

A Colombian Sample Study of the Importance of English proficiency in Scientific Research Visibility

Revista Scientia et Technica

Jimmy Alexander Cortés, Iván Darío Arellano, Hugo Armando Gallego



jacoper@utp.edu.co

Barranquilla, May 2-5 2018



Note

14/05/2018

This presentation is based on the article “The Relevance of English in Colombian Scientific Research Awareness” published by the Canadian Center of Science and Education on the English Language Teaching journal; Vol. 10, No. 5; 2017.

Facts

- High school students are B1 according to EF English Proficiency Index (EF EPI) [1-2].

14/05/2018

average
51.47



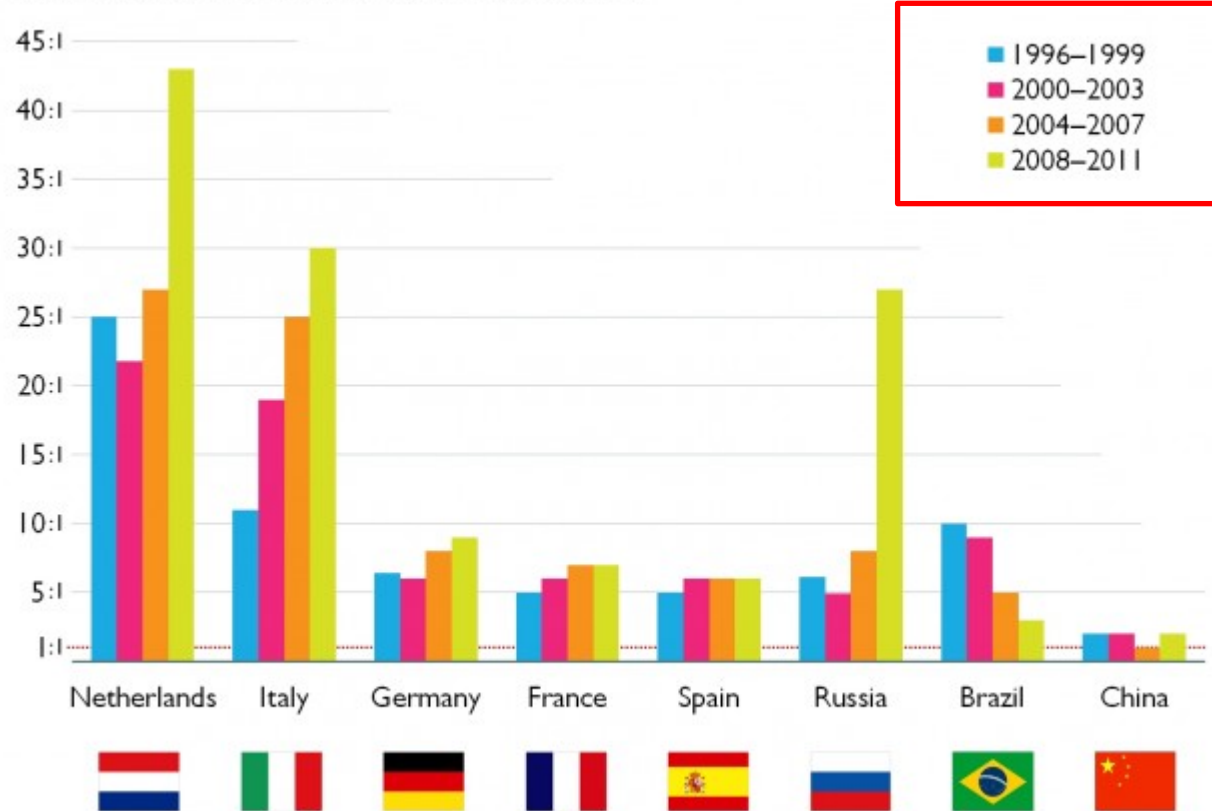
Proficiency: ● Very low ● Low ● Moderate ● High ● Very high [Learn more](#)

Facts

- Most prestigious scientific research journals publish in English, regardless of the native language of the writers [3].

