

Role of Language Criteria in the Sustainability of Scientific Journals: Analysis of Psychiatry Journals in Türkiye

Bilimsel Dergilerin Sürdürülebilirliğinde Dil Kriterlerinin Rolü: Türkiye'deki Psikiyatri Dergilerinin Analizi

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ABSTRACT

The dominance of English in scientific papers and the use of English in locally funded research may hinder local comprehension and raise concerns about transitioning from vernacular languages to a universal language in scholarly journals. Additionally, the impact of publication language on journal sustainability is an intriguing area requiring further investigation. This study investigated how the publication languages of 42 Turkish psychiatric journals published between 2010-2023 impact journal sustainability. It examined the effect of publication languages and language changes on sustainability by analyzing information from the DergiPark platform, TR Index, and journal websites. Among the analyzed journals, 8 have ceased publication, while 34 continue. The terminated journals include 3 with Turkish articles, 2 with English articles, and 3 with both Turkish and English articles. Among the 34 ongoing journals in 2023, 3 only accept Turkish publications, 8 only accept English publications, 22 accept both Turkish and English publications, and 1 accepts both Turkish and English versions of each article. The Turkish-only journal is not indexed by any major indexes. Of the eight English-only journals, one is SCI-Expanded and TR Index, three are indexed by TR Index and DOAJ, three are indexed by TR Index and one is not indexed by any major index. Among the 22 journals publishing in both languages, one is indexed by all the major indexes, four by TR Index and DOAJ, two by DOAJ and six by TR Index only, nine are not indexed by any major index. The use of the local language in journal publications may adversely affect the journal's sustainability, but it is not solely determined by indexing and citation in major index. Furthermore, publishing in English does not guarantee citations from international journals or ensure the long-term viability of the journal.

Keywords: Vernacular language, lingua franca, publishing, sustainability, psychiatry journals, Türkiye

ÖZ

Bilimsel makalelerde İngilizcenin baskın olması ve yerel olarak finanse edilen araştırmalarda İngilizcenin kullanılması, anlamayı engelleyebilmekte ve bilimsel dergilerde yerel dillerden evrensel dile geçişle ilgili endişeleri artırabilmektedir. Ayrıca, yayın dilinin dergi sürdürülebilirliği üzerindeki etkisi de daha fazla araştırma gerektiren ilgi çekici bir alandır. Bu ilgiden ötürü bu çalışmada, 2010-2023 yılları arasında yayımlanan 42 Türk psikiyatri dergisinin yayın dillerinin dergi sürdürülebilirliğini nasıl etkilediği araştırılmıştır. DergiPark platformu, TR Dizin ve dergi web sitelerinden elde edilen bilgiler analiz edilerek yayın dilleri ve dil değişikliklerinin sürdürülebilirlik üzerindeki etkisi incelenmiştir. İncelenen dergilerden 8'i yayın hayatına son vermiş, 34'ü ise yayın hayatına devam etmektedir. Yayın hayatı sonlandırılan dergilerin 3'ünde Türkçe makaleler, 2'sinde İngilizce makaleler, 3'ünde ise hem Türkçe hem de İngilizce makaleler yer almaktadır. 2023 yılında yayın hayatına devam eden 34 dergiden 3'ü sadece Türkçe yayınları, 8'i sadece İngilizce yayınları, 22'si hem Türkçe hem İngilizce yayınları, 1'i ise her makalenin hem Türkçe hem de İngilizce versiyonunu kabul etmektedir. Yalnızca Türkçe yayın kabul eden dergi herhangi bir indeks tarafından taranmamaktadır. Sadece İngilizce yayın yapan 8 dergiden biri SCI-Expanded ve TR Dizin, 3'ü TR Dizin ve DOAJ, 3'ü TR Dizin tarafından taranmakta, 1'i ise herhangi bir ana dizin tarafından taranmamaktadır. Her iki dilde yayın yapan 22 dergiden biri tüm ana indeksler tarafından, dördü TR Dizin ve DOAJ tarafından, ikisi DOAJ ve altısı sadece TR Dizin tarafından taranmakta, dokuzu ise hiçbir ana indeks tarafından taranmamaktadır. Dergi yayınlarında yerel dilin kullanılması derginin sürdürülebilirliğini olumsuz etkileyebilmekte, ancak bu durum ana indekslerde taranma ve atıf alma ile belirlenmemektedir. Ayrıca, İngilizce yayın yapmak uluslararası dergilerden atıf almayı garanti etmemekte ve derginin uzun vadede sürdürülebilirliğini sağlamamaktadır.

