

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

1 Journal Information

First Language Pedagogy (Anyanyelv-pedagógia)

The journal was founded in 2008

Website: <http://ojs.elte.hu/anyanyelv-pedagogia>

Email: anyp@btk.elte.hu

Publisher: [Society of Hungarian Linguistics](#)

Publisher's Address: 1088 Budapest, Múzeum körút 4/A

Responsible Publisher: Dezső Juhász CSc

Editor-in-Chief: Ágnes Antalné Szabó PhD

Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Judit Bóna DSc

Online ISSN: HU ISSN 2060-0623

The journal is registered with the National Media and Info Communications Authority.

It is published quarterly (four issues per year)

1.1 Aims of the Journal

The journal *First Language Pedagogy* was founded in 2008 by [the Society of Hungarian Linguistics](#) with the professional support of the [Gyula Szemere Research Group](#) in First Language Pedagogy. Through its publications, the journal primarily serves the advancement of research in first language pedagogy and the development of first language education. The journal offers both theoretical and practical articles. English-language abstracts, titles, and keywords are provided to facilitate the international visibility of the journal's content.

1.2 Professional Profile of the Journal

The journal *First Language Pedagogy* is registered in [the Hungarian Scientific Publications Database](#) (MTMT) as a scientific, peer-reviewed journal. It publishes only original contributions and peer-reviewed articles.

Since its foundation, the journal has been published continuously, with four issues per year. From 2026 onward, issues appear on 28 February, 31 May, 31 August, and 30 November. It is available exclusively online, and its full content can be accessed free of charge without mandatory registration.

- The *Research Articles* section primarily features articles in applied linguistics and first language pedagogy, and to a lesser extent, in pedagogy and digital culture.
- The *From the Field* section includes studies on institutional and family-based first language education and related research.
- The *Reviews* section presents new Hungarian books, journals, and professional websites related to first language education.
- The *Viewpoints* section offers reports and reviews on foreign publications, cross-border professional events and research findings, and insights into first language education and pedagogy in other countries.
- The *Miscellanea* section covers Hungarian professional programs, conferences, academic competitions, and reports on research groups and professional organizations—all related to first language pedagogy.

- The *Letters to the Editor* section features reader letters discussing current topics in first language education.

Since 2016, all articles (except those in the Letters to the Editor section) have been published with international DOI identifiers via the CrossRef system. Articles published between 2008 and 2015 in the Research Articles, From the Field, Reviews, Viewpoints, and Miscellanea sections received DOIs in 2025. From issue 3 of 2024 onward, the journal is published in the ELTE Open Journal System (OJS). Issues published before September 2024 are available in the OJS archive since January 2026.

The journal is indexed in the [MATARKA](#) and [MTMT](#) databases. Articles are archived in the [ELTE Digital Institutional Repository](#) (EDIT) and in [the REAL repository](#) maintained by the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

1.3 Editorial Work

The preparation of the journal's publication is carried out by the members of the editorial team: the editor-in-chief, the deputy editor-in-chief, the journal manager, the section editors, the copy editor, the technical editors, the translator, and the language reviewer. Their work is supported by an international advisory board. The members of the editorial team are introduced on the [Editorial Team](#) page.

