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ENEIDA Presenter:

Rosa Lorés-Sanz
Dpto. Filología Inglesa y Alemana
Unversidad de Zaragoza
rlores@unizar.es

Publishing in English-medium scientific journals as opportunity: a comparative study of Spanish researchers writing practices in Chemistry and Business

Co-authors: Pilar Mur, Sally Burgess, Jesús Rey and Ana I. Moreno

Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación
(Ref.: FFI2009-08336/FILO) (2010-2012)



Opportunities for Chemistry and Business Academics: Thematic Areas

- **Personal and academic information**
 - Profile of informants
 - Perception of competence in the use of general and academic English
- **Motivations for publishing**
 - Choice of language of publication
 - Reasons not to publish in Spanish/English
 - Factors considered to publish RAs in English
- **Attitudes**
 - Desirability of publishing in Spanish/English

Personal and Academic Information: profile of informants

- In both disciplines, around 60% men and 40% women replied to the questionnaire.
- The average age of informants is 46 in Chemistry and 43 in Business.
- The profile of the informant is a researcher 1) with academic experience, 2) fully involved in his/her career.
- Chemistry: over 83% came from CSIC (Spanish National Research Council) and barely 17% from universities.
- Business: only 5.4% came from CSIC.
- Length of time as doctors: 17 years in Chemistry vs 10 in Business.
- Senior position: 80.1% in Chemistry vs 66.3% in Business.

Personal and Academic Information: perception of competence in the use of General English

Scale of 1 to 5 (from 1= very low, to 5 = very high):

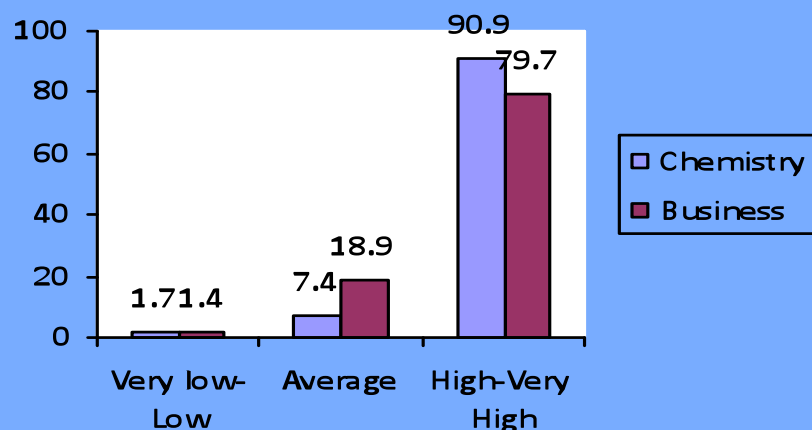


Figure 1. Self-perceived level of competence in **reading** General English

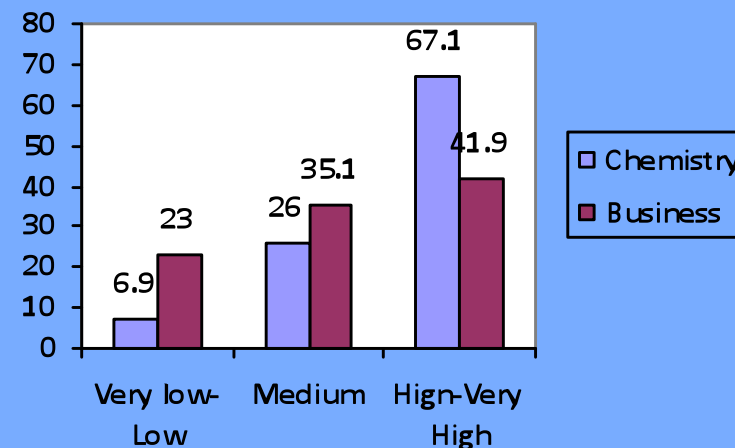


Figure 2. Self-perceived level of competence in **writing** General English

- ✓ Chemistry scholars perceive themselves as more skilled than Business academics in reading and writing General English.
- ✓ The perception of their skills is lower with regard to writing than to reading General English.

