Dear Authors of the World Journal of Orthodontics,

This Editor-in-Chief is always delighted to receive your submissions. He has been an author many times over and knows exactly how much time and effort it takes to come up with a new idea, conduct the necessary literature research, start the pretest, refine the method, select the appropriate sample, collect and process all data, work through the statistics, and then, phew, finished. Finished? Not so fast!

Now, the write-up of the manuscript begins. Easy for some, not so for others—particularly those whose native language is not English. They wrestle with words, sentences, and paragraphs in their struggle to prepare their paper for submission. And often when these authors finish—much like at the end of a battle, where the field is strewn with unidentifiable remains—their original ideas and intent may be buried or obscured.

Next on the scene come the reviewers who are assigned such manuscripts to assess. Their task is to painstakingly sift through the text to uncover the meaning so they can conduct a proper review in the short amount of time they are given. In some cases, reviewers are able to make sense of the words and recover the treasure within. In other cases, however, they must abandon their efforts after much time spent and either reject the manuscript or recommend its revision by a language specialist before being resubmitted. Either scenario causes friction among reviewers, authors, and editorial staff. (And we all know how detrimental friction is in orthodontics.)

Therefore, my request to you, dear authors of the World Journal of Orthodontics, is to have your hard work thoroughly corrected by someone whose native language is English. This person need not be a dental professional to be able to determine whether your ideas, methods, and results have been expressed clearly enough for publication. Please do not let poor English compromise the review of your hard work. Have your manuscript checked by a native English-speaking person before you submit.

Yours sincerely,

Rainer-Reggie Miethke
Editor-in-Chief