The Arts of Scientific Paper

Ahmmad Taous

If you are planning to submit an article to a specific journal, you should read carefully the initial pages of that journal. Most of the journals have the guidelines, rules and procedures of themselves. These may not be same to other journals. The first step to writing a manuscript does not involve any writing at all. Instead, it requires objectively considering the collected data in organized form to identify the key scientific messages that emerge from these.

It is really disheartening when your paper gets rejected by a journal. Authors work very hard to conduct research if actually it done. They present their work in scientific seminar, symposia or conference and/or as a research article for publication. When their presentations get applauded by the audience, researchers feel encouraged to publish it. However, it may not be appreciated by editors and reviewers when the research is submitted to a journal for publication. One should not get disappointed by rejections. Most top journals have almost 75% rejection rates. This editorial will take a brief review of reasons for rejection and advise how to deal with rejections.

Sometimes authors keep sending email to Editor regarding reasons why their articles were rejected by their supervisors or peer reviewers. A number of them complained that they meet their supervisors many times but they were advised to rewrite it. Some of them had not checked their e-mail or messages at all. This article can inform you why most articles are rejected. Some articles are not sent for peer review even, because these were reserved to rewrite by author after primary vetting by Editor.

The final two things to write are arguably among the most important. The title and abstract are the face of the paper, the elements that readers first consider when they survey the published materials or they search the table of contents of a journal. Hence, they should state the main findings of the study in a clear, specific and engaging manner, with the abstract essentially being a mini version of the paper. The reader should know what to expect from the paper and should be enticed to find out more.

The reasons of writing were rejected:

It fails the technical screening

The most reasons they're rejected are:

- After primary vetting by Editor, The articles are checked by Plagiarism checker. Bangladesh Journal of Otorhinolaryngology check it by DrillBit. When originality of article is less than 80%, author is advised to rewrite the article.

- The manuscript is not complete; it lacks key components of title, list of author and co-authors with superscripted affiliation

number, list of affiliations, keywords, right references and every one table and figures).

- Discrepancy of authors and institutes.

- Poor English or it isn't enough for the review method,

- The figures aren't complete or aren't clear enough to scan.

- The article doesn't adjust to the Guide for Authors for the journal it's submitted to.

- References are incomplete or terribly previous, and do not follow the journal style.

- The article contains observations that fail the criteria of full study.

- It discusses irrelevant findings.

- Added abbreviation without description.

- The paper and the subject may be out of scope and not suitable for the journal and readership.

- Weak hypothesis.

- Poor methodology, small sample size, poor statistical analysis.

- Conflict of interest not declared in appropriate cases; ethical committee permission not taken

- Informed consent of subjects not taken

- Single case reports not making a useful point

- The target journal may have similar research papers published or already in the process of getting published

All of these happen because of poor homework before submission of manuscript

Defective procedure and analysis

- Aims do not raise the right kind of questions.

- Figures are of low resolution.

- Case reports lack proper documentation and follow-up information.

- The study lacks clear management teams or alternative comparison metrics.

- The study failed to adjust to recognized procedures or methodology that may be continual.

- Weak hypothesis or wrong research questions.

Poor conclusive matters

- There is a mismatch between the statements made in different sections of papers.

- The arguments are illogical, unstructured or invalid.

- The data doesn't support the conclusions.

- The conclusions ignore major findings of manuscript.

Manuscript is only the extension or modification of previous published data

- The work is clearly a part of a bigger study, sliced up to form as several articles as doable.

- The language, structure, or figures are therefore poor that the advantage cannot be assessed. Have a native English speaker scan the paper.

The paper is BORING

· It is depository, progressive or of marginal interest to the sector

· The question behind the work isn't of interest within the field.

· The work isn't of interest to the readers of the precise journals

· Poor language and many spelling and grammatical mistakes create a bad impression on the reviewers.

Words and expressions to avoid Jargon and the preferred words

In scientific paper writing, one should use the phrases and terms that "sound good." Some

of this language ends up being unnecessary and, even worse, can obscure the meaning of terms or sentences and frustrates the reader. William Zinsser, author of *On Writing Well,* defines "clutter" as any language that is unnecessary to convey meaning. One of the top rules for good English writing is to avoid clutter at any costs, and this is how we actually want to present the paper to its reader or audience.

To eliminate clutter, it's good to be aware of the list of overused phrases that interfere with clear writing. In some cases, these phrases are simply annoying because of overuse. In other cases, the phrases are repeatedly used in ways that are incorrect or misleading, or they are simply unnecessary.

Examples:
Example: *It should be noted that there were only 15 subjects in the study.*

Revision: *The study consisted of 15 subjects.*

Example: *In consequence of this fact, we really do not know how much of an impact daily exercise has on a person's BMI.*

Revision: *Because of unreliable reporting and other factors, we really do not know how much of an impact daily exercise has on a person's BMI.*

Example: *Further research is needed to determine how extensive the damage to the intestinal wall is.*

 Revision: *Future studies will gauge the extent to which intestinal walls are damaged.*

Imprecise and redundant terms
These are terms that are either redundant or are not quite correct. Imprecise terms may be colloquialisms, which have no place in scientific manuscripts.

End result
This phrase is redundant. In most cases, you can simply use "result" or "results."

Example: *The end result of more run-offs is higher levels of bacteria in the water.*

Revision: *Higher levels of bacteria are caused by increased run-off.*

On average
This is an imprecise term and should be avoided.

Example: *Our results demonstrated that, on average, birds returned to the nest X number of times.*

Revision: *According to our results, birds returned to the nest an average number of X times.*

(Source of this part: Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction. 30th Anniversary Edition.* New York: Harper Perennial, 2016.)

Jargons versus the preferred words

a considerable amount of	much
on account of	because
a number of	several
Referred to as	called
In a number of cases	some
Has the capacity to	can
It is clear that	clearly
It is apparent	apparently
Employ	use
Fabricate	make
Prior to	before
Due to the fact that	because
In a considerable number of cases often	
The vast majority of	most
During the time that	when
In close proximity to	near
A majority of	most
At the present time	now
Give rise to	cause
In some cases	sometimes

Is defined as	is
It is believed that	I think
On the basis of	by
Pooled together	pooled
Subsequent to	after
With the result that	so that
Possess	have
Sufficient	enough
Utilize	use
Demonstrate	show
Assistance	help
Terminate	end

Like a messy desk, untidy writing can cause problems when someone else needs to understand what you've written. Removing unnecessary words and phrases ensures that your message is as straightforward as possible for anyone who has to read it instead of just for yourself. When you're revising any piece of writing, there are certain words you want to remove to make your text tighter. These should help speed up the pacing of action and dialogue and make your work more polished and professional.

Professor Dr. Ahmmad Taous
Professor of ENT, Pabna Medical College
Editor,
Bangladesh Journal of Otorhinolaryngology,
Dhaka