Personal and Academic Information: perception of competence in the use of Academic English

Scale of 1 to 5 (from 1= very low, to 5 = very high):

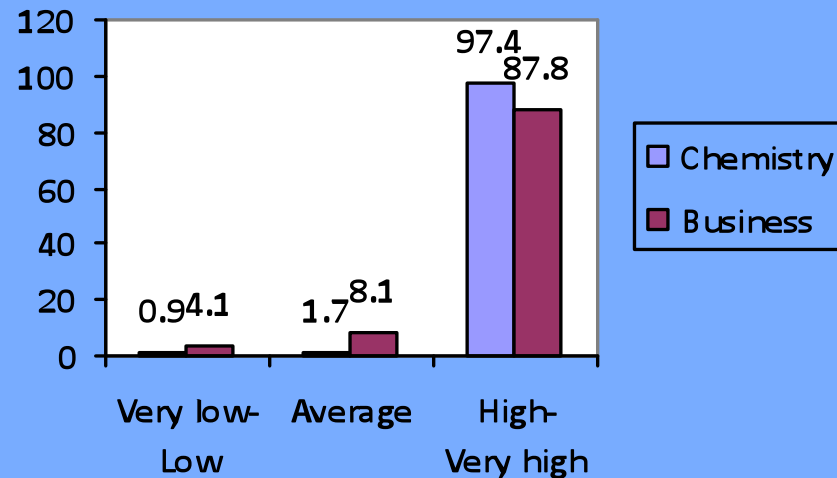


Figure 3. Self-perceived level of competence in reading Academic English

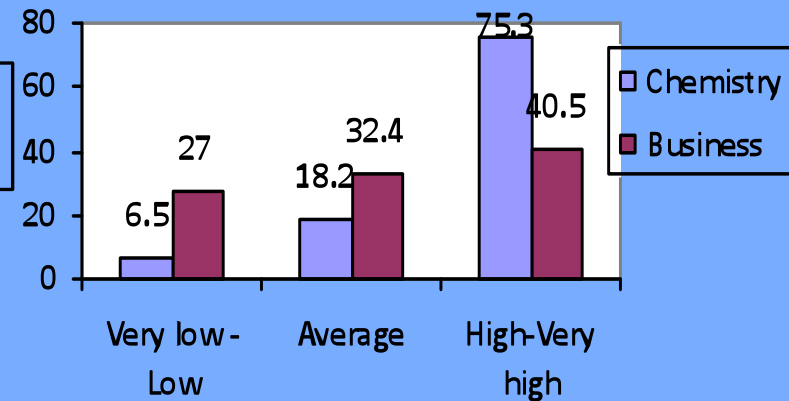


Figure 4. Self-perceived level of competence in writing Academic English

- ✓ Chemistry scholars also perceive themselves as more skilled than Business academics in reading and writing Academic English.
- ✓ Their perception of their skills is lower with regard to writing than to reading Academic English.

