

## The Scientific Research and the English Language in a Globalized World Case study: The Scientific Publication Criteria in the Algerian University

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Received: 31/01/2021

Accepted: 28/05/2021

Published:01/08/2021

**Abstract:** In this globalized world, English as the international language of scientific communication has dominated various domains, among the High Education. In fact, the use of English becomes a necessity as a criterion to comply with the new technologies and recent scientific development. Therefore, the Algerian university endeavors to reach the rate of this progress through a set of laws and changes in terms of curricula, educational materials, and scientific research. In this regard, this paper aims at examining the status of the scientific research in the light of the new procedures in publishing the academic articles. Writing academic papers for publication requires some norms and format that should be respected, such as the translation of the research abstract into English language in order to share thoughts and knowledge to accomplish different degrees; however, the Algerian researchers (teachers and doctoral students) do not master English. So, they resort to the machine translation which suggests an automatic translation neglecting the spirit of the original text. Accordingly, the researchers need to have a formation in order to acquire English. Since they master their topics, their research domains, they could translate their abstracts effectively. Moreover, these abstracts should be strictly reviewed by specialists, professional translators who must belong to every scientific journal in the aim of getting valuable scientific publications.

**Keywords:** English, scientific publication, research, university, translation

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## Introduction

Nowadays, with the development of informatization as well as globalization, it is evident that most people all over the world are communicating using the English language which becomes an international language. Indeed, it is the most widely used language in the international trade, diplomacy, mass entertainment, international telecommunications and scientific publications as well as publishing newspapers and other books.

English, as a lingua franca, has become the fastest increasing language in this modern world because of many factors that are contributing to its emergence. It is spread all over the world into almost all the fields such as science, engineering and technology, medicine business...Therefore, its acquisition and its use become a necessity as a criterion to comply with the new technologies and recent scientific development. Accordingly, the Algerian university endeavors to reach the rate of this progress through some reforms in terms of curricula, educational materials, scientific research...The last declaration of the Higher Education's Minister confirms that when he said, "*In order to increase the visibility of research in higher education institutions and to open up to the international environment ...it has been decided to set up a think-tank of specialists and administration officials to present proposals for promoting the use of English in teaching and research.*"<sup>1</sup>

In this regard, this paper aims at examining the status of the scientific research in the light of the new procedures in publishing the academic articles. Writing academic papers for publication requires some norms and format that should be respected, such as the translation of the research abstract into English language in order to share thoughts and knowledge to accomplish different degrees; however, the Algerian researchers (teachers and

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Fox, Riad Mazzouzi, Algeria's Higher-Education Minister Encourages Switch From French to English, Elfanar Media, 03 Sep 2019.

students) do not master English that allows them to express and share their thoughts successfully and effectively. So, could these reforms improve the scientific research in the Algerian universities? To which extent does translation contribute to produce and publish the academic searches in English?

## 1. The Necessity of the English Language

English is widely used in the field of science and technology. It has also been adopted as the de facto universal language and this resulted a great impact on scientific communication. As a result, scientists all around the world can make use of the available scientific literature and communicate with the scientists of the other regions wherever they are in the world. Actually, it is required for a great number of professions and occupations. Since the middle of the twentieth century, there has been a drastic change in the global scientific community. Now, English has become the prevalent predominant language in some non-English speaking countries. In this context, Adam Huttner-Koros says, "*The academic papers outnumber in publications in the English language several times more than that of in their countries' own languages*<sup>2</sup>". He further says that this ratio is astounding that it has reached 40:1. It reveals that scientists who wish to produce influential, globally recognized work have to publish their papers in English as they have to share and enhance their knowledge with other scientists around the globe either by attending several international conferences, seminars and workshops or by reading papers written in English or through their discussions in English. Kumju Hwang, in his case study in 2005 on Korean scientists who were living in the UK mentions', "*The reason that (non-native English speaking scientists) have to use English, at a cost of extra time and effort, is closely related to*

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<sup>2</sup> Adam Huttner-Koros, The Hidden Bias of Science's Universal Language, *The Atlantic*, August 24, 2015

*their continued efforts to be recognized as having internationally compatible quality and to gain the highest possible reputation*<sup>3</sup>.

