


## English As the Language of Research and Worldwide Academic Journals

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**Abstract:** *The majority of academic and scientific research articles and works are written in English. The dominance of English in worldwide academic settings can be attributed to a number of factors. English is crucial for higher education since it introduces students to new technology that is merely accessible using English. English as an additional language (EAL) are increasing in order for their research findings to be published in foreign publications. English for Academic Purposes (EAP) includes the quickly emerging subject of English for Research Publication Purposes (ERPP). The term "English as a lingua franca" (ELF) has become widely used for referring to communication in English among speakers of diverse first languages.*

**Keywords:** Academic Journals, Dominance of English, EAL, EAP, ELF, ERPP, Scientific Research

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## Introduction

English has undoubtedly established itself as an indispensable language for worldwide academic communication. The rise of English as a lingua franca in academia may encourage the expansion of worldwide academic collaboration and international communication. The majority of academic and scientific research articles and works are written in English. A large number of worldwide intellectual journals have made English their preferred language. As English is the primary language of the majority of international academic journals and conferences, academics who do not speak the language certainly stand at a trouble.

It is true that English has emerged as one of the most crucial academic and professional languages in today's global economy. English is now the official language of the commercial and scientific sectors and is widely acknowledged as the most crucial language to master for the increasingly mobile global population (Schütz, 2005; as cited by CS Rao, 20218). Young scholars may study internationally more easily because English is the universal academic language (Graddol, D., 2006; as cited by CS Rao, 2018).

## Dominance of English in Worldwide Academic Settings

The dominance of English in worldwide academic settings can be attributed to a number of factors. One reason is that most prestigious scientific journals are published in English, so anyone desiring to get international reputation must utilize it. English's popularity is further reinforced by the fact that many of the top colleges and research institutes in the world are situated in English-speaking nations. International conferences and meetings that bring together professionals, academics, and scholars from a wide range of linguistic backgrounds will be significantly impacted by this widespread use. Standardizing academic discourse, ensuring clarity in communication, and facilitating the interchange of ideas are all made possible by a shared language.

Generally speaking, research papers are frequently rejected because the authors lack proficiency in the English language and do not use proper vocabulary, terms, or sentence patterns. Reading and comprehending study materials and writing about the subject are two purposes for which academic English is utilized. For the reader's comprehension, writing for academic or scientific study should be clear, succinct, precise, and correct. In academic writing, precise vocabulary is preferred over colloquial, idiomatic, slang, or journalistic terms, and a straightforward formal tone and style are usually employed.

It is impossible to exaggerate how important the English language is to scientific study. English is a worldwide language for academic communication that helps researchers from various linguistic origins communicate with each other. English's importance is demonstrated by how frequently it appears in scientific articles, conferences, and cooperative projects. Knowing English is almost a requirement for being able to fully engage in the international scientific discourse in today's interconnected world.

Being able to communicate in English allows many scientists to access a large collection of research articles, which keeps them abreast of developments in their areas of expertise. Proficiency in English also makes it easier to publish research findings in esteemed international publications, which raises the work's profile and impact. Additionally, networking with peers, participating in collaborative projects, and attending and presenting at conferences frequently call for a strong command of the English language.

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### Significance of English in Higher Education and Research

English is not just a universal language but also a language that is necessary for interpersonal interactions globally. For research in any topic, English is the language of choice. The most widely spoken language in the world that people can write and speak without difficulty is English. It is essential for disseminating all types of knowledge. It is true that learning English is crucial for higher education since it introduces students to new technology that is merely accessible using English. Presently, the majority of publishing houses solely publish books in English for students pursuing higher education. Additionally, the following points highlight the significance of the English language for higher education:

- The majority of books are only obtainable in English.
- The majority of early publishing houses publish books in English.
- In every field, including technology, medicine, and others, the language and terms are only available in English.
- Students must pass tough English language tests if they want to pursue further education overseas.