Motivations for publishing: choice of language of publication

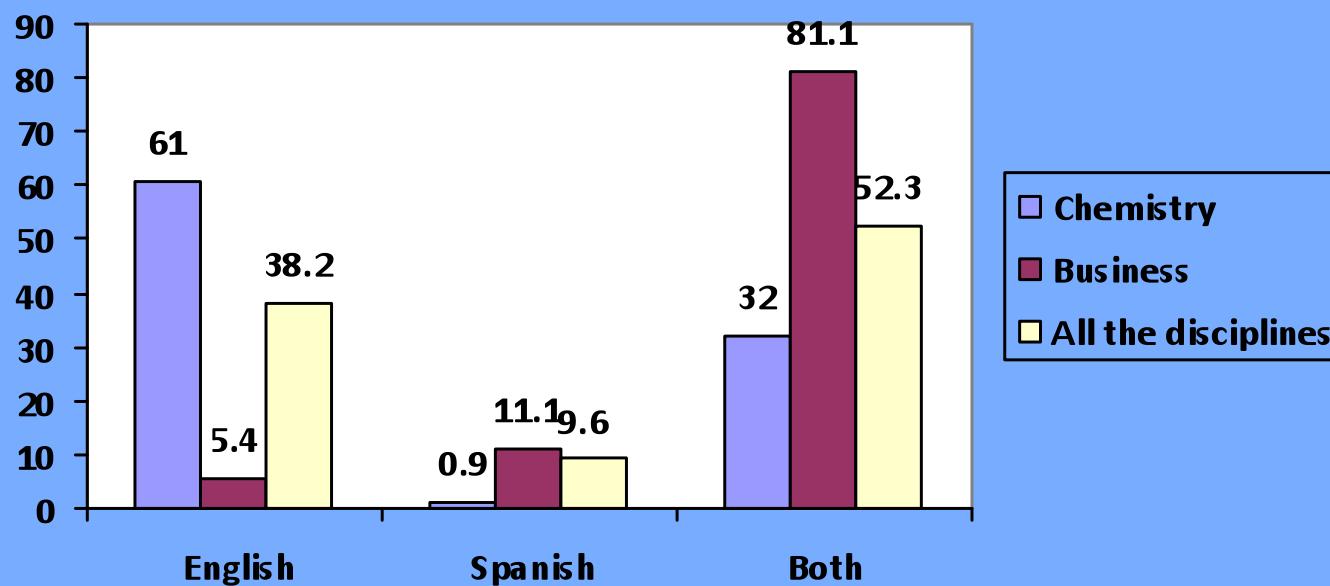


Figure 5. Percentages of respondents who use English or Spanish or both as languages of publication.

Motivations for publishing: choice of language of publication

Chemistry

English is their single language of publication.

They publish far less in Spanish compared to the general average.

A fully internationalized publication culture (Petersen and Shaw 2002).

Business

English is highly used.

Their rate of publication in English only is very low.

They publish both in English and in Spanish.

A partially internationalized publication culture (Petersen and Shaw 2002).

Publication in Spanish-medium journals due to:

- (i) local nature of their studies
- (ii) applied character of their research

Motivations for publishing: choice of language of publication (number of RAs published)

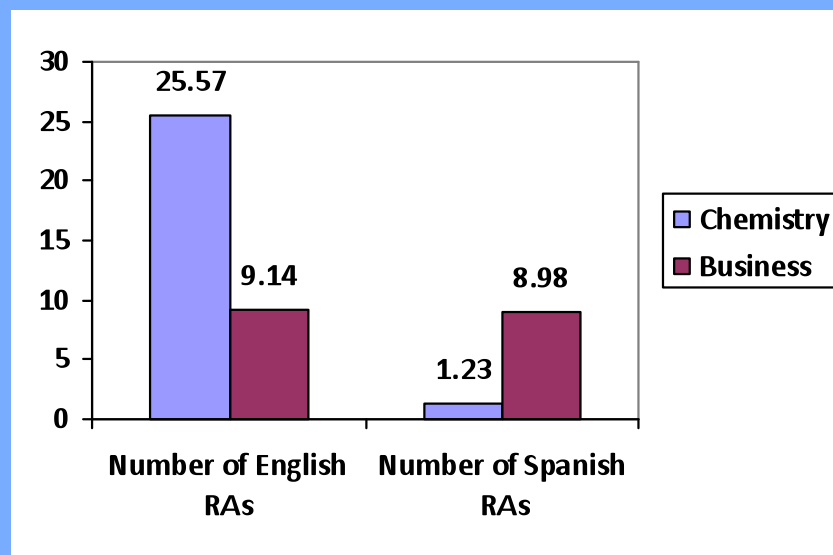


Figure 6. Average number of RAs published in both disciplines in both languages.

- ✓ Chemistry: high rate of publication in English and very low in Spanish (due to the number of signing authors in their discipline?)
- ✓ Business: publication in English and in Spanish is very similar in terms of number of RAs.

