role, as ‘gatekeepers’ and as facilitators of quality enhancement in glocal contexts
- the complexity and dynamics of writing practices and corresponding changes in journal policies (if any), aimed at addressing author needs identified, so as to promote better compliance with evaluation criteria.

The overall goal is twofold: to complement existing research with considerations on quality ingredients that are key to international ELF research publishing, from the editors’ perspective, and to provide new insights into the complexity of ELF writing for publication, for refining curricula and educational processes aimed at improving research writing.

References

Biodata

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