Since it is believed that having a common language makes it easier to produce, disseminate, and communicate scientific findings, English has long been a common language in research. The marketization of academia and globalization are linked to the demand to publish, particularly in prestigious publications (Flowerdew, 2008). In the modern world, when knowledge is regarded as power, science and technology are two crucial markers of a nation's level of development.

In practical terms, citation and publication rates are important factors in the methods used to rank colleges and universities. As a result, a growing number of universities worldwide are basing their recruiting, promotion, and reward structures on both the quality and quantity of publications, necessitating that academicians publish in internationally recognized journals (Lillis & Curry, 2010). Additionally, as part of their graduation requirements, many universities have mandated that their graduate students publish in international journals.

Most of the journals listed in major databases like Scopus and the International Scientific Indexing (ISI) are published in English, and more and more journals are adopting an English-only policy every day (Curry & Lillis, 2018; Hyland, 2015). As a result, publishing, especially in English, has become essential to academicians' lives (Lillis & Curry, 2010). Academicians and graduate students are increasingly attempting to publish in the global market, which is controlled by English, in this regard.

In actuality, one of the most important requirements in the academic world of today is the publication. Despite the fact that there are many different kinds of publications, scholars and researchers have accumulated a great deal of experience with the methods and techniques of academic publishing over time. In this way, the goal of academic publishing is to disseminate scientific research and knowledge through a variety of formats, including books, book chapters, and conference proceedings. Research articles have been the most favored and esteemed form of publication among them. Since 1665, when the first research papers were published, scholars have been actively working to further scientific understanding by publishing research articles.

In the current world, English is thought to be the most widely used language in science. Since English is the first language of many people and nations, this dominance has also sparked debate about the fundamentals of academic English writing as well as the difficulties faced by scholars when writing for publication. This is because the situation with English differs slightly from that with Latin (Kaplan, 2001; Truchot, 1990). Thus, English plays a significant role in the field of Research and Higher Education.

### English for Research Publication Purposes

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) includes the quickly emerging subject of English for Research Publication Purposes (ERPP). The English language is used in a variety of circumstances, from academic settings to daily communication. In reality, it has been shown that this language has significant influence over the spread of knowledge through research writing, which is an academic activity in and of itself. According to statistics, around 90% of journals publish research in English because of the language's self-sustaining publishing capacity (Lillis & Curry, 2010).

The significance of publishing in English, even if it is not the researcher's first language, appears across Asia, Latin America, and Europe (Englander & Uzuner-Smith, 2013; Flowerdew, 2013; Hyland, 2015; Solovova, Vieira Santos & Verissimo, 2018). According to a recent survey (Huttner-Koros, 2015), researchers in Germany, France, and Spain write more articles in English than in their native tongues.

The shift in economic ideologies that value the globalization of knowledge and the so-called knowledge economy has increased the need to publish research in English. Efforts to implement educational initiatives that assist researchers who speak English as an additional language (EAL) are increasing in order for their research findings to be published in foreign publications. The variety of these educational initiatives has given rise to a rapidly developing subject known as English for Research Publication Purposes (ERPP).

### The Motive for Publishing of Articles in English

A recent study (2015) found a high correlation between a researcher's scientific domain and their publication experiences as corresponding authors of works in both their first language and English. Unexpectedly, non-Anglophone researchers in every field reported being just as motivated to produce research articles in English. They believe that this language and their desire to have their study acknowledged and rewarded are closely related.

The most effective language to cross national borders and increase the influence of research is English, which is the lingua franca of science. Publications in international mainstream journals also provide the extra benefit of meeting one of the most crucial criteria for evaluating research. In both Anglophone and non-Anglophone nations, the majority of evaluation agencies currently use publication in the so-called mainstream journals (published primarily in English) as the primary criterion for evaluating research productivity and performance (Gibbs 1995; Wood 2001; Jiménez-Contreras et al. 2003; Osuna et al. 2011; Lam 2011; Salager-Meyer 2014).