14/05/2018










Ratio English to local language journal articles



Facts

Publications in contry journals

14/05/2018

Country	↓ Documents	Citable documents	Citations	Self-Citations	Citations per Document	H index
1  Brazil	749498	715170	7557916	2501838	10.08	461
2  Mexico	258077	245164	2849413	568014	11.04	352
3  Argentina	174968	165384	2389147	480251	13.65	337
4  Chile	116283	110779	1525554	286939	13.12	291
5  Colombia	71966	68319	629134	93289	8.74	216
6  Venezuela	35778	34327	381824	45129	10.67	181
7  Cuba	33861	32388	245917	43708	7.26	145
8  Peru	17096	15581	254779	26504	14.90	179
9  Uruguay	15428	14591	235388	30044	15.26	150

Facts

14/05/2018

- Scielo (Scientific Electronic Library Online, www.scielo.org) has been the most important Latin American initiative to encourage both open access and electronic publication of academic journals [4].
- Journals published by academic societies or university departments typically suffered from poor visibility, low circulation, irregular publication, and a very local character [4].

Facts

Factors influencing proofreading and editing rates:

- Proofreading charges per word from 150 pesos to 400 pesos in Colombia.
- The average translation rates are USD 0.20 per word and USD 100 per page.
- Country: the richer the country the higher the rates.
- Subject: the more complex and specialized the text the higher the rates.
- Volume: the larger the volume the lower the rates.
- Deadlines: the tighter the deadlines the higher the rates.
- File format: Latex is more expensive than word.
- **Proofreading** task is cheaper than translation.



14/05/2018

14/05/2018

- INTRODUCTION

Research Questions

14/05/2018

- Is Colombia low proficiency in English affecting the acceptance of peer reviewed papers and its world visibility in that language?
- What is the most important skill among writing, reading, listening, and speaking?
- How can Colombian scientists succeed and be competitive internationally?
- Is it an exclusive issue in Colombia?

(8)

Metodology

- A quantitative approach was used to carry out this study.
- Four years of data (from 2012 to 2015) .
- Three higher education institutions from Pereira, Colombia.
 1. Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira UTP.
 2. Universidad Católica de Pereira UCP .
 3. Fundación del Area Andina AREANDINA).
- Published papers in Spanish and English.



