



Plain Language Summaries of Post Graduate Research

Call for Submissions

NALDIC invites contributions from postgraduate students for its blog at EALjournal.org

Masters and PhD research offers an important contribution to the evidence base for teaching children for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) and multilingual learners. Much of this enormous body of research addresses issues of direct relevance to educators and seeks to answer questions that can inform policy and practice in the field of additional language learning. However, much of this research remains difficult to access. NALDIC's blog, EALjournal.org, publishes plain language summaries of Masters and PhD research so that the work of postgraduate students is made available to a much wider audience, contributing to the literature and enriching the field.

This is an open call for submissions from postgraduate students, of plain language summaries of dissertations and other research activity related to EAL, for publication on NALDIC's blog site EALjournal.org.

NALDIC is the national subject association for EAL in the United Kingdom, with a membership of both academics and practitioners. EAL learners are children and young people who are learning in English but who use a language other than English in their homes and communities. NALDIC provides a welcoming, vibrant, professional forum for learning about EAL and bilingual learners. Part of our remit is to make available to educators, policy makers, and the bilingual community at large accessible research that can inform pedagogy and practice in multilingual schools and communities. We publish plain language summaries of research intended to inform classroom and community practice in these contexts. While our main focus is teaching in the UK, we also accept summaries of research conducted in related fields, such as international schools, bilingual programmes and in language community projects.

Posts should be between 750 and 1000 words and should be written for an informed lay audience. While there is no set format for writing a plain language summary, posts should seek to address four key questions:

Why did you do the research?

A brief account of your motivation for conducting your study. Was there a gap in the existing literature? Did you have a question that arose from your practice? Was there collective uncertainty about the effects of a particular pedagogical approach that you wanted to address? Did you want to know more about policies, practices, opinions or assumptions surrounding particular approaches to the education of EAL learners?

What did you do?

A summary of the research design or process. This need not go into deep methodological detail, but should describe the basic approach you took. For example, was your study a fair test such as a randomised trial, a systematic review, a case study, an ethnographic investigation, a dataset analysis, etc.? A link to your full paper, if available, will allow interested readers to look at the detail of your study's methods.

What did you find?

An accessible description of your main findings. Pictures, graphs, charts and tables are welcome.

What does it mean?

How do your research findings contribute to the existing evidence base for the area of interest in your research? What are the 'takeaways' for your primary audience? What should the primary audience for your research 'do' with your findings? What further research would you like to see in this area?

Additional guidance on writing plain language summaries can be found here:

- **Writing a plain language summary**
<https://arthropodecology.com/2013/08/01/a-guide-for-writing-plain-language-summaries-of-research-papers/>
- **Writing a blogpost from your journal article**
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2016/01/25/how-to-write-a-blogpost-from-your-journal-article/>

If available, you should also provide a link to your full dissertation or published paper, or provide details of where it can be found.

Writing a plain language summary for EALjournal.org is an excellent way for new and established researchers to disseminate their work to a large global audience of motivated readers, and to promote public engagement in research. It is the perfect place for new writers to gain experience in writing for a wide audience.

Submissions are invited from current cohorts as well as from previous cohorts of students.

Interested parties should either email the editor of EALjournal.org directly, with a brief synopsis of their proposed post, on h.chalmers@naldic.org.uk or use the 'expression of interest' form on the blog, here <https://ealjournal.org/write-for-us/>.

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