The title, “Applied Linguistics” immediately raises whole range of questions. Does it refer to research publications in the area of applications of Linguistics science? Does it include scholars from any part of the world dealing with the issues of applied linguistics? What areas of language problems it addresses to? This report will provide answers to some of these complicated questions. *Applied linguistics* is one of the leading journals in the field of applied linguistics. It started its journey from 1980 which is continued even today in 2010. This journal is published under the auspices of three major associations of applied linguistics known as American association of applied linguistics (AAAL), British association of applied linguistics (BAAL) and International association of applied linguistics (AIAL). This journal has diverse focus on variety of topics related to language applications. It is published five times a year in February, May, July, September, and December by Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. This journal is available in both paper and electronic form where as latter is available in both HTML and PDF format. “Applied Linguistics” has preference for articles based on quantitative research methodology as compared to qualitative research. Except few articles using ethnography, I found most of the articles employing qualitative methods in this journal.

**Objectives of Journal:**

All the papers in applied linguistics deal with some aspect of applied linguistics. Most of the articles are written by scholars working in the language related departments in English speaking countries. This journal does represent world views in the form of contributions from many countries of the world. According to this journal’s website, “It publishes research into language with relevance to real-world problem by promoting scholarly and scientific discussion of issues that unite or divide scholars in applied linguistics. One big claim of “Applied Linguistics” is it has practical approach to find ways of handling different language related problems. According to Bern and Matsuda, “This journal is less interested in the ad hoc solution of particular problems and more interested in the handling of problems in a principled way by reference to theoretical studies” (2006).

**Typical Topics Published:**

As mentioned above most of the topics in Applied Linguistics are related to language issues, but it also touches on some of the areas related to visual rhetoric and multimodal communication. Most of the articles published in past volumes in “Applied Linguistics:” reflects priority for language use and pedagogical issues for teaching different languages. The journal welcomes both reports of original research and conceptual articles on the diverse topics as it is mentioned on the Journal’s website , “ the journal welcomes contributions in such areas of current enquiry as: rhetoric, Stylistics, Translation, bilingualism and multilingualism; computer-mediated communication; multimodal
communication, conversation analysis; corpus linguistics; critical discourse analysis; deaf linguistics; discourse analysis and pragmatics; first and additional language learning, teaching, and use; forensic linguistics; language assessment; language planning and policies.”

**Article Length responses to Papers:**

There is one distinctive feature of article length responses to papers started in 2001. These responses to papers are subject to a normal refereeing process. There is a restriction of one such short article publication in any issue. The first paper published under this section was in the April 2001 volume of “applied linguistics.” According to Davies one of the past editor, “in order to help to speed up the process, as far as possible the journal will publish article-length responses in the first issue going to the press”.

**Forum Section:**

This journal also started a new feature of forum section in 2001. The general goal of this section is to provide language researchers a mean through which they can share ideas and activities related to several themes of language education. Graduate students are encouraged to contribute in this section. There is separate review and forum section editor. Journal’s website claims, “Forum pieces are usually reviewed by the journal Editors and are not sent for external review”. Further guidelines are provides in these words, “Items for the Forum section are normally 2,000 words long, Contributions to the Forum section and offers to review book publications should be addressed to the Forum and Reviews Editor. They may consist of comments, statements on current issues, short reports on ongoing research (but NOT abstracts), or short replies to other articles.” ([www.applij.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.applij.oxfordjournals.org)).

The Journal’s Forum section is intended to enhance debate between authors and the wider community of applied linguists and affords a quicker turnaround time for short pieces (Clair, 2001). Forum pieces are typically responses to a published article, a shorter research note or report, or a commentary on research issues or professional practices. The Journal also contains a Reviews section.

**Submission guidelines:**

Detailed information about submission guidelines can be viewed on the web site of this journal. ([www.applij.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.applij.oxfordjournals.org)). According to this website, “Articles submitted to *Applied Linguistics* should represent outstanding scholarship and make original contributions to the field.” The Editors will assume that an article submitted for their consideration has not previously been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere, either in the submitted form or in a modified version. Furthermore, “Articles must be written in English and not include libelous or defamatory material”. There are clear instructions for word limit such as “manuscripts accepted for
publication must not exceed 8,000 words including all material for publication in the print version of the article, except for the abstract, which should be no longer than 175 words. Additional material can be made available in the online version of the article. Such additions will be indexed in the print copy”. There is a separate link to guidelines for electronic submission of manuscripts available on the journal’s website. Contributors need to create their own account in order to submit their manuscripts. Detailed information is available on this link for the submission of new and revised manuscripts.

www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/applij/for_authors/online_submission.html

Peer-review guidelines:

*Applied Linguistics* follows a double-blind peer review process. It is mentioned on the website, “To facilitate this process, authors are requested to ensure that all submissions, whether first or revised versions, are anonymous”. This policy encourages that, “Authors' names and institutional affiliations should appear only on a detachable cover sheet.” Author's name(s) should be substituted by ‘author’ throughout the paper, e.g. in references to the author's own work. This information on the web further claims, “Submitted manuscripts will not normally be returned.” (www.applij.oxfordjournals.org)

Book reviews:

The journal publishes reviews of books relevant to the field of Applied Linguistics. If you would like to review a book for *Applied Linguistics*, please contact the Reviews Editor at the address mentioned in the journal or on its website. Book review section is an ideal starting point for graduate students who are new to the research in applied linguistics. As while skimming through different volumes I found more graduate students publishing in this section rather that tenured faculty.

Editorial Board:

Ken hayland and Jane Zulengler are current editors of “Applied Linguistics”. Stef slembrouk is reviews and forum editor. There is also separate advisory board based on one individual member from three leading organization of applied linguistics in America (AAAL), Britian (BAAL) and for international representation (AIAL). Last but not least, there is also one editorial panel comprised of top applied linguist from all over the world.

References:


www.applij.oxfordjournals.org (Accessed on 10/06/10)