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Novice L2 Researcher's Experience in Writing Academic Papers on Econometrics in English

It is intuitively evident that communication is fundamental to contemporary daily life. This involves our participation in a variety of discourse communities, including professional communities. In particular, in the world of academia communication plays a critical role in the maintenance and growth of scientific knowledge as academics need to communicate their ideas through their conference presentations and scholarly papers. Academic communication can be carried out in a variety of ways and the chosen approach is usually a reflection of the author's specific research objectives. In most cases, the major objective is to fill a research gap in a given academic field. This requires an academic to get acquainted with a state-of-the-art in her/his field and formulate a research problem that has not been researched before. However, even if a researcher comes up with the most innovative research findings, these findings are not recognized and acknowledged in the global scholarship if they are not effectively communicated. Since today English is the *lingua franca* of the academic

world, in order to participate in a global scholarly exchange, English as an Additional Language (EAL) scholars need to align themselves with the lexical and rhetorical norms established by their international disciplinary communities.

As an aspiring young researcher in the field of econometrics and PhD student at Imperial College London, I had an opportunity to publish a few articles which required meeting international publication standards set by leading scientific journals. In my scientific writing in English I am expected to express my ideas in a clear and concise manner. What matters most is the way you communicate your research findings; namely, the relevance of your findings, not a linguistic finesse. As a researcher in the area of Quantitative Methods, i.e. primarily econometrics, economics and energy markets I am used to precise, direct and to the point communication. What I am expected to focus on is how successfully convey the meaning of my work which is captured in the description of the research problem, the methodology applied and the results.

I find reading field literature in English extremely helpful in my own research work, not only in terms of scientific ideas but also how to address global audiences. For example, a disciplinary-sanctioned convention to express the author's opinion is to use either in a plural form "we", impersonal form "one" or the passive voice. This contrasts with the Polish writing tradition in my field where it is customary to use the first person pronoun to express the author's voice.

Being in a competitive academic environment, I am able to learn from the research and methodological experience of my PhD supervisor and other research contacts. I also have an opportunity to participate in a large number of international conferences (e.g., *The Impact of Machine Learning and AI on the UK economy*, *IAEE International Conference and Energy for a Net Zero Society*) as well as workshops (e.g., *Business*

models and financial characteristics of community energy in the UK) or networking sessions (linked with a PhD career fair). During my academic core courses, I learn new research and methodological skills and tools, and refine my analytical, empirical and theoretical skills. What is more, I have access to a wide range of academic resources, including archives and other library resources as well as equipment, software (Matlab, Bloomberg terminal, STATA, Statistica etc.) and a wide range of advanced academic writing courses (e.g., Effective writing and presentation, PhD Paper Development) unavailable in my native country. Also, very competent and helpful librarians assist me with referencing etc. and placing orders for inter-library loans if a book I need is not available at my university's library. Additionally, there are also language courses available which are free of charge or at a very low cost for PhD students.

It is also worth mentioning that having my university login I can access online basically any resource no matter where I am in the world. All of the above facilities give me a feeling of belonging to a global research community and boost my confidence as a young researcher and an academic publishing in English.

Summing up, writing in English has never been an obstacle in my academic career. What really matters in writing for publication in English is the innovative aspects of the researcher's work and the applicability of her/his findings presented to the global audiences in a logical and concise manner. I can but hope this does not solely apply to my quantitative research discipline.