

# Editorial

As many of our contributors and readers are wrapping up their work assignments and presents for winterly festivities, we have one more reason to celebrate. *Ibérica* has reached a new milestone, a golden jubilee, as we publish our 50<sup>th</sup> volume since the journal launch in 1999! On this happy occasion, we are delighted to present you with a fine collection of articles and book reviews. This achievement would not have been possible without continued support of the AELFE Board, the Editorial and International Advisory Boards of *Ibérica*, and our dedicated peer reviewers, all of whom have helped to build up the journal's reputation. We cannot thank you enough!

Over the last 25 years, *Ibérica* has expanded its outreach to include contributions from different parts of the world. Although English for various specific and academic purposes remains the main object of study in most publications, we are very happy to publish several papers examining Spanish, Italian and Chinese. The contributors to this issue are affiliated with universities in nine countries, including Spain, France, Oman, China, Tunisia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. Issue 50 contains a forum article, a guest article, 10 empirical research articles and 4 book reviews. The contributions in this anniversary issue cover a range of topics: genre analysis in specialised and professional discourse; the expanding role of GenAI in specialised communication; academic writing, stance, and learner development; multimodality and science communication with the general public; peer review practices; and promotional discourse. This wide range of topics reflects latest developments in the field of LSP and its evolving role in academic and professional contexts.

The issue opens with a forum article titled “Language for specific (professional) purposes – a critical genre analysis inspired view” by the LSP veteran Vijay Bhatia. This insightful contribution proposes a multiperspective and multidimensional approach to LSP integrating the analysis of discursive and professional practices in the context of specific disciplinary cultures. Bhatia argues that interdiscursive performance has become central to how experts produce and interpret professional genres. In the current technology dominated context, traditional, text-focused LSP approaches are insufficient. Likewise, needs analysis becomes much more complex in multidisciplinary, multilingual

contexts, requiring a flexible “angle of specificity.” A multiperspective model outlined by Bhatia integrates discursive and professional practices and offers a revised framework for analysing and teaching LSP.

Next, we feature a guest article by Pascual Cantos-Gómez, who zooms in on AI in specialised translation. His article discusses questions related to terminology, quality, and the evolving role of human translators. Drawing on recent research, Cantos-Gómez shows that GenAI tends to achieve high terminological accuracy and can approach mid-range human translation quality. However, it still requires human correction for domain-specific nuance. Rather than replacing translators, AI is transforming their role into consultant/evaluator/educator/ designer of the architecture of translation process. In this evolving context, effective translator training and ethics guidelines are required to support this human–AI collaboration.

The following two articles draw on the established body of LSP research to examine genre-related and metadiscoural features of legal and academic texts. Drawing on a Swalesian approach, Warren Bonnard and co-authors present the creation of a manually annotated resource for supporting teaching English for Legal Purposes (ELP) and for Natural Language Processing (NLP) purposes. Their adapted move model diverges from existing models in ways that allow more precise annotation of legal discourse. Hadi Kashiha examines author engagement in peer reviews submitted to 52 international applied linguistics journals. Her findings show that directives are the dominant engagement strategy across all peer-review recommendation types, and these can be softened or expressed indirectly, which may create challenges for authors in interpreting reviewers’ comments. This study has clear implications for novice researchers working toward publication.

Xiaoxi Wang and Yuan Gao’s contribution engages with popular science communication. They analyse the interplay between verbal and visual semiotic resources in 40 popular science webtoons (PSWs) with a specific focus on metaphoric coherence. Their findings indicate that metaphor is used systematically to integrate verbal and visual modes, helping readers conceptualize scientific ideas. The authors demonstrate how strategic metaphor use improves accessible science communication. The next article by Sabiha Choura takes an original angle to examine rhythm in academic and popular medical titles. Her findings indicate that rhythmical patterns differ between the two types of titles, with the popular ones using more alliteration, repetition, and parallelism than academic titles.

