

## Increasing Rejection Rate of Research Manuscript

Tesfaye Gebeyehu

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Since an official accreditation of 16 local (Ethiopian) journals including the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS) by MOSHE two years ago (December 2020), dozens of manuscripts are being submitted to the journal for a possible publication. While this is a blessing on the one hand, as compared to a few manuscripts that used to be submitted before the journal's accreditation, it is a challenge, on the other hand, with regards to managing the manuscripts timely. This editorial lists the experienced challenges and possible remedies.

**Lack of Novelty:** Ethiopian journals are expected to be accredited every three years. Among the criteria required to do so is a novelty. In this regard, a large number of manuscripts submitted to EJSSLS lack novelty, originality, and are obsolete. This is especially true in the area of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFEL). The recent studies, especially done by M.A. students, seem to have been copied from old studies.

**Improper rationale:** Researchers and reviewers are required to think critically and logically as their audiences are the scientific community and policymakers. However, disappointingly, a number of irrationally driven authors and reviewers are appearing, especially in studies related to nationalism. The way they cite sources, analyse, interpret, and comment on data is very subjective. They come with an argument of partial activists instead of scientists (researchers). Since publishing irrationally addressed manuscripts spoil the integrity of science in general and the quality of EJSSLS in particular, we will reject such manuscripts at the preliminary review stage. But this does not mean that nationalism-related manuscripts, which are logically reasoned out, supported with well-profound sources, and have significant impacts are subjected to rejection.

**Flaws in methodology and analysis:** Some of the manuscripts submitted to our journal have flaws in methodology such as inappropriate sample size, sampling techniques, inappropriate or incomplete statistics, analysis, inadequate interpretation, and inappropriate conclusions and recommendations. Hence, before submitting their manuscripts, contributors must check carefully whether their manuscripts are free from such flaws.

**Shortage of reviewers' and authors delayed response:** The other factor that forces the journal to increase the rejection rate is a shortage of reviewers or reviewers' delayed response. Though interestingly many reviewers agree to review and reply in the given time, only a few reply, accordingly. Additionally, some authors create problems for themselves and the editors. For one thing, they do not well address the

comments given by the reviewers and the editors and return at the appointed time. Hence, we advise contributors to suggest five potential reviewers (assistant professors and above) who can review quickly; the journal may use them to review either yours or other similar manuscripts. We also advise you to address carefully and quickly comments given by reviewers and editors and reply in the due time. This can speed up the review process. Please note that not doing so subjects your manuscript to rejection even though your manuscript is earth-shaking.

**Disrespecting the journal's policy:** Many contributors submit manuscripts that are not prepared in line with the policy of the journal. We experienced intact MA theses of 60 to 70 pages submitted where our tolerance is up to 9000 words. Since this could be a pretext for rejection, we recommend such authors prepare their manuscript by consulting the "Information to Contributors" which is available on the journal's Webpage and on the back of the Print Copy.

**Inappropriateness for the journal:** The other reason that forces the journal to increase the rejection rate is the inappropriateness of a manuscript for the journal. Such a problem is created because of the authors' reluctance in checking the scope of the journal's publication.

**Poor communication:** Whatever a scientific work is earth-shaking, if it does not communicate well, it is subjected to rejection. Such a problem is manifested not only in the work of novel researchers but also in that of profound professors. Hence, manuscript contributors should check whether their paper communicates effectively. It is important to check whether ideas are well developed, unified, and coherent.

Based on these and other unmentioned reasons, as of Vol. 9 No.1, we will reject manuscripts with such flaws at a preliminary review process and inform the contributors within a few days or weeks. Therefore, dear authors, before submitting manuscripts to EJSSLS for a possible publication, please make sure that your work addresses novel idea, is free of methodological flaws, and has been analysed and discussed adequately and critically. Please also make sure that it communicates clearly and it is up to the guideline of the journal.

The editor