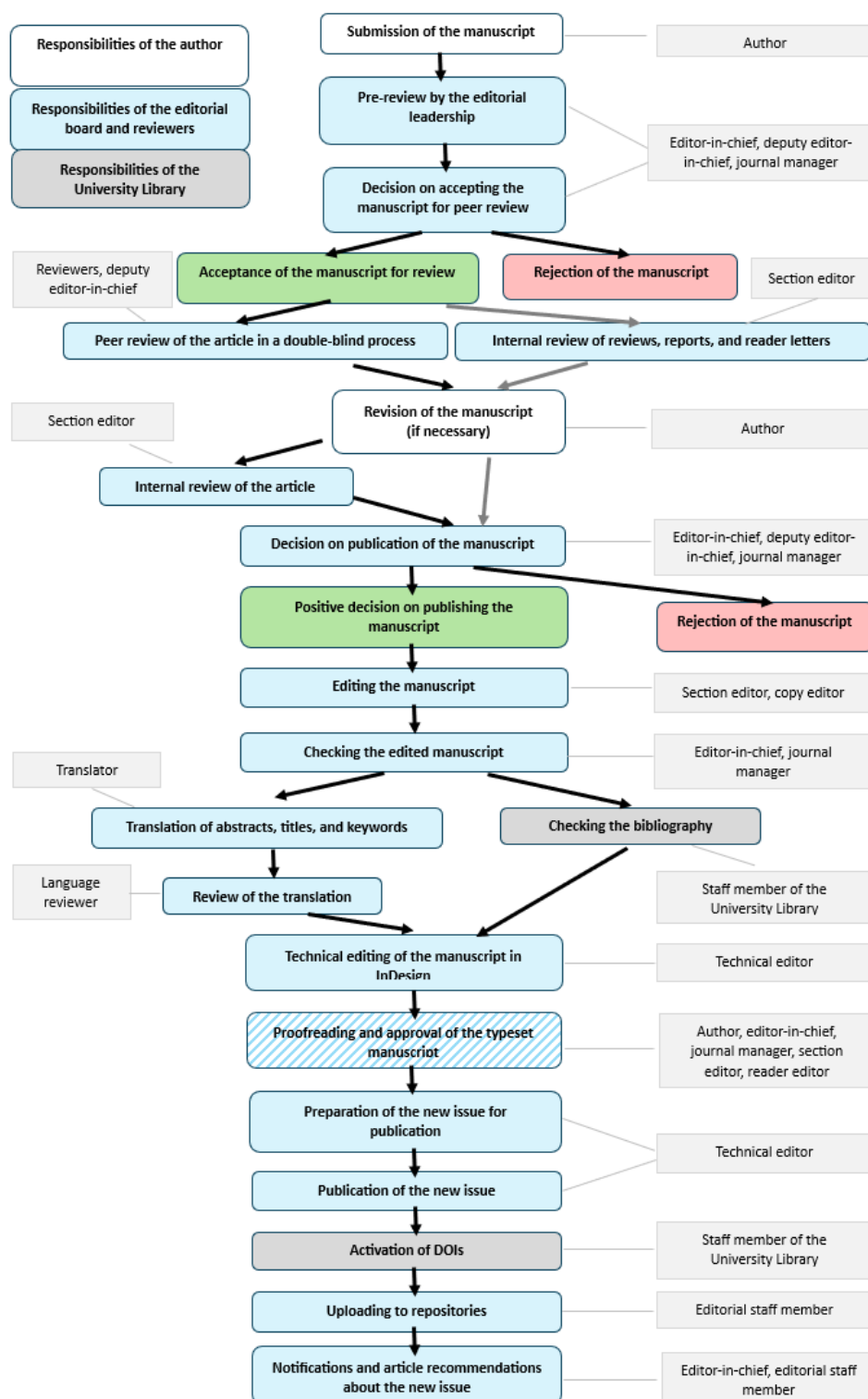
The editorial team carries out its work in accordance with the principles outlined in the journal's [privacy](#), [Open Access](#), and [ethics statements](#) available on the website. The journal is fully committed to upholding, representing, and promoting the highest ethical standards in all aspects of its operations. All individuals involved in the journal's publication processes—including authors, editors, reviewers, and any additional contributors—are strictly required to adhere to the principles set out in the journal's official statements. All related activities must be carried out in full accordance with the [Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE) and the [Recommendations for Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications](#) issued by the Council of Science Editors.

2 Publication Process

Submit manuscripts via the journal's website, in compliance with the journal's [Privacy Policy](#), [Publication Ethics](#), [Copyright](#), and [Publication Statements](#), and [Author Guidelines](#). Submission of the manuscript, pre-review screening, peer review, manuscript revision, decision on acceptance or rejection, editing, technical editing, publication, and archiving. A detailed description is available under [The Publication Process](#) menu.

All submitted studies undergo anonymous peer review. Only those studies may be published that have been recommended for publication by both reviewers in the double-blind peer-review procedure. Submissions in the genres of review, report, and reader letter (i.e., for the Reviews, Viewpoints, Miscellanea, and Letters to the Editor sections) undergo internal review.

The path of the manuscript in the journal *First Language Pedagogy*



3 Review Form

All submitted studies undergo anonymous peer review.