Research articles published in esteemed publications are valued in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences and technology. When scholarly publications are listed in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science and Scopus databases, which have a high impact factor, they are regarded as the most respected. These magazines almost always publish their articles in English. A journal that publishes in English has a higher chance of being accepted into prestigious databases where English is clearly preferred.

Since the 1990s, when neoliberal knowledge economies were established, this tendency has solidified (Marginson, 2009). The quantity of research articles published in prestigious journals is one way to measure the value of knowledge, which has turned into a commodity on par with labor and natural resources in earlier economic theories.

A researcher's attempt to publish in English is driven only by the need to share new research with a broad scholarly audience, since nations and higher education institutions are ranked according to their knowledge

creation, among other factors. The impact on institutional and national reputation, however, also encourages, even coerces researchers to publish in English-language journals (Curry & Lillis, 2013; Englander & Uzuner-Smith, 2013).

### Impact of the Scientific Domain and the Use of ELF

Individuals' behavior is influenced and limited by the social networks in which they are embedded, according to numerous studies (Granovetter 1973 and 1985). This embeddedness and these social and environmental characteristics also influence the language used in scholarly publications.

Therefore, the value orientations of researchers vary based on the scientific field in which they operate, and this influences how they disseminate knowledge. Diverse academic cultures with varying beliefs, attitudes, and experiences can be found in scientific societies across various fields or specialties. These characteristics result in distinct activity patterns, language-of-publication patterns, writing genres, production methods, and time frames. As a result, depending on how they utilize reading and writing languages differently and how they interact with local and worldwide communities, various scientific specialties or fields might be classified as distinct discourse communities.

More precisely, studies in the social sciences and humanities are typically more regionally focused, while studies on the fundamentals of nature are seen to be more likely to be of interest to a global readership.

It is considered that scientists worldwide have similar knowledge, interests, and concerns when working in the former fields. Another ethical factor that influences research publishing in these last two areas is "the obligation to make research accessible to the communities studied as far as possible" (McGrath 2014). As a result, the writers' choice of language and, more broadly, their publication approach are likely to be influenced by the target audience based on the sort of knowledge provided.

Since the eighteenth century, when national scientific academies published the first works in Scientific English, the language has advanced significantly. English as a language and scientific knowledge itself may be impacted by writing in English for non-native scientists. The term "*English as a lingua franca*" (ELF) has become widely used for referring to communication in English among speakers of diverse first languages. ELF is the language used in science for this reason. The transfer and creation of scientific knowledge may be impacted by the use of English as a lingua franca, free of cultural differences, in scientific discourse.

There are two reasons why all scientific researchers are under pressure to publish their findings in prestigious English-speaking journals:

The international and universal language of scientific communication is English.

An indispensable component of a researcher's career is to publish the research findings.

Actually, English has emerged as the modern lingua franca in a world where Anglo-American nations dominate in terms of economics, science and culture. Therefore, each and every scientist must be at least somewhat proficient in English in order to gain international reputation and access to pertinent papers.

### Conclusions

The rise of English as a lingua franca in academia may encourage the expansion of worldwide academic collaboration and international communication. The majority of academic and scientific research articles and works are written in English. The dominance of English in worldwide academic settings can be attributed to a number of factors. Knowing English is almost a requirement for being able to fully engage in the international scientific discourse.

It is true that learning English is crucial for higher education since it introduces students to new technology that is merely accessible using English; and the majority of publishing houses solely publish books in English for students pursuing higher education. English as an additional language (EAL) are increasing in order for their

research findings to be published in foreign publications. The variety of these educational initiatives has given rise to a rapidly developing subject known as English for Research Publication Purposes (ERPP).

The impact on institutional and national reputation, however, also encourages, even coerces researchers to publish in English-language journals. The term "*English as a lingua franca*" (ELF) has become widely used for referring to communication in English among speakers of diverse first languages. The transfer and creation of scientific knowledge may be impacted by the use of English as a lingua franca, free of cultural differences, in scientific discourse. Thus, English is used as the Language of Research and Worldwide Academic Journals.

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