

Opinion Articles

Opinion Articles enable linguists and stakeholders to comment on current issues relating to language and linguistics research. *Opinion articles* do not need to be based on underpinning research, a key difference from the *policy papers* we publish. Papers may be informed by author expertise and experience and/or may draw on research literature, but referencing should be kept to a minimum. Rather, relevant research is better hyperlinked, where possible, and some materials for further reading may be recommended.

Preparing your article

Word limit

Opinion articles have a strict maximum limit of 1,000 words (excluding further reading).

Style

Our aim is to connect people from both within and outside of academia with policy issues. We ask authors to pitch their articles at a level suitable for a non-specialist audience and ensure that any specialist knowledge and terminology is fully explained.

The style of an *opinion article* should be less formal than an academic journal article, but more formal than a blog article. Again, we stress that articles should be accessible to a broad audience and so a clear and concise style is key. As this is an opinion piece, personal opinions and the first person voice are accepted. Please avoid overly casual language. Please consult previously published *opinion articles* to get a clearer sense of this.

Please use single quotation marks throughout (with double quotation marks to be used for quoted sections within quotes).

We are happy for authors to use any spelling style (usually British or American English) as long as these are used consistently.

Footnotes should be avoided as far as possible and, if used, should be used very sparingly.

You are welcome to use headings and subheadings in your text. These should not be numbered. The style will be adapted during the production process to fit the house style.

If your opinion article includes figures, graphs or images, please submit these in jpeg or png format.

Manuscripts can be submitted in any font, font size, and margin size. These will all be standardised to house style by our production team.

Please submit your articles in either Word doc. or PDF format.

References

Relevant research is hyperlinked rather than cited using a traditional academic format. Please see some of our published articles as a guide.

You may wish to include some materials for further reading. These should be listed under the heading “Further Reading” and referenced as per the house style (found on our website). When selecting further reading, please select texts which are accessible by non-specialists and (ideally) open access.

The review process

Opinion articles are reviewed by up to two external readers. They are asked to comment on the following:

1. Whether the paper is well-informed by existing and emerging research evidence and/or knowledge or experience of the policy context.
2. Whether the research, knowledge or expertise is presented in accessible, non-technical language. Where technical language must be used for clarity, appropriate explanations are provided. Identify elements and points which would be usefully developed within the piece.
3. Whether any links to policy look plausible/relevant.

You may wish to use these points as a guide when preparing your article.