I. REVIEW CRITERIA 1. Topic, originality, and genre 1.1. The topic of the manuscript fits the profile of the journal. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 1.2. The manuscript contains original ideas and a novel approach. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 1.3. The manuscript conforms to the genre-specific characteristics of a journal article. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2. Structure 2.1. The structure of the text is logical and clear. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.2. The sections of the text are coherent with one another. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.3. The text contains a proportionate introduction. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.4. The elaboration of the topic is proportionate to the overall length of the text. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.5. The text contains a proportionate conclusion. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.6. The study is accompanied by an appropriate abstract. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 2.7. Other criterion (if applicable): <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3. Content 3.1. The text presents professionally sound statements. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.2. The introduction includes a problem statement, the formulation of aims, an outline, etc. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.3. The text adequately presents the theoretical background. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i>	3.4. In the case of research, the manuscript formulates the research hypotheses and later indicates whether they were confirmed. <i>Yes. No. Partly. Not applicable.</i> 3.5. In the case of research, the methodology is presented clearly. <i>Yes. No. Partly. Not applicable.</i> 3.6. In the case of research, the data are appropriately reported and analysed. <i>Yes. No. Partly. Not applicable.</i> 3.7. In the case of workshop/teaching practice paper, the text includes appropriate practical examples. <i>Yes. No. Partly. Not applicable.</i> 3.8. The study appropriately discusses the results and formulates conclusions. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.9. The conclusion is appropriate in content. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.10. The cited literature is credible and up to date. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.11. The text cites the sources appropriately. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 3.12. Other criterion (if applicable): <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 4. Language use and format 4.1. The style of the text conforms to the characteristics of academic language use. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 4.2. The language and spelling of the text are appropriate. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 4.3. The manuscript adheres to the author guidelines. <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> 4.4. Other criterion (if applicable): <i>Yes. No. Partly.</i> Have you added comments or corrections to the manuscript? <i>Yes. No.</i>
II. WRITTEN EVALUATION	

4 Privacy Statement of the Journal First Language Pedagogy

The names and email addresses registered with the journal are used exclusively by the editorial team of the journal *First Language Pedagogy (Anyanyelv-pedagógia)* for purposes defined by the journal. They are not shared with third parties or used for any other purposes. The author's name, ORCID identifier, institutional (preferably) email address, and institutional affiliation or workplace are publicly accessible in the journal.

5 Publication Ethics of the Journal First Language Pedagogy (Excerpt)

The journal *First-Language Pedagogy (Anyanyelv-pedagógia)* is fully committed to upholding, representing, and disseminating the highest ethical principles. In accordance with the [Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) and the [Recommendations for Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications](#) of the Council of Science Editors, all authors, editors, reviewers, and others involved in the journal's publication process must adhere to the principles detailed below. Furthermore, we ask authors to follow the recommendations of COPE in all related activities.

5.1 Ethical principles concerning the peer review process

The journal's ethical principles, as well as the [Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) and the recommendations of the Council of Science Editors, apply to the peer review process and to all participants involved in it.

All submitted manuscripts undergo a pre-review screening prior to peer review, carried out by the editorial leadership (editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief, journal manager).

The main criteria of the pre-review screening are:

- alignment of the manuscript topic with the journal's scope;
- suitability of the manuscript genre to the journal's profile and sections;
- appropriateness of the manuscript's style to the journal's profile and to the genre of submission (article, report, review, or reader letter);
- compliance with the journal's author guidelines;
- plagiarism check;
- preliminary verification of the authenticity of references.

To ensure academic quality, studies submitted to the journal undergo a double-blind peer review process. Each manuscript is evaluated by two expert reviewers. All communication between authors and reviewers is mediated by the editors. The identity of reviewers and review reports are not disclosed. Between 2008 and 2024, the peer review process and double-blind review were conducted via email. From January 2025, the peer review process has been managed through the ELTE OJS system.

If a submitted manuscript is authored by a member of the editorial team who has access to the journal's OJS interface, the editor-in-chief or deputy editor-in-chief sends the anonymous manuscript to the reviewers via email; the reviewers then return their anonymous review comments via email to the editor-in-chief or deputy editor-in-chief, who uploads the anonymous reviews to the OJS system, where the author can view them.

If, due to the specialized nature of the topic, an editorial team member serves as a reviewer in the double-blind process, they must not have access to the journal's OJS interface until the article is published, in order to preserve double anonymity.

Manuscripts of reports, reviews, and reader letters are evaluated internally by a member of the editorial team (section editor). If the author of such a submission is a member of the editorial team, they may not act as the internal reviewer; instead, another editorial team member conducts the review following the pre-review screening.

