

Dealing with Peer Reviewing – case studies

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[English as a Scientific and Research Language](#)

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Overview

- Background
- Purpose
- Methods/Materials
- Results/Findings
- Discussion/Conclusions

Background

- *Peer review* - evaluation of creative work or performance by other people in the same field in order to maintain or enhance the quality of the work or performance in that field
www.linfo.org/peer_review.html
- Context of occurrence: situated actions of writers, and the communicative systems in which disciplinary actors participate (Berkenkotter & Huckin, 1995)

Peer review – 2 treatments:

- Market: a space populated by intelligent judgment but also by low expertise, fraudulent behavior, hasty decisions, and excessive conservatism
- Disinterested principle through which science regulates itself through a series of rational judgments and decisions - as a powerful discursive tool for the legitimation of science and expertise. (Biagioli:35)

Beneficiaries

the ‘consumers’ (readers, universities using peer-reviewed publications in promotion cases, and, ultimately, taxpayers) more than the “producers’ (the journal, the publisher, and the institutions that may sponsor the journal, etc.). Biagioli:35

Purpose of study

- To identify common ground in the peer review corpus: purpose, area of analysis, achievements
- To determine best practice characteristics

Method

Compare

- Publisher requirements
- reviews

Materials: 11 articles in 5 journals

- STUDIA – of the Faculty of Letters , Babeş Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca
- **Miscelánea *A Journal of English and American Studies*** of Facultad de Filosofía y Letras Universidad de Zaragoza
- ***International Review of Education (IRE)*** edited by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
- *Synergies Europe n°5/2010, /n°6/2011. n°7/2012*
- *Synergy – Journal of the Dpt. of Foreign Languages – Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest*

Findings

- Requirements – mostly similar
- Reviews
 - organisation
 - Level of detail
 - Source: own articles/ my reviews/ reviews by colleagues

Publisher Requirements

Miscellanea Inadequate / Acceptable /Good	International Review of Education (IRE)	Studia A. Accepted in the initial form B. Accepted with minor modifications C. Accepted with substantial modifications D. Rejected	Synergies Europe + ⇒ excellent ✓ ⇒ acceptable - ⇒ unsatisfactory ∅ not applicable; unable to judge
	Guidelines for case studies: " case studies from formal and non-formal education followLength of articles (for case studies): 4000 - 5500 words		
Appropriateness of the subject to the scope of this journal	1. (a) Should the article be published in this special issue or in the journal at another time, or not? (b) If yes, should it be amended, and which changes should be made?		Contribution to the field 1. Relevance of the topic for the field
Overall originality or interest of the paper	2. Does this article contribute to knowledge in the field?	7. The scientific contribution of the paper is original	2. Contribution to knowledge in the area of study, contribution to research in applied linguistics or language pedagogy; introduction of new insight, of a critical point of view, or directions for further research; theoretical or practical implications.
Relevance to present-day research in the area		The introduction presents the relevance of the article for the given field and quotes the main results obtained by other authors concerning the subject 4. The article contains a good overview on the previous studies from the same domain	Content Overall quality of the content: thoroughness; discussion in context of other research, depth of treatment, etc.
		5. The methodology in use is	

Discussion

- obstacles and limitations:
- tricks of the trade;
- what makes peer review work?
empathy?

Work well done?

Obstacles and Limitations

- Can a professional standard be ensured by a linguist reviewer when dealing with articles from other disciplines, like law or economics?

Familiarity with field – friend or foe?

- Deadlines
- Communication – what happens next?
- Knowing the author?

Way forward?

contribute

Thank you!

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