

Academic publishing in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Key Issues and trends for journal editors

John Adamson

University of Niigata Prefecture, Japan

Abstract

This presentation discusses the issues and trends in academic publishing in Applied Linguistics and TESOL which face journal editors in a time in which there has been an explosion in the number of online English-language journals catering for an increasing demand for publication among scholars. I draw upon key literature and my own experiences as an editor to focus upon three interrelated perspectives: scholar positioning, journal positioning, and centering forces. Scholar positioning is viewed through the lens of the researcher's identity and ethnicity in relation to perceptions of geographical location and workplace status as either contingent or non-contingent faculty. These criteria in turn may alter our relative degree of access to funding and research literature which then lead to the necessity to compensate by means of brokering and networking in order to pursue research. These considerations surrounding scholarly activity are also connected to journal positioning in the field and the degree to which journal scope and readership accommodates our research perspectives. Journals themselves are examined in terms of what business models they adopt: Open or Closed Access; and the various versions of Gold, Green or Diamond Open Access. This embraces discussion of if, and to what extent, journals pursue profit and how they locate themselves within the wider intellectual commons. The third perspective through which we can observe academic publishing is that of the role of centering forces in our discipline – the influences exerted on scholars and journals by universities, governments and indexing organizations. This raises issues of citation, representation of Open Access journals in indexes and the potential impact of Impact Factor metrics on journals and scholars.

Keywords: Academic Publishing, Applied Linguistics, and TESOL