Even in the scientific publications, English plays a dominant role as more than 80% of all scientific journal articles in 1998 were indexed by Chemical Abstracts and these were written only in English. Moreover, almost all the articles published in natural science in 1996 were in English and 90% of the publications in humanities by 1995 were also in English<sup>4</sup>. In the field of scientific research also our scientists prove their talent and getting progress in all their attempts as they have a common language to communicate with their co-scientists of the other regions of the world. As most of the literature available in scientific and technology which are the major fields in the present research is in English, there is a need to learn the English language by all the students as well as researchers around the world.

## **2. Education**

It is a known fact that English plays a predominant role in the field of education all over the world. It has become a compulsion to learn English as most of the books of higher education are written in English. English has been widely used by the students as well as the teachers and researchers around the world as English is required for various fields of education and it is regarded as the language of the information which is stored in the form of books and journals in both printed and electronic form (database). As there have been rapid changes in the field of educational system, the students can make use of the resources available all around the world just by accessing the internet.

Moreover, the learners can learn the subjects independently and develop self-learning attitude. Nowadays, most of the students would prefer to study in a foreign country in order to get better employment opportunities around the world and English will be a great asset for

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<sup>3</sup>Adam Huttner-Koros, opcit.

<sup>4</sup>Rainer Enrique Hamel, The dominance of English in the international scientific periodical literature and the future of language use in science, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2007, P57.

them. So, the learners of English as a foreign language are encouraged to learn English in order to promote their learning abilities in the fields of science and technology, IT, engineering, medicine, law, business, tourism, and so on. Though English is not an official language in some countries, the syllabi in science and engineering are written in English because most of the literature in these areas around the world is available only in English.

As the main intention of writing the materials of higher education in English is to make it available for the learners and the teachers wherever they are located on this earth, most of the students, teachers and research scholars make use of this opportunity to enhance their qualification as well as knowledge. So, there is also a possibility for them to improve their language skills and also with the learning knowledge of these subjects. Therefore, the importance of English in the field of education is of immense use as most of the books and research are published in English.

### 3. Internet

The widespread of English as an international language and with the advent of the internet as a mode of fast communication channel which has no boundaries, both are mutually enforcing novel trends and bringing tremendous changes in this age of globalization. Since the inception of the internet, it has brought drastic changes and revolutionized the ways of people's communication and their learning of their English language in the global context. The internet has become an important linguistic medium as computer-mediated communication which is one of the main factors of globalization. The internet has become essential for every aspect of human life including the learning of languages. In 1960s, a new term 'global village' was coined by McLuhan (1962) and he further says, "Electronic communication will unite the world because *"the medium is the message"*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Wikipedia

#### 4. English Language and the Algerian University

Nowadays, the necessity to know languages is increasingly recognized, as the world has become a 'global village'. Taking into account that the role of English in this global community is becoming increasingly important, English is primary the language of new Media and other domains. It is spoken by about 1,5 billion people and is the language of international communication in business, diplomacy, technology, travel...

Therefore, the emphasis on teaching English is becoming a vital part of education all over the world. In the specific case of Algeria, the recognition of the Ministry of Education of the growing importance of English can be noticed. In 2001, The Ministry of Education announced the educational reform and numerous changes have occurred concerning the situation of teaching English. While, English is still considered to be the second foreign language in the Algerian Educational System after French, it has received considerable attention within the educational Reform.

Indeed, it is stated that, *"The aim of teaching English is to help our society to get harmoniously integrated in modernity through a fully complete participation within a community of people who use English in all types of interactions - this participation should be based on sharing and exchanging ideas as well as experiences being scientific, cultural, or civilisational – this participation will help for better understanding for oneself and the other"*.<sup>6</sup>

Moreover, at the level of the higher education, new measures and norms are taken to spread the use of English in administration and teaching. In this regard, the Algerian Higher Education Minister, Tayeb Bouzid, declared that *"the French language does not get us anywhere"*<sup>7</sup>, and ordered the country's 77 universities and higher education institutes to use English rather than French.

