English or Englishes in global academia: A text-historical take on genre analysis

Oliver SHAW
Health Research Institute-Fundación Jiménez Díaz (Madrid, Spain)
oshaw@gmail.com

When seeking to publish their research internationally, researchers from non-Anglophone countries marshal a variety of skills and resources to meet the expectations of journal gatekeepers. Along with word- and sentence-level accuracy, these academics must structure their arguments in a way that is seen as appropriate by their discourse community. This written communication, which takes place mostly between speakers with different first languages, provides applied linguists with an opportunity to broaden the analytical scope of English as a lingua franca (ELF), moving ELF beyond spoken interactions among non-native English speakers (NNESs) to examine how writing in English is used in new ways to transmit knowledge internationally.

This study on academic discourse in the biomedical field aims to describe the rhetorical traits of a corpus of 10 different text histories based on research articles written by employees of a Spanish biomedical-research institution, examining how the texts evolve as a result of contributions made by what Lillis and Curry refer to as literacy brokers (2006). Move analyses of different drafts of the texts are rooted in frameworks by Bhatia (1993), Swales (2004), Nwogu (1997), Williams (1999), and Dudley-Evans (1994), and a text-historical approach resembling the one designed by Lillis & Curry (2006) and Lillis (2008) is used to trace the arc of the texts as they progress toward publication or are abandoned. One of the text histories is presented to exemplify the approach, and the study is an attempt to contribute to the evolving scholarship on the written texts produced by NNES authors, how such texts are conceived and received, and the experiences reported by those who write them.

REFERENCES


**Biodata**: Oliver Shaw (MA, App. Ling.) is a translator, editor, and language instructor at the research arm of a university hospital in Madrid. Over the past six years, the bulk of his work has been focused on editing and translating biomedical texts for Spanish-speaking authors across a range of clinical and basic research specialties as well as teaching English for health-care contexts. Oliver is the current Promotion Chair of Mediterranean Editors and Translators.