The main criteria of double-blind and internal review are:

- relevance of the topic, originality, and genre of the manuscript;
- compliance with the journal's author guidelines;
- structure of the text;
- reliability and validity of the content;
- appropriate development of the introduction, the main exposition, the argumentation, and the conclusion;
- completeness and accuracy of references;
- reliability, relevance, and currency of the literature used;
- consistency between references and citations;
- style, language, spelling, and typography.

A detailed review form is available [for download](#).

Reviewers must:

- only accept review requests if they have the required skills and knowledge to review the manuscript properly and objectively;
- notify the editor of any violation of norms or conflicts of interest that might affect the objective and anonymous review process;
- decline the review if they are not eligible to evaluate the manuscript or if any conflict of interest exists;
- by accepting the invitation, agree to comply with the journal's ethical and review standards and procedures;
- must not use artificial intelligence to prepare their review and must not upload the manuscript text into AI tools;
- may use AI tools solely for preliminary verification of references, but must always perform human verification;
- provide their reviews within the agreed timeframe in a clear and professional manner, adhering to the journal's procedures and justifying each element of their evaluation;
- prepare reviews that contain only professional opinions, avoiding personal comments, offensive remarks, or offensive language;
- pay special attention to any lack of proper referencing in the manuscript;
- inform the editorial leadership if there is any suspicion of violations of academic or ethical standards;
- must not include any information in their review that could reveal their identity;
- handle the manuscript received for review with strict confidentiality.

5.2 Conditions for acceptance or rejection of manuscripts

Conditions for the acceptance of a manuscript:

- The manuscript is deemed suitable for publication based on the pre-review screening.
- In the double-blind peer review process, both reviewers consider the manuscript suitable for publication.
- The manuscript is also approved for publication based on the section editor's evaluation.
- Reviews, reports, and reader letters may be published based on the thorough internal review conducted by the section editor.

Reasons for final rejection of a manuscript:

- The topic of the manuscript does not align with the profile of the academic journal.
- The genre of the manuscript does not align with the profile of the academic journal.
- The style of the manuscript does not align with the profile of the academic journal and with the genre of the submission (article, report, review, or reader letter). In this case, the author may resubmit a revised version as a new manuscript, which will undergo a new review process.
- The author has committed a breach of academic ethics:
 - prior publication of the manuscript with another publisher or simultaneous submission to another publisher;
 - confirmed plagiarism in the manuscript;
 - inclusion of non-existent references in the bibliography;
 - citing existing sources while presenting data or claims not contained in those sources;
 - presenting data or claims attributed to the author's own research without proper evidence;
 - verifiable unethical or inadequately documented use of AI tools.
- Outcome of the double-blind peer review: neither reviewer considers the manuscript suitable for publication; one reviewer rejects the manuscript and the other recommends major revisions.
- Outcome of the internal review of reviews, reports, or reader letters: the manuscript is not suitable for publication.
- The author fails to revise the manuscript by the specified deadline based on reviewers' comments and editorial suggestions. In this case, the author may resubmit a revised version as a new manuscript, which will undergo a new review process.
- If, after publication, a violation is discovered that would have justified rejection, the editorial board will retract the article.

The editorial board appoints a third reviewer if, in the double-blind review process, one reviewer rejects the manuscript while the other recommends minor revisions or acceptance without changes. If the third reviewer also does not consider the manuscript suitable for publication, the manuscript is rejected definitively.

Reasons for rejection with the possibility of revision:

- The manuscript does not comply with the author guidelines regarding format, typography, and required sections.
- The length of the manuscript significantly deviates from the minimum or maximum limits specified in the author guidelines.
- The references and citations are authentic, but their bibliographic details are inaccurate, or the references and citations are not consistent with each other.

Ethical principles concerning plagiarism handling:

- If plagiarism is suspected, the editorial board conducts a thorough human review of the manuscript.
- If plagiarism is confirmed, the manuscript is rejected without the possibility of revision. The rejected manuscript may not be resubmitted.
- If plagiarism is confirmed after publication, the editorial board retracts the published article.

5.3 Ethical use of AI tools

AI tools may only serve a supplementary and supportive role in the preparation of manuscripts; they must not replace human intellectual activity, responsibility, decision-making, or critical thinking.