Motivations for publishing: reasons not to publish in Spanish

Comments by informants

“English is the language of my speciality”
(Chemistry)

“In my discipline, to publish in Spanish would entail losing in the range of dissemination. For me it is almost an obligation to publish in an English journal”
(Chemistry)

“There is no journal in Spanish that is rated as high in the scientific community as the journals in English. This is an undisputable fact”
(Chemistry)

There is no Spanish journal of my category in the ISI (ISI Web of Knowledge)
(Business)

Motivations for publishing: reasons not to publish in English

Comments by informants

“There is already another person in my group who is responsible for writing the articles”
(Chemistry)

“I think my writing ability in this language is below the standard the journals require”
(Chemistry)

“There are no prestigious journals in my field in English”
(Business)

Motivations for publishing: factors considered to publish RAs in English

Scale of 1 to 5 (from 1= not at all, to 5 = a lot):

	Chemistry	Business	All the disciplines
A desire to communicate the results of my research to the international scientific community	4.80	4.41	4.7
A desire for my research work to be recognized	4.58	4.45	4.5
A desire to meet the requirements for professional promotion	4.14	4.61	4.2
A desire to get cited more frequently	4.02	4.08	4.0

Table 1. Main factors signaled by informants as **most influential** at the time of deciding to publish in English.

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Scale of 1 to 5 (from 1= not at all, to 5 = a lot):

	Chemistry	Business	All the disciplines
A desire for continued existence of scientific journals in English	1.97	1.67	1.96
Assessment of the ability to write up results	2.45	2.02	2.45
A desire to improve my writing ability	2.57	2.61	2.6
Communicate my results to the local community	2.96	2.52	2.58
Increase chances of extra payment	2.67	2.75	2.57

Table 2. Main factors signaled by informants as **least influential** at the time of deciding to publish in English.

Attitudes: Desirability of publishing in Spanish/English

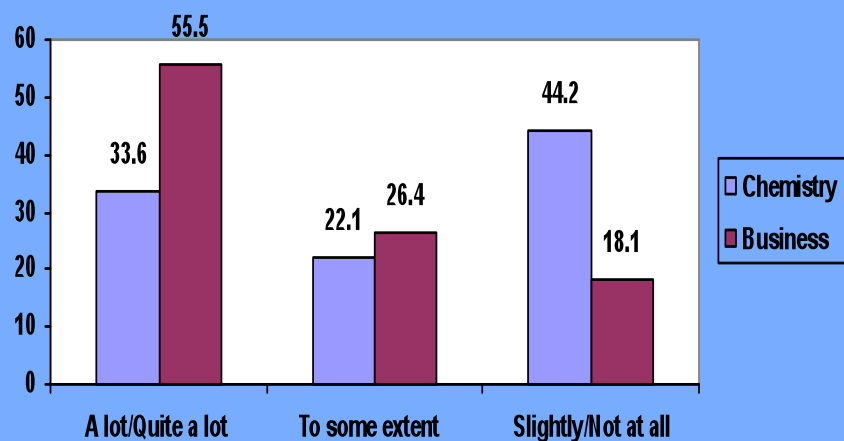


Figure 7. Desirability of publishing in Spanish in both disciplines.

