



What to do to get your research published (in linguistics)¹

The 'right' time to start publishing

- If your work is good, it's never too early; don't hold back. If in doubt, ask your supervisor or senior peers
- BUT: don't go for easy and fast publication at the expense of quality outlets
- Make sure the publication can fulfill its function for a career later on: it should be a peer-reviewed journal or book (series); the publisher has to be solid with a good reputation; 'open access' if possible

Tips and strategies for novice researchers for getting papers accepted for publication

- Make a list of journals in which you would like to see your work appear
- Then choose the journal that you read most for your own research as it will be read by people who will be interested in your work as well
- Read articles in that journal with respect to style; develop a feeling for academic writing; 'the way things are done' in this journal
- Don't submit to more than one journal/publisher at the same time because the journal will have to find reviewers to give feedback; indeed, many journals have that as a requirement (you need to ascertain it is not under review elsewhere)
- Don't hesitate to ask your supervisor or more senior people with respect to experience with a particular journal [sometimes the process can be very long]
- Don't try to write up your entire PhD in one article; focus on a manageable sub-question make sure your argument is coherent (Research question? Data? Ethics? Methodology? Match of data with method? Results? Discussion? Outlook?)
- Take the technical requirements seriously for in-text referencing and the presentation of examples/tables/figures as well as the reference section (use endnote, citavi, etc.)
- Never submit your paper without having received feedback from peers with respect to content and language
- If you publish in a language that is not your mother tongue, make sure that a native speaker checks your language
- "Don't waist reviewers' time", i.e. make sure that you have done your job carefully so that you don't use the reviewers as a sounding board for rough ideas only or make their reading experience difficult by not paying attention to technical requirements
- Don't be offended when criticism is returned and you're asked to revise: this happens to all of us and is part of the academic dialogue; sleep over it and approach the points with a fresh mind; the paper is guaranteed to be better afterwards
- If a journal rejects your paper, you can submit it to another journal; however, you should make sure to revise it first as it can happen that the new journal picks the same reviewers

¹ This (incomplete) list was provided by Miriam Locher for a workshop at the linguistics i-mean conference in 2015 at the University of Warwick. The headers were given by the workshop organizers. Updated 25/10/2017.



Advice for good co-authoring and how to work effectively together on a paper

- Only work with people who you know you can get along
- Ideally, you have the same understanding of how to deal with deadlines write with a particular journal in mind {target audience, style}
- Start by sketching the paper in its rough shape (sections, aims, etc.); then assign who does what and try to make allowances for your different strengths
- Set clear dates for the steps: who has to have done what by when; always fix the next date for a meeting
- Allow enough time for steps that take longer: e.g. transcribing; establishing categories for qualitative coding and coder agreement, etc.
- Be constructive and nice: many academics are thin skinned
- If the sequence of how the authors should be named is an issue, then either make sure that you write at least two papers together and alternate the sequence; or keep the sequence open and decide at the end who should go first

- Publishing with your supervisor: In some disciplines this is common practice and even required {in the case of funded joint projects}, in others it might be frowned upon (check with your supervisor)

- Career planning: Make sure that your publication list will also show clearly that you can work on your own as well as in a team. A hiring committee will want to know what parts of your publications are due to your input.

Further thoughts

- At the latest when you're going for jobs, make sure that you have an up-to-date website that lists your publications and academic activities and provides a CV. If you do not plan on publishing your PhD as a monograph {as is required in some parts of Europe and common practice in many parts of the US}, make sure that it becomes clear what you have worked on.
- Make your work available to readers by providing downloads either through the repository of your institution or by uploading your papers to your personal website; however, make sure that you're not violating copyright agreements with the publishers. Publishers will let you know which documents can be made open access (e.g. the pre-reviewed version, or the post-review version, or the revised version; a pdf of an entire book, or pdfs directly from the edited collection or the journal itself are usually not allowed; if in doubt, check with your publisher)

Language issues

- Avoid colloquialisms or vague words (pretty, interesting, way, etc.)
- Avoid complex and convoluted syntax (no sentences that combine arguments with colons and semi-colons and lists in brackets and sub-clauses and etc.); if you cannot immediately 'draw' the syntax tree, then consider splitting the sentence
- Avoid unwarranted generalizations in the conclusion
- Strike all usage of 'hence' and 'thus' unless they are really necessary
- Avoid ad hominem attacks and be considerate and humble in your own suggestions