

Your paper doesn't have to be unreadable!

A manual on scientific writing

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Foreword

It is often believed that scientific texts are complicated because of their specialized terminology. However, in my experience teaching scientific English and editing research papers, I have found that technical and scientific jargon is the least of the problem. It is rather that putting research into words demands a special way of expressing thought processing. Scientific writing is a very special kind of communication. Thus, for example, writing an abstract of a research project differs completely from writing a review or a summary of a book or a film.

Our point of departure in this manual is the question “What does the scientific community expect to find in a paper?” They expect a clear presentation of the different phases or components of research design: raising an issue that is still unsolved in the state of the art, postulating assumptions, proposing hypotheses, describing research methods, analyses, and results, concluding, and discussing the outcome. This manual focuses on the way these research components can be expressed in any scientific field.

Writing *readable texts* is our aim. We will focus on language aspects that make a paper *transparent* so that the reader can easily follow the research design. Often, our first drafts are *obscure* texts. Revising them implies getting rid of unnecessarily complicated wording and improving text networking.

Based on the concept of *readability* in science, this book will allow you to gain awareness of how research is expressed, thus providing you with criteria to improve your writing skills. The exercises will allow you to reinforce your ability to use expressions commonly used in the different sections of a paper.