

## EDITORIAL

**Respecting the Policy of the Journal: A Factor for Timely Publication**Tesfaye Gebeyehu<sup>1</sup>

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Authors require timely peer review and publication for papers they send for possible publication. Especially when the manuscript is needed for upgrading purpose, the demand for timely publication rises. Many manuscripts are sent to The Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS) for quick and possible publication. The editors of the journal are working hard to satisfy the demand of the authors. However, we the editors of the journal, during the last three years, have found that many authors do not strictly follow the policy of the journal in general and the “Information to Contributors” in particular. Consequently, timely publication has become a challenge. Some areas that presented challenges to the editors are as follows.

**Language:** When we call for paper, we always inform authors that their manuscript must be edited for language. However, the language used for composing most of the manuscripts we have received so far is below the required standard—it does not well communicate the subject matter. Even after a manuscript is edited for language, incorporating the given comments in to the manuscript is time demanding for the editors.

**References:** The journal follows a referencing style of American Psychological Association (APA) for any manuscript from different disciplines submitted to the journal. But authors send their manuscript with different citation and referencing styles. This also has presented challenges to the editors to release issues timely.

**Abstract:** Problems related to abstract writing are twofold as far as the editors’ experience is concerned. The “Information to Contributors”, which is given on the inner back page of the journal and posted on the journal’s webpage reads: “This [the abstract] should be a single paragraph standing alone (not italic), and not exceeding 250 words. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, instruments used to collect data, methods of analysis, the principal results and major conclusions as well as recommendation/implication”. The problem is that many authors do not obey the given information. For one thing, they write more than 250 words. For the other thing, they do not include the basic components of an abstract. A few authors may be because of their busy schedule ask the editors to write and to shorten the abstract for them. Imagine the burden it adds to the editors.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor in-chief-of the journal

**Article Length:** According to the policy of the journal, “original manuscripts should not exceed 15 pages. Book review and Article Review should not exceed 2000 and 8,000 words respectively. Editorial preferably consist of no more than 1,000 to 1,500 words and usually do not have subheadings. Short communication should not exceed 4 pages”. Yet, many of the manuscripts sent to the journal are beyond the required length. Shortening the length to the required size takes longer time; hence delay of publication.

**Submission:** The policy of the journal requires authors to sign and submit manuscript submission form along with the manuscript as an email attachment. However, some authors do not do so. This delays the review process because the editors do not initiate the review process without getting guaranty from a corresponding author that the manuscript has not been published or has not been considered for possible publication somewhere else. After passing through review and editorial process, just before their release/publish, a few manuscripts have been found plagiarized. Hence, the editors of the journal have the right to request corresponding authors to submit signed manuscript submission form. The “Information to contributors” reads: “Signed manuscript submission form should accompany the manuscript (it can be copied from the journal’s Wabe page)”. Not doing so also delays timely publication.

So far we have spent great deal of sacrifices to maintain quality of publications and time of issue releases. However, after now, though we do love helping our dear manuscript contributors, we editors cannot give such services for varies reasons such as large number of submitted manuscripts, work burden and family responsibilities. Now, since the journal by default has reached the stage of reputability, the editors would be forced to prioritize manuscripts with very important issues and strictly follow the policy of the journal. Hence, dear respected manuscript contributors, to get your manuscripts published timely, please follow strictly the policy of the journal.

Regards,

The editor-in-Chief