14/05/2018

14/05/2018

EXPERIMENTS- METHODOLOGY

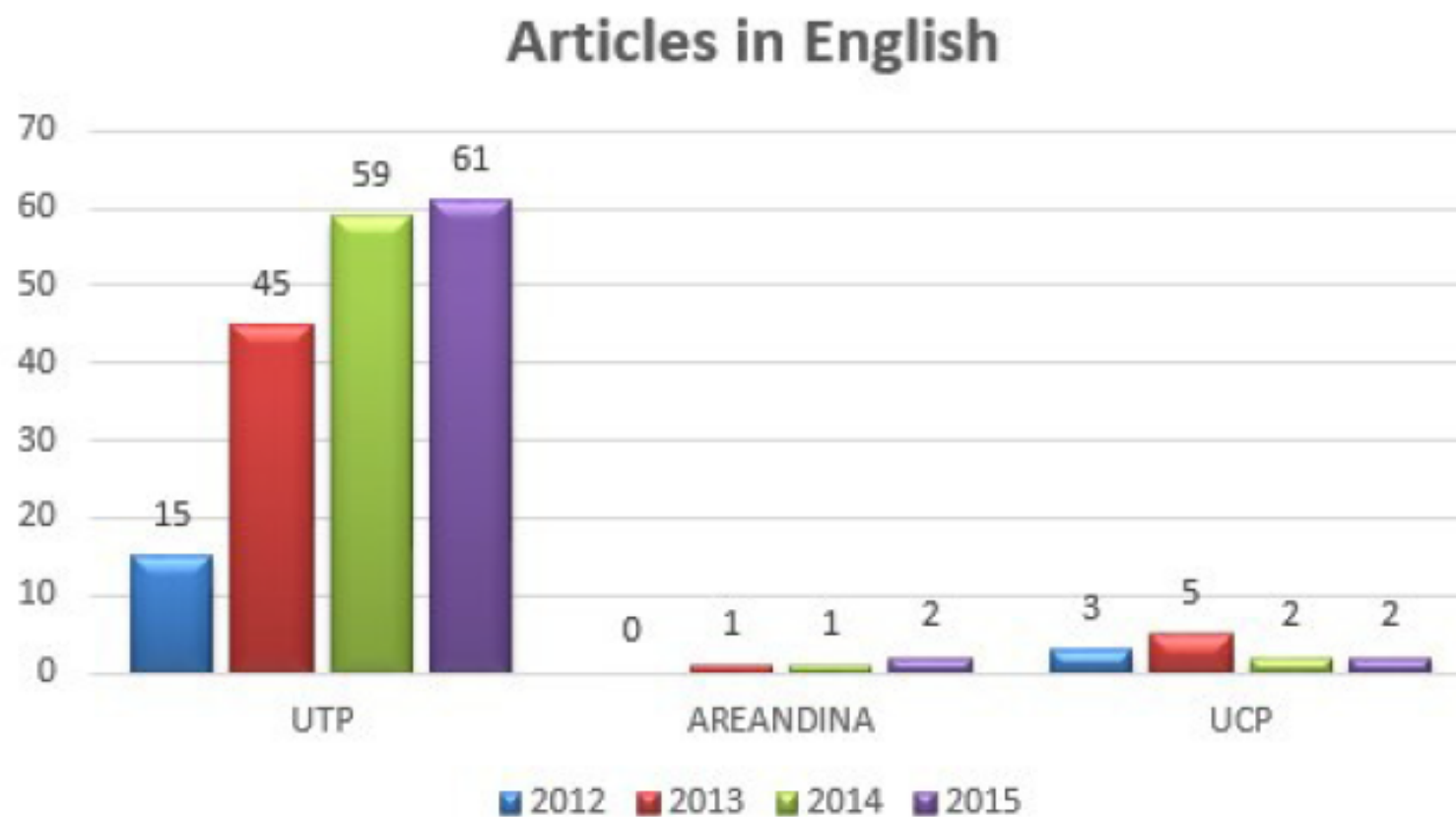


Figure 1. The amount of the articles written in English by the professors of the three studied institutions during last 4 years (CIARP Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, 2016)