Anahtar sözcükler: Yerel dil, lingua franca, yayınlanma, sürdürülebilirlik, psikiyatri dergileri, Türkiye

Introduction

Publishing has a very important place in academia. Although it is not easy to publish, the chances of being accepted depend on different factors, such as the language and quality of the publication. Today, the need to preserve local languages is a very important issue. This is clearly stated in Article 3 of the Leiden Manifesto. This article emphasizes the significance of protecting resources in local regions. Within these resources, it is evident that the importance of language contributes to the diminishing value of original works written in the local language (Hicks et al. 2015).

More important than whether the language of the journal is English or Turkish are the platforms on which it is available and the accessibility of these platforms. In the language of science, it seems more advantageous to use English as it is accepted as the lingua franca. The term "lingua franca" means a common language used for communication between people whose mother tongue is not the same (Seidlhofer 2005). As this usage increases in the language of science, the perception of English as a lingua franca also increases. Open access, where users can freely access literature without paying any fees, has allowed small scientific communities to publish in their own languages by providing online access to readers.

Balanced multilingualism, sustainable multilingualism and fair multilingualism were discussed as conference main topics at the 14th Conference of EASE in 2018. Due to the pressure of important indexes and the obligation to publish in English for academic promotions in many countries with the aim of increasing the number of international citations, the language of publication has been changed to English in non-native English-speaking countries (Uzun 2018). Our analysis within DergiPark (DergiPark 2021) shows that there has been a tendency towards publishing in English in the field of science and medical sciences in recent years. There is also a trend in the social sciences, but the previous level is still the same, whereas in the sciences it is gradually increasing.

When we look at this situation, we conduct research with the resources of the country, but we do not publish them in Turkish in the language of our country, we publish them in English because we want the visibility and citation numbers of our journals to increase. When journals switch from the local language to English, it positively affects journal performance (covering by major indexes, high impact factor, download etc.), accessibility and international submissions. After the necessary infrastructure and conditions are provided in terms of language change, this change has a positive effect. But whether the journals have this change or not is a question mark. Some journals use this as a method by changing the language of publication to English. If we want to get into important indexes and increase the number of submissions, this is not possible in a single way. This requires collective development. It should not be forgotten that our main goal should be to eliminate the lack of Turkish literature in order to protect our Turkish language. For journals that have changed their language of publication to English, the desire to increase efficiency, the desire to change their mission and the international target have come to the fore. The desire to publish higher quality publications is at the forefront of journals. In fact, many problems can also be experienced in publications whose main tongue is Turkish.

Mostly, we see that senior academics do not want to write in Turkish and publish in English in order to reach not only international authors but also senior authors from Turkey. Therefore, they do not prefer to submit articles to Turkish-language journals. In this study, the relationship between language and sustainability is examined by revealing the advantages and disadvantages of this situation.

