



FROM ENGLISH TO THE MOTHER TONGUE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND A NEW PARADIGM OF ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

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ARTICLE INFO



 Open access

JEL Category:

A12, I23, O30, Z13

Keywords:

academic publishing

artificial intelligence

automatic translation

native language of the
author

multilingualism in science

open access

ABSTRACT

For decades, English has served as the dominant language of scholarly communication. While this dominance has facilitated global dissemination of knowledge, it has also created significant barriers for researchers whose native language is not English. This article argues that recent advances in artificial intelligence, particularly in machine translation and language understanding, make it possible to reconsider one of the fundamental assumptions of contemporary academic publishing: that scientific work must be written in English to be internationally relevant. Rather than requiring authors to adapt their ideas to a foreign language, a new model may emerge in which scholars write in their native language while readers, editors, and reviewers access AI-assisted translations in the language of their choice. The paper discusses the historical origins of English-language dominance, the advantages of native-language authorship, the implications for editorial and peer-review processes, and the broader consequences for scientific diversity, inclusion, and knowledge production. This approach could also help broaden access to publication for scholars working in underrepresented linguistic communities.

1 INTRODUCTION

If the purpose of scholarly writing is to make ideas accessible and testable, then language should be treated as a medium of communication, not as a condition of scientific value. The globalization of science has also brought globalization of language. Over the past several decades, English has become the dominant medium of academic communication. Researchers seeking

international visibility are expected to publish in English regardless of their linguistic background. This convention has undoubtedly facilitated international exchange, yet it has also produced a system in which linguistic proficiency often becomes a prerequisite for scientific participation.

For many scholars, particularly those from smaller linguistic communities, writing in English represents a substantial burden. The challenge

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extends beyond grammar and vocabulary. Scientific writing requires precision, nuance, rhetorical sophistication, and the ability to communicate complex ideas effectively. Even highly qualified researchers may struggle to express subtle arguments in a foreign language. As a result, scientific quality and linguistic quality are frequently conflated, despite being fundamentally different dimensions of scholarly work.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence invites a reconsideration of this model. Modern AI systems are capable of translating complex texts with a level of fluency unimaginable only a few years ago. Recent discussions in scholarly publishing suggest that AI translation technologies may fundamentally transform multilingual scientific communication (Amano et al., 2025). More importantly, they increasingly understand context, terminology, and discipline-specific language. These developments raise an important question: if readers can access high-quality translations instantly, why should authors be required to write in a language other than their own?

2 THE COST OF WRITING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The current publishing system imposes hidden costs on researchers. Authors invest substantial time and resources in language editing, translation, and proofreading. In many cases, professional language editors improve grammar but lack expertise in the relevant scientific field. This can lead to modifications that improve style while inadvertently altering meaning.

The problem is particularly evident in the social sciences and humanities, where arguments often depend on subtle linguistic distinctions and cultural context. Researchers may simplify ideas, avoid complex formulations, or abandon culturally specific concepts because they are difficult to communicate in a foreign language. The result is not merely a linguistic compromise but a potential reduction in intellectual diversity (Amano et al., 2025).

Native-language writing allows scholars to communicate with greater confidence, precision, and originality. Concepts can be developed within their natural cultural and linguistic framework, preserving nuances that might otherwise be lost.

3 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS AN ENABLING TECHNOLOGY

The emergence of large language models and AI translation systems changes the technological landscape of academic publishing. Readers already use translation tools routinely when accessing news, technical documentation, and scholarly literature. Increasingly, the distinction between a text originally written in English and one translated into English becomes less significant from the reader's perspective (Translayer Team, 2026).

AI does not simply replace traditional translation. It enables a multilingual publishing ecosystem in which the original language remains central while multiple translated versions become available simultaneously. Under such a model, the authoritative version of a paper remains the author's original text, while readers interact with dynamically generated translations adapted to their linguistic preferences.

This shift has implications far beyond convenience. It challenges the assumption that linguistic standardization is necessary for scientific communication. Instead, technology enables communication across languages without requiring the elimination of linguistic diversity.

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR EDITORS AND REVIEWERS

The greatest challenge of a multilingual publishing model is not the reader but the editorial process. Editors must evaluate submissions, communicate with authors, select reviewers, and ensure publication quality. Traditionally, this requires a shared language.