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<sup>6</sup> [Lamine Ghanmi](#), Languages in Maghreb, The Arab Weekly, 03/08/2019

<sup>7</sup> [Lamine Ghanmi](#), opcit.

By Algerian law, official documents are written in Arabic and *French* at all levels and all learning specialties' are in Arabic. Government officials must address the public in Arabic.

Consequently, Bouzid wrote to university rectors, *"Within the framework of the policy to encourage and strengthen the use of English to give better visibility of education and scientific activities in the higher education system, I urge you to use both Arabic and English in official documents."*<sup>8</sup> »

In other speech, he added, *"English is an unavoidable language because it controls more than 75% of the world flow of scientific knowledge and 90.7% of fundamental science, the international visibility of our universities, their ranking and their attractiveness and the job opportunities of university graduates will gain from the English language."*<sup>9</sup> »

Before the decision to encourage English use at universities, it had been making progress in Algeria following economic and social dynamics. Some ministries, such as defense and energy, encouraged employees to learn English to interact with foreign counterparts. Wide access to the internet has helped spread English.

#### **4.1. The Need of English Language for the Scientific Publications**

Publication is a significant achievement in the researcher's life since it is 'public knowledge' recognition. In fact, publishing is commonly defined as the process by which an author's interesting ideas, opinions, and observations are turned into a journal contribution in the aim of sharing knowledge. And this could be in the form of research notes, conference proceedings, or review articles... For the scientist, publishing suggests more than it is

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

normally believed. It is an integral part of the research cycle. It is the “*process whereby a scientist’s research findings are transformed into accredited factual knowledge*”.<sup>10</sup>

As it has been mentioned above, the use of English in the scientific context becomes a necessity. English, as the universal language of science, seems to convey practical benefits because it is not easier to learn, but mostly because it is the language of the most powerful nations of the world. This language offers English speaking scientists plenty of material to read, makes communication easier among them and allows access to numerous web sites...But the situation is far more different for non-English speaking scientists.

In fact, publication, in a non-English speaking context, is no longer aimed at prestige or pride; rather it is a matter of survival, as it is often summed up by the dictum: “*Publish in English or Perish*”.

Accordingly, it is strongly believed that language barriers may act as a serious problem for a great number of scientists. Their inadequate English language skills may hamper their efficiency as scientists and restrict their participation. For instance, Algerian scientists are constrained to publish in a language that they don’t know well. They are not able to cope with the international exigencies. Their English language skills are so poor, especially for the researchers who belong to other disciplines and domains where English is not required as a purpose of study. However, to publish a scientific article, English is highly requested even it is just about the abstract which should be translated into English. In fact, since the researchers do not master the English language, they appeal to the automatic translation (Machine Translation) which suggests a literal translation without spirit. It is a formal transfer that denies the language genius (grammar, culture...)

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<sup>10</sup> Gilbet, G.N. 1976, Transformation of Research Findings into Scientific Knowledge. Social Studies of Science. Vol. 6: 281-306.



To clarify more this matter, we propose the following sample:

### Sample 1

This abstract was extracted from an article written by an Algerian researcher in the Arabic literature.

#### تجليات حس المواطنة في فيلم ربح الجنوب

##### الملخص

يعد فيلم ربح الجنوب من الأفلام الجزائرية التي برعت في التعبير عن الواقع الجزائري، فهو فيلم اجتماعي مقتبس من رواية ربح الجنوب، تم إنتاجه في منتصف السبعينات (1975م)، حيث عالج قضية اجتماعية ذات محورين هما: الأرض والمرأة. وفي هذا السياق كشف عن عدّة تجارب سياسية و اقتصادية و اجتماعية و ثقافية تعكس صور المواطنة داخل المجتمع الجزائري. عبّر هذا الفيلم عن فترة زمنية ارتبطت مباشرة بما بعد الاستقلال، حيث ترجم بصورة مرئية أهم مظهر من مظاهر الحرية و هي " المواطنة" التي تجعل الفرد يجمع بين حقوقه ومسؤولياته في آن واحد. وتتجلى في الفيلم في بعض الشخصيات، نذكر أهمها " سي مالك" كشخصية ثورية لها حضور سياسي ووعي قومي، و المعلم "سي الطاهر" كشخصية مثقفة لها فكرها الخاص في التعبير عن المواطنة، وفي الاتجاه الآخر نجد "عابد بن القاضي" الذي قدّمه الفيلم كشخصية إقطاعية تقدّم مصلحتها قبل مصلحة الوطن. بالإضافة إلى "نفيسة" التي تبحث عن حرية ذاتها في ظل النظرة الدونية للمجتمع الريفي للمرأة. وفي ظل الصراع الفكري الذي يعكسه الفيلم، سنحاول استظهار أبعاد المواطنة بناء على خصوصية السرد الفيلمي.

