

APPROACH FOR INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE WRITING IN ENGLISH

D.A. Shkitov

Scientific Supervisor: I.V. Slesarenko, PhD
Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russia, Tomsk, 30, Lenin Ave., 634050
E-mail: shkitovda@tpu.ru

ПОДХОД ДЛЯ САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНОГО НАПИСАНИЯ НАУЧНЫХ СТАТЕЙ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Д.А. ШКИТОВ

Научный руководитель: И.В. Слесаренко, к.п.н.
Национальный исследовательский Томский политехнический университет,
Россия, г. Томск, пр. Ленина, 30, 634050
E-mail: shkitovda@tpu.ru

***Annotation.** This paper discusses the strategies for writing research paper. The experience acquired by TPU research fellow is presented. The studies have been conducted and the paper is prepared within TPU in-house professional enhancement programme “Activating online independent learning strategies for English”.*

The main topic of this work is related to the approach for independent studies in the field of research writing. During the studies within TPU professional enhancement programme [1] the attempt was undertaken to analyze the approaches that I use when writing scientific articles in English in the field of my scientific interests. This work is the slightly expanded and revised version of one of the final paper chapters [2], which contains the practical description of how to work independently. The materials presented here are the result of my brief analysis of the examples of work and strategies for research article writing including those based on my own experience.

Let us suppose that I want to start writing an article in English in my field of scientific interest. Commonly every article contains a piece of new information. Then you have to work on some new knowledge. First what I do when starting to write an article is to read some number of other research articles within the topic related to mine and write out words and short phrases that are new for me. The result of this activity is the list of unfamiliar words with their translation. The main objective is to gather new vocabulary and grasp new ideas.

Further I start directly to write my own research article in English. Of course preliminary knowledge and skills both in language and in writing research articles is required during this stage. I often use recently published articles as an example of the structure, sentence construction, etc. As a rule, it is the article not older than 2-3 years, if available. I am used to writing the text in English directly avoiding production of intermittent versions in native language for further translation. This is presumed to be the core strategy for research writing in English.

If I see that I can express my thoughts right away in English I do it. Usually I write texts using Word Office. In order to correct the words I often apply Word Office prompt. It helps to correct the wrong writing and with time it enables to develop writing habits, sense of the language thus making the writing right.

When I write a paragraph, I use online translator [3] to check the translation into Russian. At the same time I try to perform more exact word search for synonyms and/or equivalents. This is another strategy for research writing. For example, for this purpose it may be Cambridge dictionary [4] or other dictionary including those online. Also this site is helpful in order to read the right transcription and hear the right pronunciation.

If I cannot express my thoughts, I write a piece of text in Russian. Then I translate it from Russian into English using online translator (usually the same [3]) and preliminary edit the English version into more or less readable form. Also I use Google search [5] quite often and life hack with quotes [6] to find out the frequency of the use for different phrases in order to make a decision which one I will use further. This activity embodies another strategy of working with online resources and language.

If a research article is co-authored, it is rather convenient to use joint online platform. There are many. But for coding in LaTeX, which is often used for scientific articles, we chose the one [7]. This platform provides the opportunity to write and edit text simultaneously with other authors. Also we may use chat in order to discuss some of the text bits that require explanation and clarify the nuances of the article.

What's next? We have more or less final version of the article. Then I send the manuscript to my colleague and ask him to read and send back the reply and/or comments. It may be not only one colleague. After that it is very useful to work on colleague's remarks to improve the article language, structure. Next step is that, not always but sometimes, I send the manuscript to a licensed translator. And he/she checks for errors or offers to paraphrase some sentences in the text. These are activities within proofreading stage of scientific article writing.

In principal these are the stages of my personal approach to how to write an article in English. Note that this description is associated only with writing in English and is not related to how to plan, analyze, simulate and conduct an experiment for the research itself. Also note that the topic of this work is linked with one of the TPU Program of Competitiveness Enhancement goals – replication of the best academic and engineering practices. The scientific papers authored by me and published confirm the efficiency of the approach discussed.

REFERENCES

1. Education courses Available at: <http://web.tpu.ru/webcenter/portal/otvpo/page13/page19> (Retrieved 27.12.2019).
2. Shkitov D.A. Strategies for independent studies: Final paper. – Tomsk:TPU, 2019. – 9 p.
3. Google Translate. Available at: <https://translate.google.ru/> (Assessed 27.12.2019).
4. Cambridge Dictionary. [Electronic version] – Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> (Assessed 27.12.2019).
5. Google. Available at: <https://google.ru/> (Assessed 27.12.2019).
6. Hindy J. 20 Google Search Tips to Use Google More Efficiently. Available at: <https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/20-tips-use-google-search-efficiently.html> (Assessed 27.12.2019).