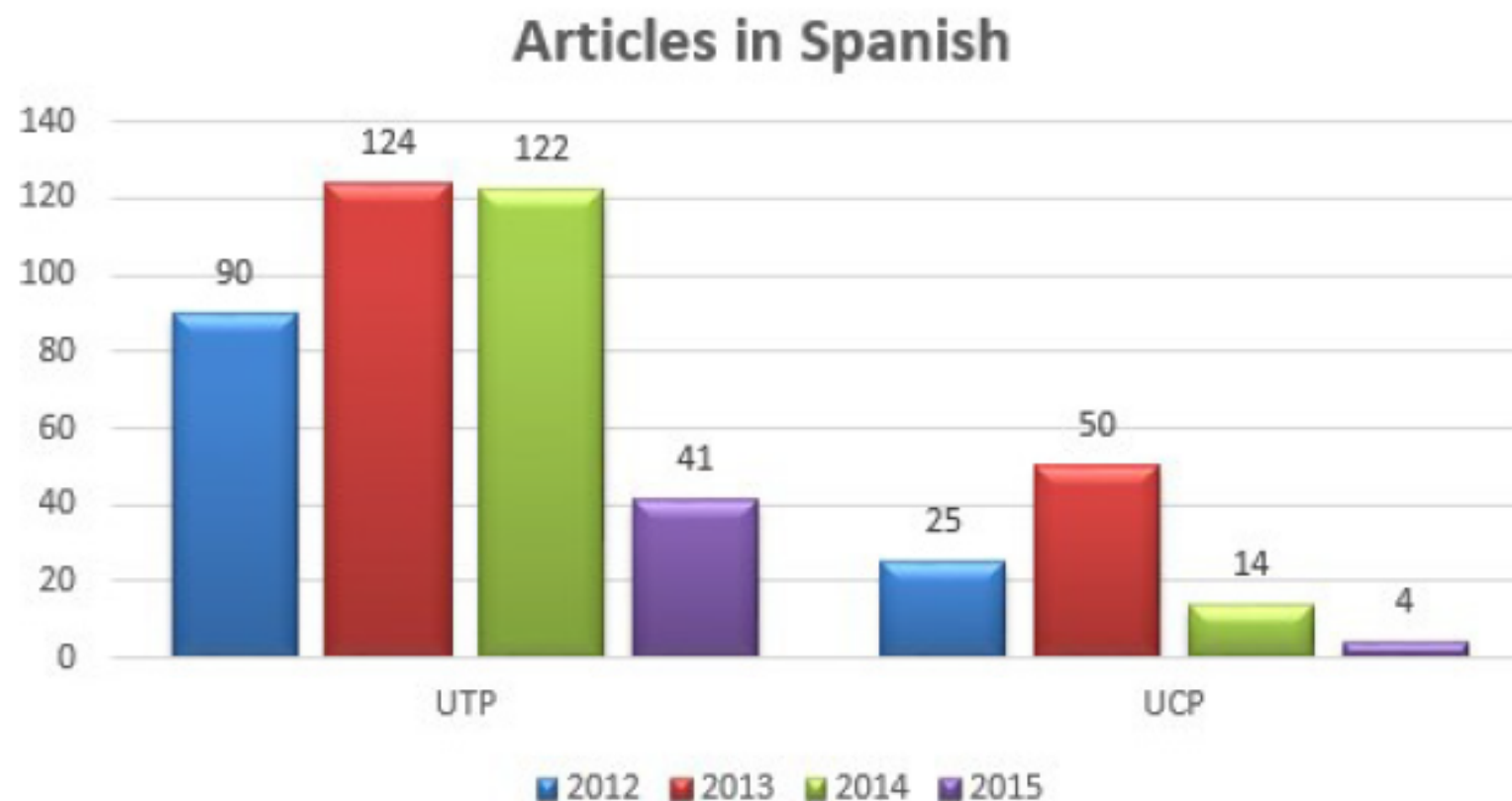


Figure 2. The amount of the articles written in Spanish by the professors of two institutions during last 4 years (CIARP Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, 2016) (Dirección de Investigaciones e Innovación, Universidad Católica de Pereira, 2016)