- The author of the submitted manuscript is responsible for the ethical use of AI tools.
- The author is also responsible for any errors or inaccuracies in the text and assumes responsibility for the academic validity of the content and conclusions, as well as for the authenticity and accuracy of the cited sources, references, and literature.
- If the author uses artificial intelligence in the preparation of the manuscript, they must document this in a separate paragraph at the end of the manuscript, specifying which AI tool was used and for what purpose.
- Authors may use AI tools in the preparation of the manuscript in the following cases:
 - preliminary collection of relevant literature with human verification;
 - generating suggestions for the manuscript title;
 - translating the abstract, title, and keywords with human verification;
 - verifying the authenticity of references with human verification;
 - generating stylistic suggestions for parts of the manuscript text;
 - generating images and figures included in the manuscript, with precise source attribution and clear indication of the AI tool used.
- It is prohibited to present and submit AI-generated content as one's own intellectual work or original results. The use of AI-generated outputs or content (text, images, audio, data) without proper attribution constitutes a breach of academic ethics. If confirmed by peer review or editorial checks, the editorial board will reject the manuscript definitively. A rejected manuscript may not be resubmitted.
- Members of the editorial team and reviewers may use AI tools as follows:
 - The editorial leadership uses the Turnitin plagiarism detection software provided by Eötvös Loránd University to check manuscripts for plagiarism. In cases of suspected plagiarism, a human review is also conducted.
 - Editorial team members and reviewers must not upload manuscript texts into AI tools.
 - Editorial team members may use AI tools for preliminary verification of references and for translation, but human oversight is required in all cases.
- Reviewers must not use AI tools to prepare their review and must not upload the manuscript text into AI tools.
- Reviewers may use AI tools solely for the preliminary verification of references, but human verification is required in all cases.
- If editorial team members or reviewers use AI tools, they are responsible for their ethical use.

5.4 Further Content of the [Ethical Statement](#)

- Ethical principles concerning authors
- Ethical principles concerning the editorial team and editorial processes
- Ethical principles concerning the publisher
- Handling violations of ethical principles and complaints

6 [Open Access Policy \(Excerpt\)](#)

6.1 Declaration of Cost-Free Publication

In line with a publication policy based on the principles of equality and open science, the journal *Anyanyelv-pedagógia* [*First Language Pedagogy*] does not charge authors any fees for the processing, submission, or publication of articles. All writings published in the journal become freely accessible immediately after their publication.

6.2 Copyright Statement

The copyright of articles published in the journal belongs to the author. The journal has the right of first publication. The published work is licensed under [Creative Commons License "Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International" \(CC BY-NC 4.0\)](#). This means that copying, redistribution, remixing, transformation and building upon the published work is allowed for any purpose except commercial purposes as long as proper credit is given to the author, a link to the licence is provided, and any changes made to the original work are indicated. Authors are permitted to republish their work in other publications in the same version as it appeared in this journal, provided that the original publication is properly cited.

7 Readers of the Journal

The journal's recognition and popularity are reflected in its visitor statistics, which are presented on the [Readers](#) page. In 2025, Google Analytics recorded 215,957 page views from 114 countries across both the old and new websites.

8 Supporters of the Journal

The publication of the journal and the securing of its financial background rely on external support. The permanent supporter of the journal is the Society of Hungarian Linguistics as its publisher. The permanent supporter of the journal is the Society of Hungarian Linguistics as its publisher. The publication of the journal in 2024 and 2025 (Issues 2024/1–4 and 2025/1–4) was supported by the ELTE Journal Development Fund and the National Cultural Fund of Hungary. The publication of Issues 1–3 in 2026 is supported by the ELTE Journal Development Fund. In 2024 and 2025, the Magyar Nyelvőr Foundation served as a professional supporter. Since 2024, the ELTE University Library and Archives has provided continuous professional support for the work of the editorial team.

9 Mission of the Journal

The journal *First Language Pedagogy* aims to support the work of researchers in first language pedagogy both within and beyond Hungary's borders, as well as educators and early childhood professionals who work in Hungarian. The journal also seeks to promote their achievements on the international stage. It contributes to both institutional and family-based education by presenting innovative methodological approaches and modern, child-centred development practices, along with their Hungarian and international research background.

The editorial team continuously strives to enhance the journal's professional and technical standards, expand its readership, and ensure its indexing in additional national and international academic databases. The mission of *First Language Pedagogy* is to serve as a catalyst and professional supporter for the research and development of first language education – not only in Hungary, but also beyond its borders.