This is its translation using the machine translation.

### Summary

#### Manifestations of the sense of citizenship in the film South Wind

The Wind of the South is one of the Algerian films that excelled in expressing the Algerian reality. It is a social film adapted from the novel Wind of the South, produced in the mid-seventies (1975 AD), as it addressed a social issue with two axes: the land and women. In this context, he revealed several political, economic, social and cultural experiences that reflect images of citizenship within Algerian society. This film expresses a period of time that is directly related to what is after independence, as it visually translated the most important aspect of freedom, which is "citizenship" that makes the individual Combines his rights and

responsibilities at the same time. Some of the characters appear in the film, the most important of which is "Si Malik" as a revolutionary figure with a political presence and national awareness, and the teacher "Si Al-Taher" as an educated figure with her own thought of expressing citizenship, and on the other hand we find "Abed bin Al-Qadi," who was presented by the film as a character. Feudalism that presents its interest before the interest of the homeland, in addition to "Nafisa" that searches for self-freedom in light of the inferior view of rural society for women. In light of the intellectual conflict that the film reflects, we will try to highlight the dimensions of citizenship based on the specificity of the film narration.

At the first glimpse, the transfer of the text seems correct, however, it needs to be reviewed. Some sentences are not well structured; such as the underlined ones. Since the researcher does not master English, he cannot reformulate or correct them. Moreover, some words are not suitable as equivalents; like the novel title "Rih Eldjanoub" which is translated to South Wind. It is a formal equivalent. In this context, a cultural background is required since this kind of wind is characterised by heat and it blows during a given season. So, the closest meaning is Monsoon Wind.

Thus, we suggest this translation that was done by a translator;

### **Abstract**

#### **Manifestations of the Citizenship Sense in *Monsoon Wind* Movie**

The Monsoon Wind is one of the Algerian films that proficiently tackled the Algerian reality. In fact, it is a social film adapted from "*Monsoon Wind*" novel, produced in the mid-seventies (1975). It discussed a social issue with two axes: the land and the woman. In this context, it revealed several political, economic, social and cultural experiences that reflect images of citizenship within the Algerian society. This film depicted the postcolonial period. It transferred visually the most important manifestations of liberty which is the citizenship. Accordingly, some of the characters appear in the film, such as; "Si Malik" who is a revolutionary figure with a political presence and national awareness, and the teacher "Si Al-Taher", as an intellectual man who has his own idea of expressing citizenship. On the other

hand, there is "Abed bin Al-Qadi," who was presented as a feudal character. In addition to "Nafisa" who was seeking for her freedom in the rural society that despises women. Therefore, in light of the intellectual conflict that the film reflects, the present paper attempts to highlight the dimensions of citizenship based on the specificity of the film narration.

Whilst English was found to serve different purposes; Scientists use the language to read scientific literature, to communicate with foreign peers, to take part in international meetings; but essentially, the language was used to translate research findings into published material to be read by the wider research community. For that, English should be taught at colleges of different disciplines by teachers of language to able our future researchers to acquire a linguistic competence. Moreover, scientists have to learn English in order to deepen their thought, typically in our days.

## 5. Conclusion

As a result, English language should be learned and acquired at university despite the speciality in order to reach the scientific progress, establishing communication with different universities in the world. It is necessary to publish papers in English through an interdisciplinary collaboration. That requires great efforts between teachers of English, translators, teachers of other disciplines, and foreign researchers to share and enhance knowledge.

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