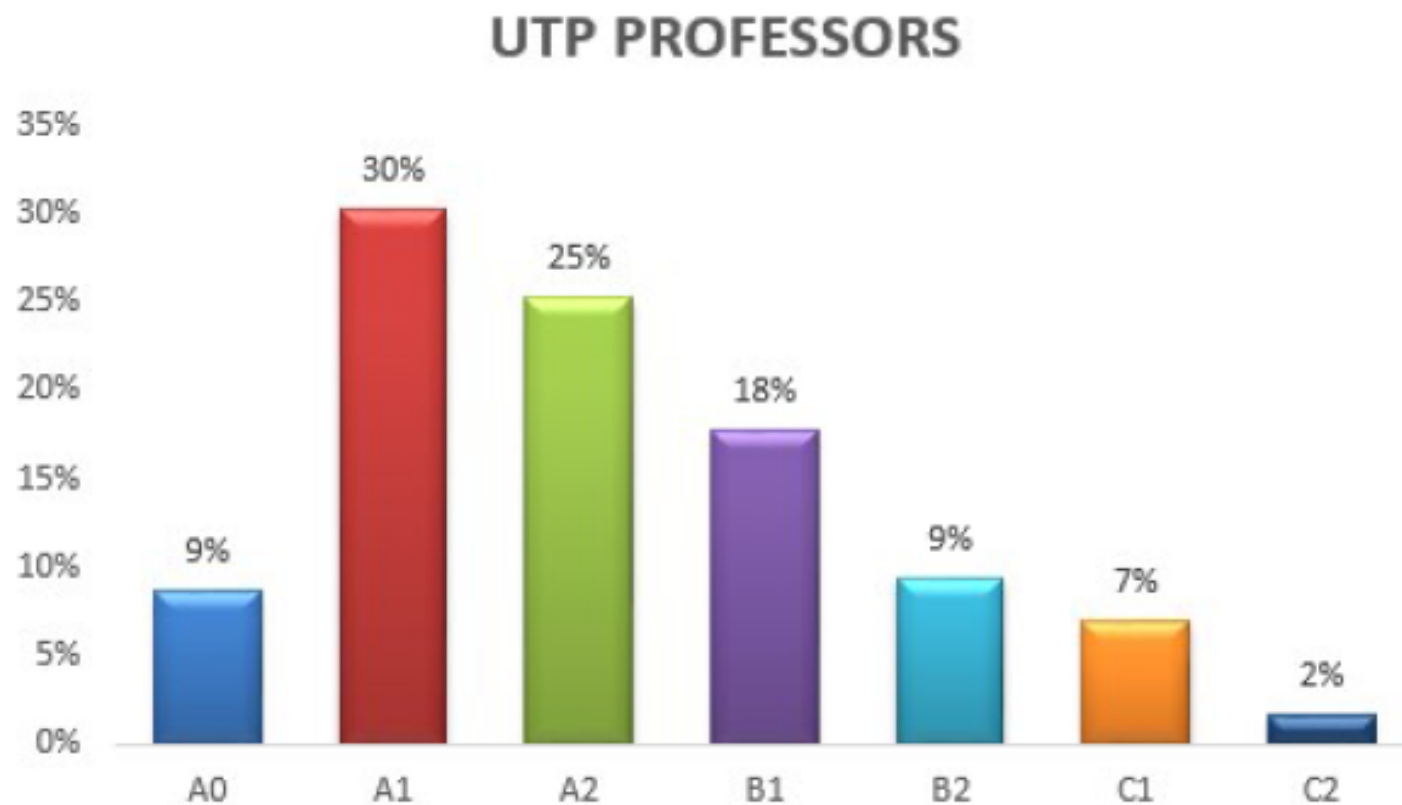


Figure 3. Level of English of UTP professors according to Oxford Online Placement Test (Vicerrectoría Académica Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, 2016)



**QS World
University
Rankings**

Comparación de universidades utilizando los siguientes parámetros:

- Reputación académica (30%)
- Reputación de empleadores (20%)
- Relación docentes/estudiantes (10%)
- Citaciones de artículos (10%)
- Artículos por facultad (10%)
- Personal con PhD (10%)
- Impacto en la web (10%)

Rango 201 – 250
Latinoamérica

33 de **41** en
Colombia



**SCimago
Institutions
Rankings**

- Investigación (30%)

El ranking de Instituciones Scimago es una evaluación científica para valorar las universidades alrededor del mundo.

- Investigación
- Innovación
- Visibilidad en la Web

Puesto **12** de **81**
Instituciones
Colombianas
medidas.

Puesto **183** en
Latinoamérica.

The first proposal is to increase the visibility of Colombian science by publishing research papers in both the native language and in English.

To improve Professional English Proficiency of students and teachers.

The most important skills are writing and reading because they favor the production of scientific papers, and, by doing so, the rise of scientific citation impact which increases scientific awareness.

There is an evidence that the more scientific publications are written in English, the higher the international awareness is.

Support payment of translation of papers in English for national and international journals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank Fundación del Area Andina, Universidad Católica de Pereira, and Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira for their raw data of national and international papers published that supported this research. Last but not least, we also acknowledge the assistance and support we received from some teachers of the English Language Institute at Missouri State University, who provided unvaluable comments during the writing of the first version of this paper.

14/05/2018

14/05/2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(15)

(15)

Bibliography

[1]"Colombia y su preocupante nivel de inglés", *Bilingüismo Nivel de inglés en Colombia*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.semana.com/educacion/articulo/bilinguismo-nivel-de-ingles-en-colombia/542736>. [Accessed: 23- Apr- 2018].

[2]"EF EPI 2017 - EF English Proficiency Index", *Ef.edu*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ef.edu/epi/>. [Accessed: 23- Apr- 2018].

[3]"The Language of (Future) Scientific Communication - Research Trends", *Researchtrends.com*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.researchtrends.com/issue-31-november-2012/the-language-of-future-scientific-communication/>. [Accessed: 23- Apr- 2018].

[4]C. Estrada-Mejía and C. Forero-Pineda, "The quest for visibility of scientific journals in Latin America", *Learned Publishing*, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 237-252, 2010.

Bibliography

[5]"Colombia | Ranking Web de Universidades", Webometrics.info, 2018. [Online]. Available: http://www.webometrics.info/es/Latin_America_es/Colombia. [Accessed: 23-Apr- 2018].