Method

In order to minimize confounding factors, 42 journals published in the field of psychiatry in Turkey between 2010 and 2023 reviewed. These journals have been taken into account, even if they have been published for at least one year between 2010 and 2023. These journals were analyzed by considering the information on the DergiPark platform, TR Index (TR Index 2021) and their own web pages. Our main research criteria were the beginning of the publication life, years of DergiPark usage, number of clicks, number of articles downloaded from the DergiPark platform, languages of the journals, number of articles in Turkish, number of articles in English, number of articles of the same study published in both Turkish and English, total number of published articles, annual number of citations, annual number of clicks, index coverage from TR Index, joint volume, joint issue and volume published within the year from the Turkish Psychiatry Index (Turkish Psychiatry Index 2021) and the web pages of the journals. Screening criteria have also been determined by Aves Publishing in DOAJ, ESCI, SCOPUS and SCI Expanded journals. The impact of Turkish and English articles were analyzed using TR Index data. In the study, the data of 16 psychiatry journals indexed in TR Index at least in 2020-2023 were used. Then, it was evaluated whether there was a relationship between the language of broadcasting and sustainability parameters.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used in the study and the data were analysed in MS Excel.

Table 1. Psychiatry and psychology journals published in Türkiye between 2010 and 2023

	Journal Title	Journal Website
1	Addicta: The Turkish Journal on Addictions	http://www.addicta.com.tr/
2	Aile Psikolojik Danışmanlığı Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/apdad
3	pt. Anadolu Psikiyatri Dergisi / ct. Alpha Psychiatry	http://alpha-psychiatry.com/
4	Ayna Klinik Psikoloji Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/ayna
5	Bağımlılık Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/bagimli
6	Bilişsel Davranışçı Psikoterapi ve Araştırmalar Dergisi	http://www.jcbpr.org/
7	Çocuk ve Gençlik Ruh Sağlığı Dergisi	http://www.cogepderg.com/
8	Current Addiction Resarch	http://www.currentaddiction.org/
9	Current Resptrch and Reviews in Psychology and Psychiatry	http://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/crrpp
10	Düşünen Adam: Psikiyatri ve Nörolojik Bilimler Dergisi	http://dusunenadamdergisi.org/
11	Geriatri ve Geriatrik Nöropsikiyatri Dergisi	n/a
12	Güncel Psikiyatri ve Psikonörofarmakoloji	n/a
13	Humanistic Perspective	http://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/hp
14	pt. Journal of Mood Disorders / ct. Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences	http://www.pbsciences.org/
15	Klinik Psikiyatri Dergisi	http://klinikpsikiyatri.org/
16	Klinik Psikoloji Dergisi	http://www.klinikpsikoloji.org/
17	Klinik ve Ruh Sağlığı Psikolojik Danışmanlığı Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/klinikpsikoloji
18	Kriz Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/krspdder
19	Nesne Psikoloji Dergisi	http://www.nesnedergisi.com/
20	Nöropsikiyatri Arşivi	http://www.noropsikiyatriarsivi.com/
22	NP Akademi	n/a
21	Okul Psikolojik Danışmanlığı Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/opdd
23	Online Journal of Technology Addiction and Cyberbullying	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/ojtac
24	Psikanaliz Yazıları	n/a
25	Psikiyatri Hemşireliği Dergisi	http://phdergi.org/tr/
26	Psikiyatride Derlemeler, Olgular ve Varsayımlar (RHCP)	n/a
27	Psikiyatride Güncel Yaklaşımlar	http://psikguncel.org
28	Psikodrama	n/a
29	Psikoloji Çalışmaları	http://iupress.istanbul.edu.tr/tr/journal/sp/home
30	pt. Klinik Psikofarmakoloji Bulteni / ct. Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology	http://psychiatry-psychopharmacology.com/
31	Spiritual Psychology and Counseling	http://spiritualpc.net/
32	The Journal of Happiness and Well Being	http://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/jhwb
33	The Journal of Neurobehavioral Sciences	http://journals.lww.com/jons/
34	Türk Psikiyatri Dergisi	http://www.turkpsikiyatri.com/
35	Türk Psikoloji Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/turkpsikoloji
36	Türk Psikoloji Yazıları	http://psikolog.org.tr/yayinlar/turk-psikoloji-dergisi
37	Türk Psikolojik Danışma ve Rehberlik Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/tpdrd
38	Türk Uyku Tıbbı Dergisi	http://jtsm.org/
39	Türkiye Bütüncül Psikoterapi Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/bpd
40	Yansıtma: Psikopatoloji ve Projektif Testler Dergisi	http://www.yansitmadergisi.com/index.php
41	Yaşam Becerileri Psikoloji Dergisi	http://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/ybpd
42	pt. Yeni Symposium / ct. Neuropsychiatric Investiction	http://neuropsychiatricinvestigation.org/

