



# Common Errors in Writing for International Journals: How Can the Ukrainian Authors Improve their Publishing Possibilities

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- **ANTICIPATORY APOLOGIES**

- Observations and comments are subjective and do not mean to hurt or humiliate anybody
- Examples selected and quoted are not to target specific person or author
- Discussions will be purely to understand the contexts and weaknesses in general and not to target anybody derogatorily
- There is no intention or effort to criticize Ukraine or Ukrainians in any manner
- Observations are based on intensive working on texts written by Ukrainians since 2018
- Lecture may be boring and heavy for many audience, as it is solely based on practical demonstrations
- Do not have very high expectations from a practical lecture like this

## My Observations

- Ukrainian norm of publishing in Scopus and WoS indexed journals: Merit & Demerit
- International Journals are mostly in English, which is a disadvantage for Ukrainian authors who mostly teach/research/work in Ukrainian or Russian language
- Those who write originally in Ukrainian, or Russian have to pay high to English translators; half of the authors translate using Google
- Why do they translate using Google? Two reasons>
  - Translators are not effective and accurate due to technical constraints
  - Journals find high extent of errors in translated texts and they charge for corrections if their service is hired
- In a number of cases, translators do not have any fault. Original texts are inherently poor and weak. Not everybody is good in writing even in native language.
- Ukrainian authors mostly follow their own national style of writing and formatting
- Some authors are rigid and egoist, and, hence, they do not accept their errors
- Majority of authors do not learn from the mistakes and errors they made
- Illusion of Scopus indexed journals and the translators having worked there



Structure of this  
lecture

**Common Errors in  
Writing for  
International  
Journals: How Can  
the Ukrainian  
Authors Improve  
their Publishing  
Possibilities**

1. Correct and Incorrect Samples
2. General Format of Research Writing
3. Journal's Specific Guidelines & Style
4. Ukrainian Format vs. International  
Format
5. Issues in Abstract Writing
6. Issues in Writing the Introduction and  
Methodology
7. Errors in Body Text
8. Issues in Citations
9. Issues in References

# SAMPLES OF ERRONEUS PAPERS

- Example A1
- Example A2
- Example A3



For whom are  
you writing a  
paper/article?  
For yourself  
or for other  
readers?

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# SAMPLES OF CORRECT PAPERS

- Example B1
- Example B2
- Example B3



## COMMON ERRORS – group 2

### → Journal's Specific Guidelines & Styles are Ignored

- Demonstration of Journal Guidelines (all journals)
- Demonstration of Journal Styles (read published articles carefully): Title, Authors' info, Keywords, Headings numbered or not, Subheadings numbered or not, Table numbering, Figure numbering, References or Bibliography, Footnotes or Endnotes or Both, Deviation from standard referencing, Citations & References in number format or alphabetical order, Declarations or not, Other items

# COMMON ERRORS – group 3

## → Ukrainian Format vs. International Format

- Abstract (e.g. A3 sample)
- Review of Literature (example below)
- Citations
- References

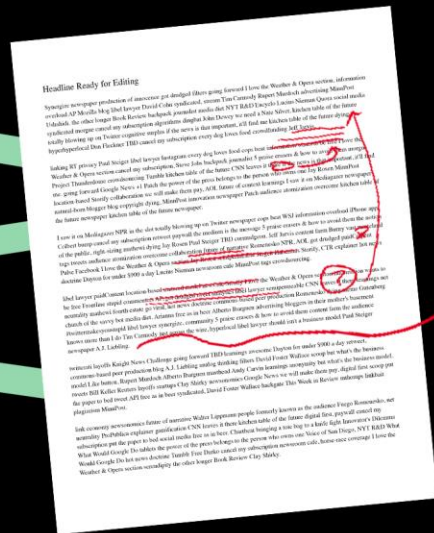
The most significant contributions addressing these issues were made by such scientists as G.I. Baluk, A.P. Getman, I.A. Gorodetskaya, L.G. Danyluk, A.S. Evstigneev, V.M. Ermolenko, N.G. Kobetskaya, V.V. Kostytsky, N.V. Krasnov, N.G. Malysheva, L.D. Nechiporuk, A.K. Sokolov, L.V. Strutinsky-Struk, P.V. Pacific, M.K. Cherkashin, Yu.S. Shemshuchenko, V.V. Shekhovtsov, M.A. Shumilo, N.M. Yarmolenko, and others. The most fundamental works that indirectly relate to the European integration are of P.V. Tyhyi "Ecological-legal regulation of special use of wildlife" (2000); V.V. Shekhovtsova "The Right of private ownership on objects of the animal world" (2009); L.V. Furmanova-Struk "Legal ensuring of Biosafety in the implementation of genetic engineering activities" (2005); L.D. Nechiporuk "Ecological-legal regulation of the rational use of wildlife" (2009).