Next, the focus shifts to academic writing. Rhona Lohan and Cristina Marín Palacios report on a two-year comparative study of undergraduate business students taking English-medium education (EME) and Spanish-medium education (SME) at a private Spanish university. Their focus is on the students' academic writing progress. The findings indicate that EME students with initially stronger English skills showed little improvement over two years, while SME students made significant gains. Limited EME progress is connected to insufficient ESP/EAP support and inconsistent language-related feedback in content courses. The authors argue that stronger collaboration between content and language instructors is needed to support sustained writing development. Gang Yao and Wei Sun adopt a corpus-based approach to examine hedging in Spanish academic writing across three groups: non-native (L1 Chinese) novice, native novice, and native expert writers. They have found that non-native (L1 Chinese) novice writers use fewer modal-verb and shield hedges than native novice and expert writers, underuse the conditional morpheme *-ría*, and overuse some approximators and informal forms. Overall, the differences identified in this study stem from linguistic, cultural, and proficiency factors. The authors recommend explicit instruction in hedging and pragmatic awareness.

The second half of the issue focuses on LSP in professional communication. Roldán Riejos and Santiago explore the concept of sustainability and how it is viewed by engineering students. Having analysed students' views on sustainability via a questionnaire and how the concept is constructed in the curriculum, the authors conclude that engineering students recognize gaps in their sustainability knowledge but can identify strategies to compensate. ESP practitioners can play a key role in fostering self-monitoring and interdisciplinary competence.

The following two articles draw on data related to the catering industry. Kathpalia conducted a cross-cultural study of restaurant reviews in India and Singapore. She shows that restaurant reviews from India and Singapore have distinct rhetorical, content, and linguistic or metaphorical patterns shaped by cultural context. These differences are connected to how evaluative genres adapt across cultural markets and provide guidance for novice critics and readers making dining decisions. The article by Ramón and Labrador explores the linguistic features of serving suggestions in English and Spanish. They find that serving suggestions in both languages express instruction mainly through syntactic structures, and persuasion through phraseological and lexical choices with positive connotations. Their findings

provide a cross-linguistic inventory of rhetorical resources useful for promotional writing, translation, and marketing communication.

The last article in this issue, by Danni Yu, tests the effectiveness of large language models (LLMs) in analysing genre structures beyond the English context, zooming in on Italian CEO statements. Yu reports that Claude 3.5 Sonnet outperforms GPT-4o in annotating moves in Italian CEO statements. Including more examples improves both the models' accuracy, especially for GPT-4o. After human verification of disagreement cases, accuracy exceeded 90%. Yu's paper shows strong potential for using LLMs to build multilingual, genre-annotated corpora for writing instruction.

The issue finishes with four reviews of recently published titles related to global Aviation English, Forensic Linguistics, speech acts and specialized communication. The reviewed publications deal with timely research topics and with theoretical issues in the study of LSP.

Last but not least, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our reviewers. Without your competence and dedication, *Ibérica* would not be where it is today. The articles included in this issue have gained tremendously from constructive feedback by our external reviewers: Rafael Alejo, Martín Aoiz, Fatma Benelhadj, Olga Boginskaya, Marina Bondi, Cristina Calle, Daniel Candel Bormann, Nekane Celayeta, Irene Cenni, An Cheng, Katrien Deroey, Stefan Diemer, Trinidad Fernández, Ana María Fernández-Vallejo, Eric Friginal, Pilar Gerns, Ramón González, Stanisław Goźdz-Roszkowski, Frank Harslem, Nguyen Huu Chanhm, Kathrin Kaufhold, Baraa Khuder, Adéla Kotatkova, Dániel Mány, María Belén Marín, Pilar Mur, Hanne Roothoof, Carmen Sancho Guinda, Johannes Schnitzer, Francisca Suau, Francesca Vitali, Beyza Sumer, Sin Wang Chong, and Fatma Yuvayapan. We are also grateful to all the members of our Editorial Team, particularly Ana Isabel Martínez, Rosana Villares and Edurne Garde, to Editorial Coordinator Dámaso Izquierdo, and to Book Reviews Editor Jesús García Laborda for their very valuable contributions to producing this issue and for their dedication to the journal.

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