pt: Previous title, ct: Current title

Results

Forty-two Turkish Psychiatry Journals published between 2010 and 2023 were taken as the research sample and range. Eight (19%) of these journals ceased publication during the study period. Three of them were published only in Turkish, two only in English, three in both Turkish and English; none of them were indexed.

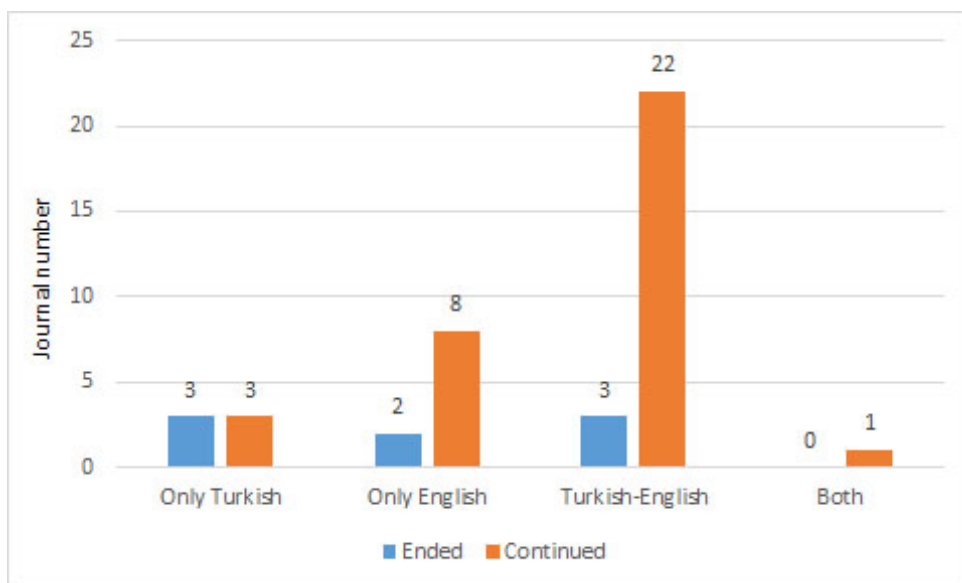


Figure 1. Publication status of the sampled journals

The remaining 34 (81%) journals continue to be published. Three journals published in Turkish (9%) is not indexed by any major index (SCI-Expanded, DOAJ or TR Index). Of the eight journals (24%) with English as the language of publication, one is indexed under SCI-Expanded and TR Index, three are indexed by TR Index and DOAJ, three are indexed TR Index only, and one is not indexed by any major index. Of the 22 journals (65%) that accept both Turkish and English articles, one is indexed by all the major indexes, four by TR Index and DOAJ, six by TR Index only and two by DOAJ only, and nine are not indexed by any major index. Only one journal published in two languages (Turkish and English) is indexed by SCI-Expanded (Figure 1, 2)..