However, editorial work is already increasingly supported by digital tools. AI can assist editors in generating preliminary translations, checking formatting requirements, identifying missing references, verifying citation consistency, and summarizing manuscript content. Recent analyses suggest that AI-assisted editorial workflows may significantly reduce language-related barriers in scholarly publishing (Gordon, 2024). Rather than replacing editorial judgment, AI can augment it.

The same principle applies to peer review. Reviewers frequently encounter manuscripts written in imperfect English and already devote effort to interpreting unclear passages. AI-assisted translation could allow reviewers to evaluate manuscripts in their preferred language while preserving access to the original text when necessary. In this model, peer review becomes focused more directly on scientific merit and less on linguistic conformity.

Such developments may be especially valuable for smaller journals with limited editorial resources. AI tools can function as editorial assistants, reducing administrative burdens and enabling broader international participation.

5 SCIENTIFIC DIVERSITY AND KNOWLEDGE EQUITY

Language is not merely a communication tool; it is also a repository of culture, history, and ways of thinking. The dominance of a single language inevitably privileges certain intellectual traditions while marginalizing others.

A multilingual publishing model could contribute to greater equity in global science (Amano et al., 2025). Researchers from developing countries and smaller linguistic communities would face fewer barriers to publication. Local knowledge, region-specific concepts, and culturally grounded perspectives could enter international debates without being filtered through a single linguistic framework.

Such a transformation would also benefit readers. Instead of forcing all participants into one language, scientific communication could adapt to individual linguistic preferences. AI translation makes this vision technically feasible for the first time in history.

6 REMAINING CHALLENGES

The transition toward multilingual publishing is not without obstacles. Technical standards must be

developed for metadata, indexing, citation practices, and version control (Gordon, 2024). Publishers must establish policies defining which version of a manuscript constitutes the official record. Quality assurance procedures for AI-generated translations will also be necessary.

Equally important is the question of academic prestige. English-language publication remains deeply embedded in evaluation systems, rankings, and institutional expectations. Changing these perceptions may take years, even if technology is already available.

Nevertheless, many historical transformations in scholarly communication initially faced resistance. Digital journals, open access publishing, and online peer review were once considered unconventional. Today they are widely accepted. The same may eventually occur with multilingual publishing supported by artificial intelligence.

7 CONCLUSION

Artificial intelligence offers an opportunity to rethink one of the foundational assumptions of modern scholarly publishing. Rather than requiring all researchers to write in English, future publishing systems may allow authors to write in their native language while readers, reviewers, and editors access high-quality translations generated by AI.

Such a model would not eliminate English, nor would it diminish international communication. Instead, it would reposition English as one language among many within a technologically connected ecosystem. The result could be a more inclusive, equitable, and intellectually diverse scientific community.

The future of academic publishing may therefore be defined not by a single global language, but by a global conversation conducted through many languages and connected through artificial intelligence.

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How to cite this article?

Style – APA Seventh Edition:

Čekerevac, Z. (2026, July 15). From English to the mother tongue: Artificial intelligence and a new paradigm of academic publishing. *MEST Journal*, 14(2), IV–VII.
<https://doi.org/10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef>

Style – Chicago 17th Edition:

Čekerevac, Zoran. "From English to the mother tongue: Artificial intelligence and a new paradigm of academic publishing." *MEST Journal* (MESTE) 14, no. 2 (July 2026): IV–VII.
<https://doi.org/10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef>.

Style – GOST R 7.0.100 2018, Name Sort:

Čekerevac, Z. From English to the mother tongue: Artificial intelligence and a new paradigm of academic publishing. // *MEST Journal*. – Belgrade – Toronto : MESTE, 15 July. 2026. – Vol. 14, No. 2. – pp. IV–VII. – DOI: <https://doi.org/10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef>.

Style – Harvard Anglia Ruskin:

Čekerevac, Z., 2026. From English to the mother tongue: Artificial intelligence and a new paradigm of academic publishing. *MEST Journal*, 14(2), pp.IV–VII. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef> [Accessed dd Month yyyy].

Style – ISO 690 Numerical Reference:

Čekerevac, Z. From English to the mother tongue: Artificial intelligence and a new paradigm of academic publishing. *MEST Journal*. 2026 July 15; 14(2): IV–VII. DOI: [10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef](https://doi.org/10.12709/mest.14.14.02.ef)