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# From one *I* to another: Discursive construction of self-representation in English and Castilian Spanish research articles

Elena Sheldon

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### Abstract

The notion that academic writing is not only a conventional entity but also carries the representation of the writer has been supported by several researchers. Few studies have explored identity representation in language across two written cultures, such as English and Spanish, although Spanish might be a language of interest for non-native speakers due to its international dynamism. This study explores the different identities behind first-person roles in English and Spanish by drawing on [Ivanic's \(1998\)](#) pioneering typology of identity, refined in [Tang and John, 1999](#), [Starfield and Ravelli, 2006](#), and elaborated further in this study. The corpus is comprised of 18 English and 18 Spanish research articles (RAs) in *Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching*. The results of the analysis reveal some similarities and considerable differences in the distribution of the first-person forms throughout the articles. One commonality is that English and

Spanish writers orient the reader through self-references. However, in other roles the writers in both languages inhabit the text in distinct ways, suggesting that the construction of self-representation is not homogenous across these written cultures. The paper also draws attention to self-representation in the teaching of academic writing in EAP and SAP (Spanish for academic purposes) courses.



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**Elena Sheldon** is an associate lecturer in Spanish Language and Culture in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Her research interests include applied linguistics, second language acquisition, functional grammar and academic writing. She is currently working on her doctoral thesis at the University of New South Wales. The thesis examines academic writing in English and Spanish.

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