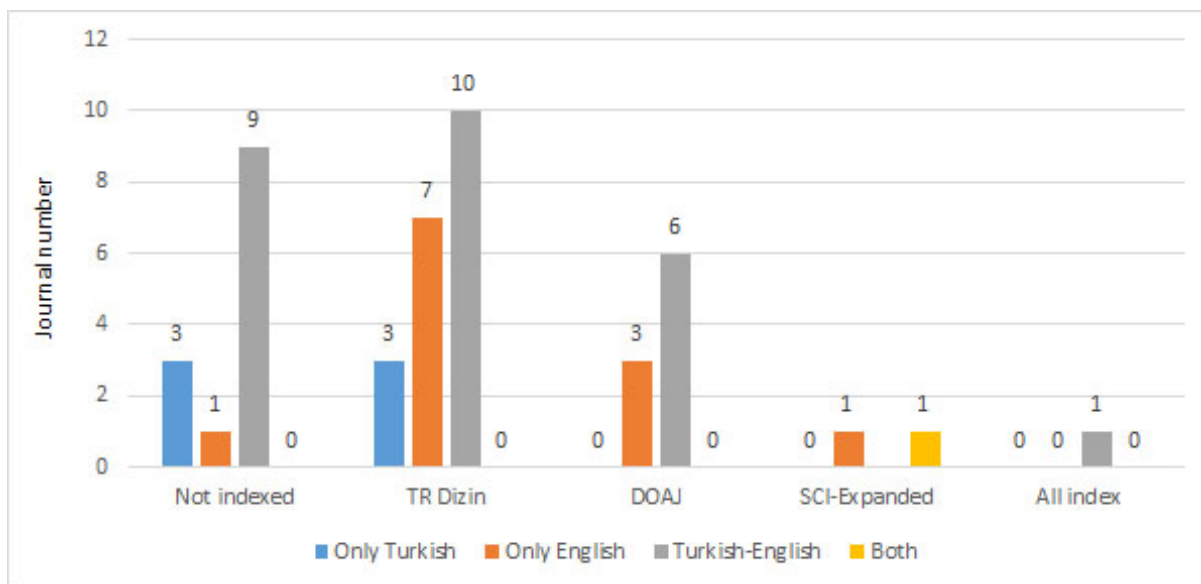


Figure 2. Indexing status of journals that continue to publish (One journal can be included in more than one database)

Young journals that started publishing after 2000 mostly published articles in Turkish or English (Figure 3)