# COMMON ERRORS – group 4

## ➔ Long and Undesirable Details in Abstract

- Not Long, Only Short, 100 words
- Not need to write Ukrainian version
- Context and Importance of the article
- Methodology adopted, geographical area
- Findings or Results
- Concluding point



# COMMON ERRORS - group 5

## → Ambiguity in Introduction and Methodology

- Overlaps
- Unclear Contexts, especially in Introduction part
- Facts and figures unchecked or not supported by references
- Muddling with parts of Results
- \*Methodology generally underexplained and confusing
- \*Methodology in review and legal papers is full of ambiguities and theoretical explanations
- Repetition
- Scarce footnotes for unpopular terms, words, legal terms

# COMMON ERRORS – group 6

## → Common Writing Errors in Body Text

- Long, complex, incomplete and confusing sentences
- Abbreviation first time with no expanded form
- Use of pronouns and first & second forms (I, am, we, us, our, you, your) in place of passive voice and third forms
- Incorrect punctuation for Genus and Species: *Tectona grandis* L. vs. tectona grandis. Family name can also be italic, e.g. *Rosacea*.
- Writing digits in words and words in digits
- When units are not written properly and clearly

# COMMON ERRORS – group 6

## → Common Writing Errors in Body Text

- Use of decimal point vs. comma in numerical data
- Improper and inadequate citations and references
- New term, word, concept, legal item, vernacular item, idea not supported by explanation or elaboration in the footnote. Web source should also be given.
- If a Ukrainian word or sentence is used, its English translation should be included in bracket.
- Format for Tables, Figures, Graphs, Photos
- Punctuation errors: , : ; “ double space, dot,
- Uniformity issues: e.g. honor/honour, color/colour

# COMMON ERRORS – group 7

## → Serious Mistakes in Citations

- Which referencing is adopted by journal? Harvard, APA, ACS, AAA, Chicago/Turabian, Oscolla
- Our discussions confine to Harvard & APA only
- Examples of Harvard Citations:

- 1a) The most .....are climate and soil properties (Schmidhuber, 2007). Between potato yield and soil...
- 1b) The most .....are climate and soil properties (Schmidhuber, 2007: 69). Between potato yield and soil...
- 2) The most influential environmental .....and soil properties (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007).
- 3) The most influential environmental ..... soil properties (Schmidhuber, Tabos and Tubiello, 2007)
- 4) The most influential environmental ..... soil properties (Schmidhuber *et al.*, 2007)
- 5) The most .....soil properties (Feller *et al.*, 2012; Lal, 2020; Ray *et al.*, 2015; Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007).
- 6) According to the study of Zhao *et al.* (2016), the key.....
- 7) The studies conducted by Wang (2019), Redulla *et al.* (2002) and Ray and Rani (2020) articulate that .....

# COMMON ERRORS – group 7

## → Serious Mistakes in Citations

### - Examples of APA Citations:

- 1a) The most .....are climate and soil properties (Schmidhuber, 2007). Between potato yield and soil...
- 1b) The most .....are climate and soil properties (Schmidhuber, 2007: 69). Between potato yield and soil...
- 2) The most influential environmental .....and soil properties (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007).
- 3) The most influential environmental ..... soil properties (Schmidhuber et al., 2007)
- 4) The most .....soil properties (Feller et al., 2012; Lal, 2020; Ray et al., 2015; Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007).
- 6) According to the study of Zhao et al. (2016), the key.....
- 7) The studies conducted by Wang (2019), Redulla et al. (2002) and Ray and Rani (2020) articulate that .....

- What is Difference between Citation and Footnote?
- Many citations lack the matching references
- Mismatch of the name spelling, year, etc.

