EDITORIAL

Amending the Guidelines of the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS)

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The Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS), which is hosted by the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, of Jimma University, released its First Issue in June 2014. According to The Editorial of the first issue of EJSSLS, the journal had been established for three main reasons:

> The first reason is the existence of a number of disciplines; diversified research based postgraduate programs, and large number of instructors who have been involved in research. Second, for the College, having its own journal encourages more instructors (from other universities also) in the area of social sciences and language studies to involve in research and publications. Researchers from this College have been publishing their manuscripts in the Ethiopian Journal of Education and Sciences and somewhere else for the college did not have its own journal. Though the Ethiopian Journal of Education and Sciences has contributed a lot in this regard, because of its limited capacity, scope and focus areas, it could not host manuscript contributors from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as needed. Third, the college now has enough experienced researchers, assistant professors, and instructors who have terminal degrees. Hence, problems related to sustainability of publication, internal reviewers and editors have been reduced (Tesfaye, 2014, p.i).

In addition to addressing the three aforementioned reasons, the Journal was launched with the vision of being one of the most preferable journals in Africa and with the mission of disseminating quality publication to the wider readership. To make realizable these vision and mission, basic requirements such as well equipped journal office, editorial board and international advisory board members were assigned, and constitution/guidelines was ratified tentatively. The Journal at its inception had 8 editorial board members all from College of Social Sciences and Humanities of Jimma University representing the then departments.

Since its inception in June 2014 to the present reputable stage, the journal has passed through ups and downs; it has encountered challenges such as delay of review process, burden of the job on a few editorial board members, passivity of most of the international advisory board members, lack of incentives for the editors of the journal, manual management of manuscripts, attempts of hacking or downing of the webpage of the journal, absence of plagiarism checker, and resistance of most manuscript contributors to follow the journal's guideline, to mention just a few but predominant ones.

Despite these challenges, because of the commitment of some of the editorial board members and some concerned internal and external reviewers, appreciative authors, supportive deans and administrative director of the College, the Journal has

published a number of quality publications from Ethiopia and out of Ethiopia both online and in print, and now it has reached a stage of reputability. It has surpassed three volumes and six issues which is the minimal requirement for reputable journal (Legislation of Jimma University, 2015). Consequently, the number of articles contributed to the journal started rising. All these imply the importance of improving the guidelines of the Journal. At the inception of the journal, its guideline was not complete; yet it was accepted by the editorial board just to launch the Journal. For example, it lacked policies related to correction and retraction of manuscript. Further, as compared to the Journal's emerging stage, now it requires copy right modification, correction and retraction policy, language policy, more supportive editorial board and international advisory board members, full time managing editor, copy editor, content and layout editor, and secretary, just to mention some. Hence, to better fulfill its vision and mission, it is important not only to improve the guidelines of the Journal based on the lessons that have been learnt from the past four years' experiences, but also to endorse it.

After incorporating these additional elements, for further comment, the guideline has been dispatched to the editorial board members and the consultant office of the University. After considering the given comments, it has come in its present form. But this does not mean that the guideline is complete; it will be improved further as needs arise. Hence, you are cordially invited to give your scholarly suggestions[1].

Using this opportunity, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the betterment of the guideline. I am also very grateful to Ato Birhanu Beyene (ex member of Jimma University, school of Law) and Dr. Birhanu Abera (Addis Ababa University), who supplied me with the materials that are very helpful in preparing the guidelines of the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies. Last, but not least, my heartiest thanks goes to Mr. Yosef Alemu, legal consultant of the University, Dr. Tesfaye Refera, Publication Director of Jimma University, and Mr. Chimdi Wakuma, law graduate, and an academic staff of Jimma University, who gave professional comments on the content and structure of the guideline.

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Editor-in – Chief of EJSSLS

Reference

Jimma University Academic Legislation (Draft) (2015).

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[1] The guidelines can be accessed through the Journal's address: http://www.ju.edu.et/cssljournal/.