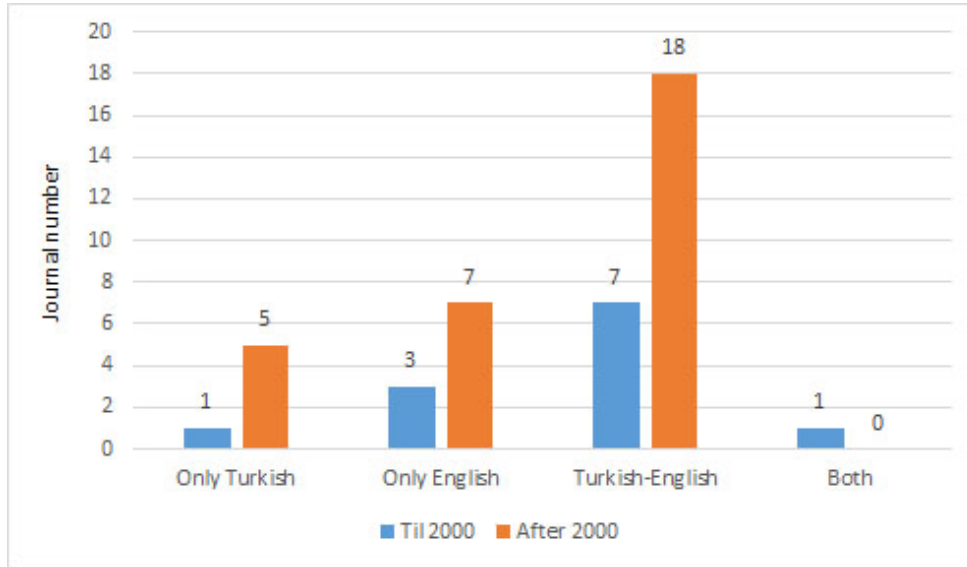


Figure 3. Language preferences of journals founded before and after 2000

In this study it was also wondered whether language has an effect on the impact factor. Experience has shown that the best journals in each specialty are the ones where it is most difficult to get a paper accepted, and these are the high-impact journals (Garfield, 2006). In our research field, there was only one journal in the SSCI index that published in both Turkish and English. We compared the citation performance of Turkish and English articles published by these journals for two consecutive years (for impact of 2022 the years 2020-2021 is searched). Of the publications, 333 were in Turkish and 380 in English, and the total citations were 235 (impact: 0.730) and 96 (impact: 0.284) respectively. All (except seven) of the cited articles in Turkish and English articles were written by Turkish authors (Figure 4).

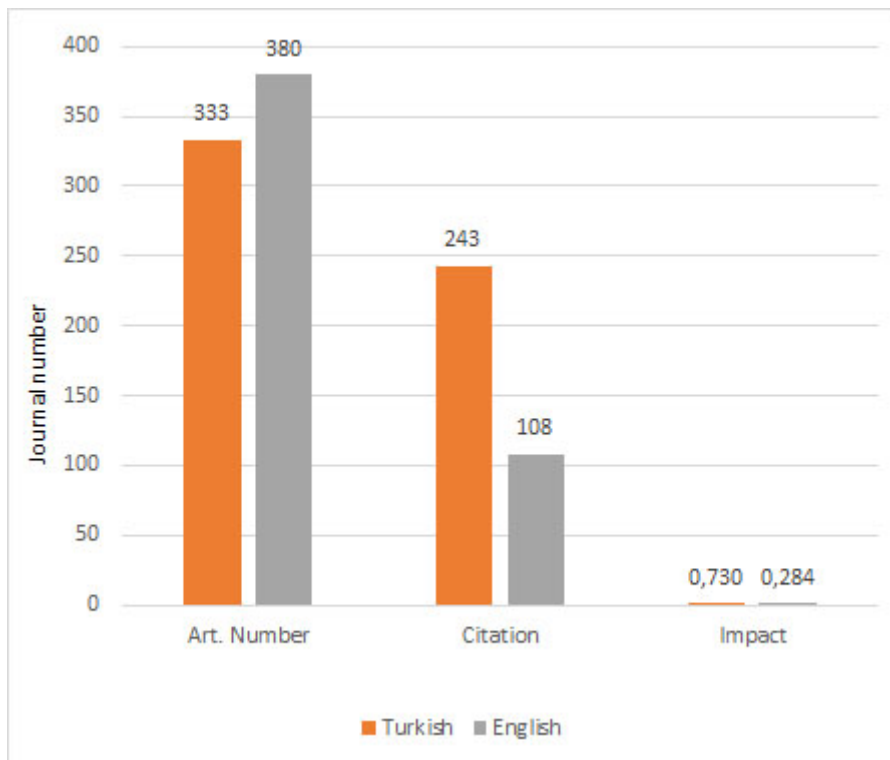


Figure 4. Analysis of the effect of publication language on impact factor in a Turkish and English Journal

Most of the research data was taken from TR Index, which is the most indexed index of the journals subject to the research. It should be taken into consideration that the results of the study may be affected by the fact that

the research data are taken from the TR Index and the analyzes remain local since the TR Index draws its data from its own database, as in other indexes.

Discussion

The fact that the language of science is English, but that locally funded studies are written in English in a way that local people cannot understand, and the need to share existing knowledge with researchers from all over the world have made the transition from local language to lingua franca in journals questionable. Many journals prefer to publish in both languages. However, simultaneous publication of an article in both languages has not become widespread due to the high costs and the potential to cause some confusion in journals. This problem may be eliminated with the increase in automatic translation possibilities over time, but it should be kept in mind that there is the potential for scientific meaning to be lost or inaccurate when translating scientific studies (Uzun 2018). Limitations such as literal translation in texts written in both languages or misunderstandings that may arise due to the weakness of expression in one of the languages can also be considered as important problems.

