

**Doing Research in Applied Linguistics 2 / Independent Learning Association Conference**

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**Acquiring academic literacy: Symbols, stories and rituals**

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In order to write a research article worthy of publication, it is necessary not only to tell the story of one's research, but to transform that story into knowledge by co-constructing the text with an envisaged audience. This presentation focuses on the journey of a novice researcher from naive data collector to co-author of a journal article. Personal development in terms of research skills and writing proficiency is described by the mentee and mentor. Drawing on the terminology of corporate culture management, the stories, symbols and rituals of the discourse community of applied linguists are illustrated from the perspective of the novice. Aspects raised include the discovery of the dialogic nature of textual construction of a research document, the learning curve of creating citation-supported statements to establish territory, and the necessity of avoiding face threatening acts that could taint the reputation of the writer or those cited.