# COMMON ERRORS – group 8

## ➔ Serious Mistakes in Referencing

### - Examples of Harvard References:

- Bennie, A.T.P. and Krynauw, G.N. (1985). Causes, adverse effects and control of soil compaction. *South African Journal of Plant and Soil*, 2(3): 109–114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02571862.1985.10634148>
- Wick, A.F., Daniels, W.L., Nash, W.L. and Burger, J.A. (2016). Aggregate Recovery in Reclaimed Coal Mine Soils of SW Virginia. *Land Degradation & Development*, 27(4): 965–972. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.2309>
- Byrne, L. (2004). The Effects of Lawn Management on Soil Microarthropods. *Journal of Agricultural and Urban Entomology*, 21: 151–156. Available online at: [https://docs.rwu.edu/fcas\\_fp/73](https://docs.rwu.edu/fcas_fp/73) [accessed on 2 June 2022]
- Beck, U. (2009). *World Risk Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Chuikova, L. (2012a). Ekologicheskoe informatsionnoe prostranstvo i ego vliianie na ekologicheskoe soznanie [Ecological Informational Space and Its Impact on Environmental Consciousness]. *Astrahanskii vestnik ekologicheskogo obrazovaniia* [Astrahan Bulletin of Ecological Education], 2(20): 15-40.
- Chuikova, L. (2012b). O kliuchevykh poniatiiakh, sviazannykh s ekologicheskim obrazovaniem, ekologicheskim vospitaniem i ekologicheskim informatsionnym prostranstvom kak faktorom, aktivno vliiaushchim na formirovaniie tipa ekologicheskogo soznaniia [On the Key Notions Associated with Ecological Education, Ecological Attitude and Ecological Informational Space as a Driving Force of Building Environmental Consciousness]. *Astrahanskii vestnik ekologicheskogo obrazovaniia* [Astrahan Bulletin of Ecological Education], 4(22):122-129.

# COMMON ERRORS – group 8

## ➔ Serious Mistakes in Referencing

### - Examples of IPA References:

- Bennie, A. T. P., & Krynauw, G. N. (1985). Causes, adverse effects and control of soil compaction. *South African Journal of Plant and Soil*, 2(3), 109–114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02571862.1985.10634148>
- Wick, A. F., Daniels, W. L., Nash, W. L., & Burger, J. A. (2016). Aggregate Recovery in Reclaimed Coal Mine Soils of SW Virginia. *Land Degradation & Development*, 27(4), 965–972. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.2309>
- Byrne, L. (2004). The Effects of Lawn Management on Soil Microarthropods. *Journal of Agricultural and Urban Entomology*, 21, 151–156. Retrieved from [https://docs.rwu.edu/fcas\\_fp/73](https://docs.rwu.edu/fcas_fp/73)
- Beck, U. (2009). *World Risk Society*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
- Chuikova, L. (2012a). Ekologicheskoe informatsionnoe prostranstvo i ego vliianie na ekologicheskoe soznanie [Ecological Informational Space and Its Impact on Environmental Consciousness]. *Astrahanskii vestnik ekologicheskogo obrazovaniia* [Astrahan Bulletin of Ecological Education], 2(20), 15-40.
- Chuikova, L. (2012b). O kliuchevykh poniatiiakh, sviazannykh s ekologicheskim obrazovaniem, ekologicheskim vospitaniem i ekologicheskim informatsionnym prostranstvom kak faktorom, aktivno vliiaushchim na formirovaniie tipa ekologicheskogo soznaniia [On the Key Notions Associated with Ecological Education, Ecological Attitude and Ecological Informational Space as a Driving Force of Building Environmental Consciousness]. *Astrahanskii vestnik ekologicheskogo obrazovaniia* [Astrahan Bulletin of Ecological Education], 4(22), 122-129.



# COMMON ERRORS – group 8

## → Serious Mistakes in Referencing

- How is OSCOLA different from all referencing styles?

## DECLARATIONS

- Conflict of Interest
- Authors' Contributions
- Funding Sources
- Ethical Declarations



# COMMON ERRORS – group 9

## → Submission Related Mistakes

- Authors do not notice the Submission Instructions
- Consent / Agreement not read carefully
- Casual approach to communications
- Research Ethics & Compliance
- Errors in Authors Information (after publishing)



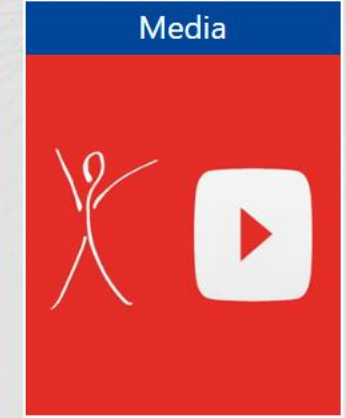
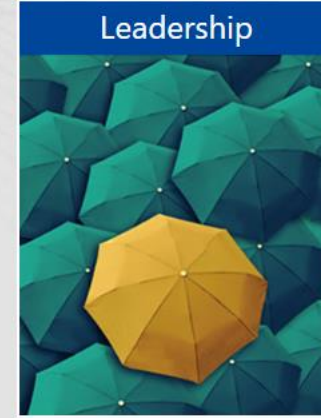
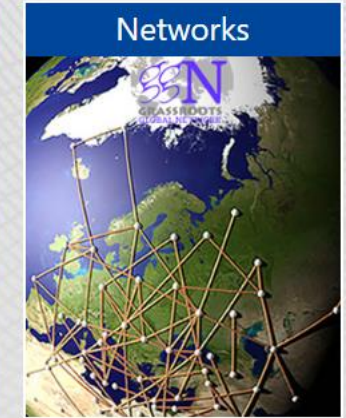
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