Some editors think that there will be a significant difference in journals with the change in the language of publication. However, as seen in our study, a change in the language of publication alone may not make a difference. The important thing is to provide an ethical, reliable and quality publication environment.

Impact factors, which are one of the generally accepted tools that indicate journal quality today, can be manipulated and have various limitations. Impact factor has serious limitations in little-known scientific fields or in journals that publish studies whose importance can be understood later (because 2-year and 5-year calculations) or in journals where citations are not well controlled. It does not seem possible to apply this indicator in journals that are not scanned by Web of Science. In addition, the impact factor can also be manipulated through articles such as news, letters to the editor, editorials and small discussion articles (Kurmis 2003). The primary goal of a scientific journal should not be to have a high impact factor, but to ensure that it is a high quality journal by publishing high quality, ethical articles through appropriate editorial processes. If the scientific quality of the articles published in a journal and the visibility of the journal are increased, the impact factor will also increase (Uzun 2017). When we look at the citations of journals, there is an acceptable situation. Citation rate namely impact factor, is never the reason for being dropped from the index. The main reason is the sudden rise of the impact factor. In addition to being a low-impact factor, its gradual increase is always a sought-after feature. In this study, we see that writing an article in English does not necessarily indicate that it will be highly cited (Figure 4). It can be concluded that Turkish articles are read more or understood more easily and thus cited more. When we look at the language used in the field of psychiatry today, we see that Turkish or Turkish and English is the dominant language. Publications in Turkish deserve at least as much attention and care as those in foreign languages. It should not be forgotten that publishing studies conducted with country sources in English in order to increase their visibility in the world may cause a contradiction in which local readers cannot benefit from these results, or at least cannot benefit from them sufficiently. On the other hand, publishing only in Turkish should not be preferred, as it deprives the public of the gains of publishing in English. In fact, a mechanism to evaluate the quality of journal publications rather than the language of publication is needed. Journals can achieve sustainability by improving their quality, adding value to authors and readers, and as a result increasing their visibility through inclusion in major indexes. While the transition to English will enable it to reach many parts of the world, it will also result in local people not being able to understand the research done with their own resources. It is also clear that this language change cannot be done as efficiently and easily as it should be, both financially and in the absence of competent specialized editors to do the translations. In addition, language change will cause a significant decrease in incoming articles. The requirement for journal employees to have a high level of the English language will put the journals in trouble when it comes to finding quality employees.

Among the limitations of this study are the data of psychiatry and psychology journals researched in the thirteen-year period, as well as the lack of healthy data in the TR Index and DergiPark. Some journals do not use DergiPark, some started using it late, some are not included in the TR index, and there is no reliable data on their web pages. Therefore, it was not possible to reach accurate data and the data were presented in line with these limitations. However, since the data were largely complete, the data were analyzed. The archives of some journals were inadequate, for example, a journal in SCI-Expanded had no information in its archive. One journal had only English titles in its archive, while articles were published in Turkish. This study also identified such errors.

It should be noted that this study focuses on psychiatry journals in Türkiye, and the situation may be different for other disciplines in Türkiye and other countries.

Conclusion

The fact that the language used in scientific studies utilising the resources of a country is different from the native language of the people in that country and therefore cannot be understood by most people is a situation that should be seriously considered. On the other hand, it is another situation that the scientific work is published in a local language and cannot be understood by the rest of the world.

The local language of publication can have a negative impact on the sustainability of a journal, but this is not related to being indexed and cited by major indices. Also, publishing in English does not guarantee citations from international journals or journal sustainability. The primary goal of a scientific journal is always to keep up to date with international publishing criteria and to prioritise them in its journal.

Another point to be considered here is that journals that do not have sufficient infrastructure may fall into greater difficulties with the transition from local language to English article printing. For this reason, the editor, assistant editors, editorial board members and journal staff should have a high proficiency of the English language in journals that want to change the language.

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