

STUDIES IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Instructions for Contributors

Studies in Second Language Acquisition, a leading publication in the field of second language acquisition, is a refereed journal devoted to problems and issues in non-primary and heritage language acquisition. Theoretically-driven essays as well as theoretically-motivated empirical studies in any area related to second or heritage language acquisition and use or the interface of acquisition and use with pedagogy are acceptable.

Submissions. *SSLA* uses the ScholarOne system for on-line submissions. Authors may go to [website url here] to create an account if they do not have one, and upload all requested information and documents there. For queries regarding manuscripts and submission information, please contact the editors at ssla@msu.edu.

SSLA publishes three kinds of articles: (1) unsolicited articles; (2) invited articles for special volumes (published each June); and (3) unsolicited squibs, research reports, and replication studies. Manuscripts should not have been published previously or be under consideration for publication elsewhere in any form. All submissions are double-blind peer reviewed.

Contributions written in English are welcomed from all countries. Authors, particularly those whose first language is not English, may wish to have their English-language manuscripts checked by a native speaker before submission. This is optional, but may help to ensure that the academic content of the paper is fully understood by the editor and any reviewers. We list a number of third-party services specializing in language editing and/or translation, and suggest that authors contact as appropriate by clicking on this link: [Cambridge Language Services](#). Please note that the use of any of these services is voluntary, and at the author's own expense. Use of these services does not guarantee that the manuscript will be accepted for publication, nor does it restrict the author to submitting to a Cambridge published journal.

Format. All *SSLA* submissions must conform to the requirements of the latest Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. These requirements include formatting, headings, language use, presentation of data, citations, references, and all other aspects of manuscript preparation. Information about APA style can be obtained from the [American Psychological Association](#). The target length for regular full-length article submissions is between 10,000 and 11,000 words including title page, abstract, key words, text, references, notes, tables and figures, and appendices, although longer submissions may be considered under certain conditions. For squibs, research reports, and replication studies (see below), the preferred target length including everything from title page to tables and figures is between 4,000 and 6,000 words.

Squibs, Research Reports, and Replication Studies. *SSLA* strongly encourages shorter manuscripts as squibs, research reports, or replications studies. Squibs are normally short theoretical or review essays that have the potential to make a significant contribution to

the field but do not warrant full-manuscript length. Research reports are articles presenting a small-scale study with important implications for related research and theory.

Replication studies are those in which authors address the same or very similar research questions contained in a previously published article, especially a study published in *SSLA*. It is expected that replication studies will contain shorter than average background sections given their replicative nature, with the bulk of the space devoted to the study itself, the results, and the discussion. For more information, see G. Porte (Ed.) (2012). *Replication research in applied linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. As stated above, squibs, research reports, and replications are normally between 4,000 and 6,000 words in length.

Blinding. Authors are asked to blind all references to their own research which is either “in press”, “forthcoming”, or available in “first view”. Additionally, any references which can be attributed directly to the authors through the use of pronouns such as ‘I’ or ‘We’ should also be blinded. This is to help ensure anonymity during the double-blind peer-review process. Any references to such works in the body of the manuscript should be formatted as follows:

“At least one study (AUTHOR, XXXX) has shown that ...”

In the reference section, please record the citation as “AUTHOR (XXXX)” with NO additional information (i.e., manuscript name, Journal, volume#, issue #, etc.), and include among the ‘A’ entries (i.e., at the beginning of the reference list).

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Quantitative Research

There is a growing awareness in SLA and in applied linguistics more generally regarding the importance of completeness and transparency in quantitative data reporting practices. In order to maintain the highest possible level of transparency in *SSLA*, authors are required to adhere to the following guidelines, in addition to those provided by the 6th edition of the APA publication manual. Authors of quantitative research reports must be sure to include:

- research questions and/or hypotheses being tested;
- whether and how statistical power was considered in determining the sample size;

- reliability coefficients for all instruments employed;
- whether the assumptions of all statistical tests were met and, if not, whether any adjustments were made to the data;
- means, standard deviations, and confidence intervals for all analyses based on mean scores;
- exact p values for all statistical tests;
- effect sizes for all statistical tests along with a meaningful, contextualized interpretation.

In addition to reporting these statistics, authors must also be sure to interpret statistical results in ways that add to the manuscript's substantive contribution.

Supplementary Material. Authors are encouraged to upload complete supplementary materials (e.g., stimuli, treatment materials, assessment tasks, and so on) for review purposes only, as this helps expert readers evaluate design and interpret results more readily during the review process. However, complete supplementary materials are not normally published in the print version, although upon request by the authors, they can be published on-line in the SSLA website. Thus, upon submission, authors should provide both an appendix intended for publication and a set of complete supplementary materials intended for reviewers only. Pages containing complete materials only for reviewers do not figure into word count and length. (See below on Data Collection Materials.)

