Publishing How To's for Students

Note: In mid-2024 this page was transferred “as is” from LSA’s old website, minus out-of-date hyperlinks. Please be aware that other information on the page may no longer be current.

Establishing a record of publication is important if you wish to pursue a career in linguistics. If you wish to pursue an academic career path, it is essential.

Information on the academic publishing process can be difficult to piece together. The LSA has put together this page to answer questions and provide resources to assist students, regardless of their academic level, in getting published.

1. Determining if your term paper or thesis is publishable is the first step. Keren Rice’s Publishing Workshop at the 2015 Linguistic Institute offers advice and information about this process. It is critical to discuss it with your professor(s), who can draw on their experience with the publishing process, proofread your paper, and help you find the right journal. Attending workshops and conferences also provides you with the experience of discovering what other students are researching and what experts in the field are interested in.

Types of Papers:

- **Full Research Papers / Thesis / Dissertations:** You may wish to expand something you have written for school into a publishable paper or book.
- **Review Papers:** These types of papers review and summarize other research, papers or topics.
- **Microarticles:** Small papers no more than 2 pages describing an interesting finding, negative result, or follow up to research. As with other papers, these papers must be well-written, consisting of an abstract, key words, and main text. Click here for more on microarticles.
- **Conference Papers:** If you have presented your research at an academic conference, you may be offered the opportunity to publish a version of it in the "proceedings" of that conference. Some proceedings are refereed, others are not. Click here for a list of proceedings published by the LSA.

2. There is a vast number of publishing possibilities, both academic and nonacademic. When submitting your term or research paper you should adapt it for its for a wider audience. Being
familiar with a journal can prove helpful as you may gain insight into what reviewers and readers are interested in. It may be helpful to browse the titles and abstracts featured in several recent issues of the journals that you are considering. This will give you a sense of which topics are ‘hot’ in that field, and thus more likely to be accepted. It can also give you a sense of how to title your paper and structure your abstract when you submit to that journal.

Additional linguistic journals and publications

- Elsevier (over 15 linguistic journals)
- Phonology - Cambridge Journals
- Tesol Quarterly
- Society of Linguistic Anthropology (SLA)
- The Linguist List has a vast list of journals and you are able to search specific interests

3. Journals may have different submission requirements; the second most important thing you can do after selecting your research is ensuring that your submission fully complies with the stated guidelines. Make sure that you do not miss or skip any requirements or formats the journal calls for as this could disqualify your entry. Here is some terminology that you might come accross when reviewing the requirements of your entry.

Publishing Terminology

Call for Papers - Journal and/or Conferences are requesting research, or papers for publication or presentations. Calls for papers from journals are on a recurrent cycle (annual, quarterly, monthly etc)

Unsolicited Manuscripts - Manuscript sent to a publishing house unrequested.

Review is Refereed - Synonymous with 'peer-reviewed'. Similarly, the terms 'referee' and 'reviewer' are also synonyms. "Experts, working in the same field as the author, help to evaluate the article on criteria such as the validity, originality, and competency of the work presented. These experts will suggest areas where the work can be strengthened or improved. In turn, the author then makes revisions to his or her work as suggested. If these changes cannot be made, for whatever reason, the article will not be published. This process helps to maintain a high level of quality and integrity within scholarly disciplines." - from the University of Florida Website

Review is Blind - Single Blind vs. Double Blind

Single Blind - The author does not know the identities of the reviewers, but the author's identity is disclosed throughout the review process.
**Double Blind** - The identities of both the author and reviewers are anonymous throughout the review process. For the author, this means removing all references to herself (“... in Smith 2015 I discuss ...”), as well as any other information that might allow reviewers to identify her.

4. Here are some style guides for some of the journals listed above. Remember, journal styles vary, so review each journal’s style guide before submitting.

- The Linguist List search tool for style guides
- *Language* - LSA's journal style guide
- Cambriage journal of Linguistics style guide
- MIT Press style sheet
- SLA style guide

Elsevier has provided a brochure on the publishing processes, "*How to Publish in Scholarly Journals*", information on terminology you may encounter, citation rules, ethics and copyright and much more.

5. Lastly, the publishing process can be frustrating and discouraging at times. If your paper gets rejected, don’t give up! The continuous efforts made in your research will not only help your career path but help other researchers as well. Publishing your work brings you one step closer to gaining credibility and expertise as a linguistics professional. Student research enriches our field with new ideas and innovative approaches to current issues, so be encouraged! If your paper is rejected, review it with a professor or mentor and try again! Each revision will allow you to develop stronger writing skills and advance your standing as a professional linguist.