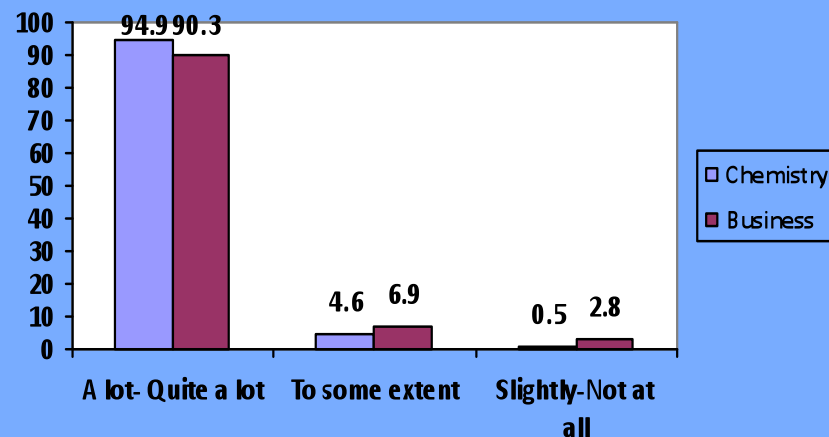
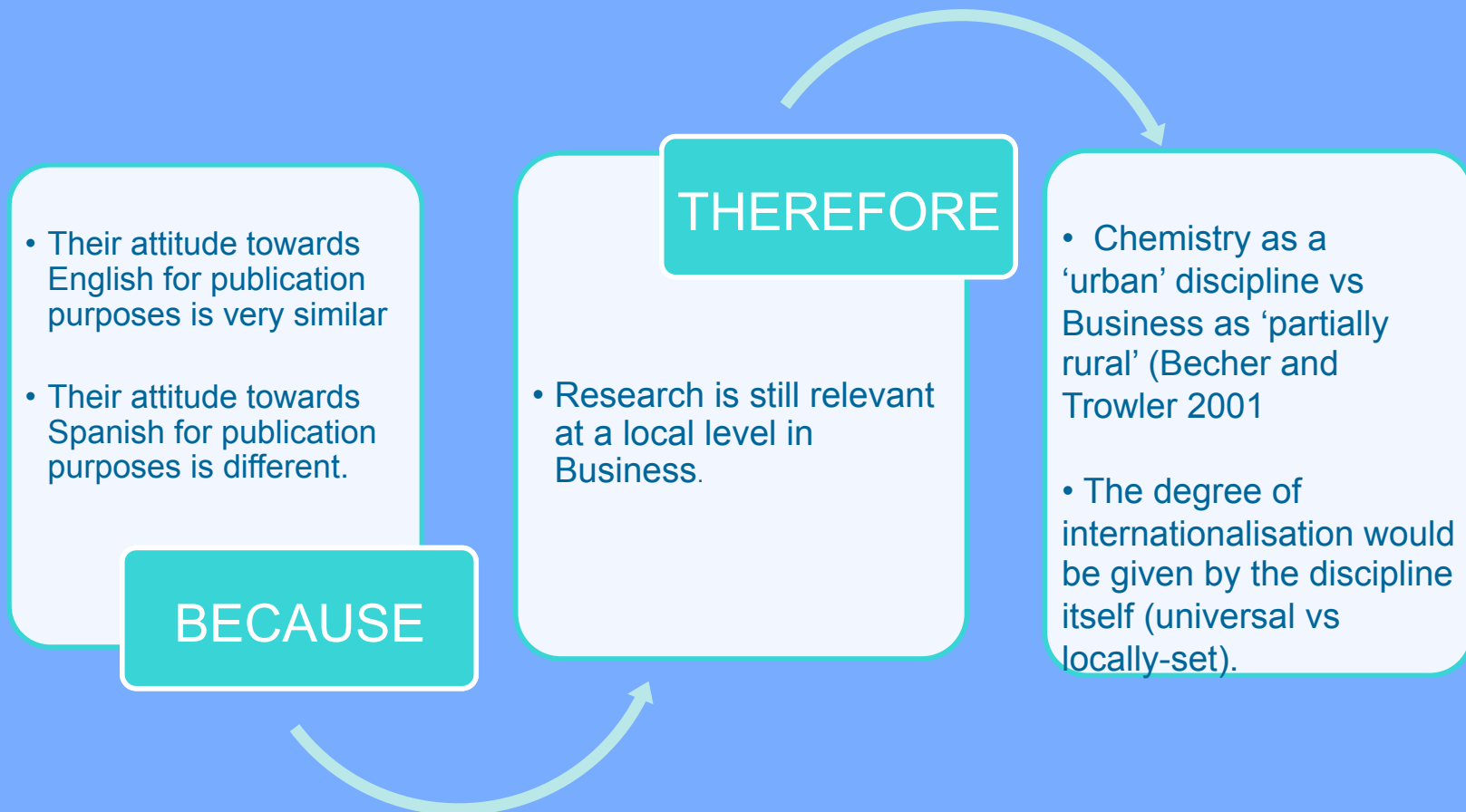


Figure 8. Desirability to publish in English in both disciplines.

- ✓ Different attitude towards Spanish, with Chemistry having ruled out publication in Spanish as an option for them and Business scholars still considering publication in Spanish as a viable option.

Attitudes: Desirability of publishing in English





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