Data collection materials. *SSLA* encourages authors to consider uploading their data collection materials to the IRIS database, an online repository for data collection materials used for second language research. This includes data elicitation instruments such as interview and observation schedules, language tests, pictures, questionnaires, software scripts, url links, word lists, teaching intervention activities, among many other types of materials used to elicit data. Please see <http://www.iris-database.org> for more information and to upload. Any questions may be addressed to iris@iris-database.org.

References. Following APA style, sources cited or referred to in the text should indicate the author's surname, publication date, and page number(s) when pertinent: (Gass, 1994; Lightbown & Spada, 1994, p. 563); if more than one, citations should appear in alphabetical order. When the author's name is part of the text, follow this form: "Schumann (1994) argued that...."

All in-text citations must be listed in full in the reference list at the end of each article following the specifications of the *APA* manual and all references listed must be cited somewhere in the text. Begin the reference list on a separate page entitled "References" and double-space it throughout. Each entry must include the author's name, co-authors (if any), publication date, and title of work. For a journal article, also provide the name of the journal, volume number, and page numbers for the article. For an article in an edited volume, list the editor's name, title of the collection, and page numbers of the article. For a book or monograph, list the edition, volume number, series, place of

publication, and name of publisher. Punctuate and capitalize as in the following examples:

- Boersma, P., & Weenink, D. (2008). Praat: doing phonetics by computer (Version 5.0.25) [Computer software]. Retrieved from <http://www.praat.org>.
- Gass, S. M., & Mackey, A. (Eds.). (2012). *The Routledge handbook of second language acquisition*. London: Routledge.
- Geeslin, K., with Long, A. (2014). *Sociolinguistics and second language acquisition: Learning to use language in context*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Hulstijn, J. H. (2012). Is the second language acquisition discipline disintegrating? *Language Teaching*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1017/S0261444811000620.
- Keating, G. D. (2014). Eye-tracking with text. In J. Jegerski & B. VanPatten (Eds.), *Research methods in second language psycholinguistics* (pp. 69-92). London: Routledge.
- Lakshmanan, U. (1989). *Accessibility to Universal Grammar in child second language acquisition* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Plonsky, L. (2013). Study quality in SLA: An assessment of designs, analyses, and reporting practices in quantitative L2 research. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 35, 655-687.
- Révész, A. (2011, March). *Working memory and the observed effectiveness of recasts on different L2 outcome measures*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics, Chicago, Illinois.
- VanPatten, B. (2013). Mental representation and skill in instructed SLA. In J. Schwieter (Ed.), *Innovative research and practices in second language acquisition and bilingualism* (pp. 3-22). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

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First View. *SSLA* articles are now routinely published online through First View in advance of their appearance in a print issue.

STUDIES IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Editors: Susan M. Gass & Bill VanPatten

Associate Editors: Kimberly Geeslin, Gregory D. Keating, Luke Plonsky, Andrea Révész

Types of Articles (submissions accepted through [ScholarOne](#))

Research Article (regular, unsolicited)	11,000 words
Special Issue Articles (invited)	11,000 words
State-of-the- Science	11,000 words

Review Process

Step 1: Author submits

Step 2: In-house review (possible outcomes: accept for external review, return for additional work, reject)

Step 3: External review (at least two evaluators, plus handling editor)

Step 4: Editors' decision (possible outcomes: accept with revisions, revise and resubmit, reject)

A good manuscript...

- 1) fits within the scope of the journal;
- 2) is well organized;
- 3) has research questions that are clearly articulated and motivated by the background;
- 4) has appropriate statistical analyses with data that are clearly laid out;
- 5) has a discussion section that sticks close to the data and does not go beyond them. Additionally, the discussion ties back to the background, motivation, and research questions;
- 6) strictly follows the APA manual (latest edition).

Major Reasons for Rejection

- 1) The paper does not fit within the mission or the scope of the journal.
- 2) There is a major shortcoming in the research design (i.e., the study cannot address what it claims to address).
- 3) The paper is poorly written and/or suffers from poor organization.

Further considerations that weaken manuscripts include...

- 1) providing a "Literature Review," as opposed to a "Background and Motivation" that is appropriate in content and length;
- 2) lacking in explicit research questions or hypotheses;
- 3) a discussion section that is too long, or does not adequately provide for an appropriate interpretation of the results and/or does not connect back to the motivation section;
- 4) selective reporting of data, or inappropriate interpretation.

(Last updated 21st December 2015)