



*The Reading Matrix: An International Online Journal*  
 Volume 25, Number 1, April 2025 [Special 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Issue]

## The Dangers of AI and the Collapse of Professional and Academic Ethics: Sounding the Alarm

**John I. Liontas**

University of South Florida

### PROLEGOMENA

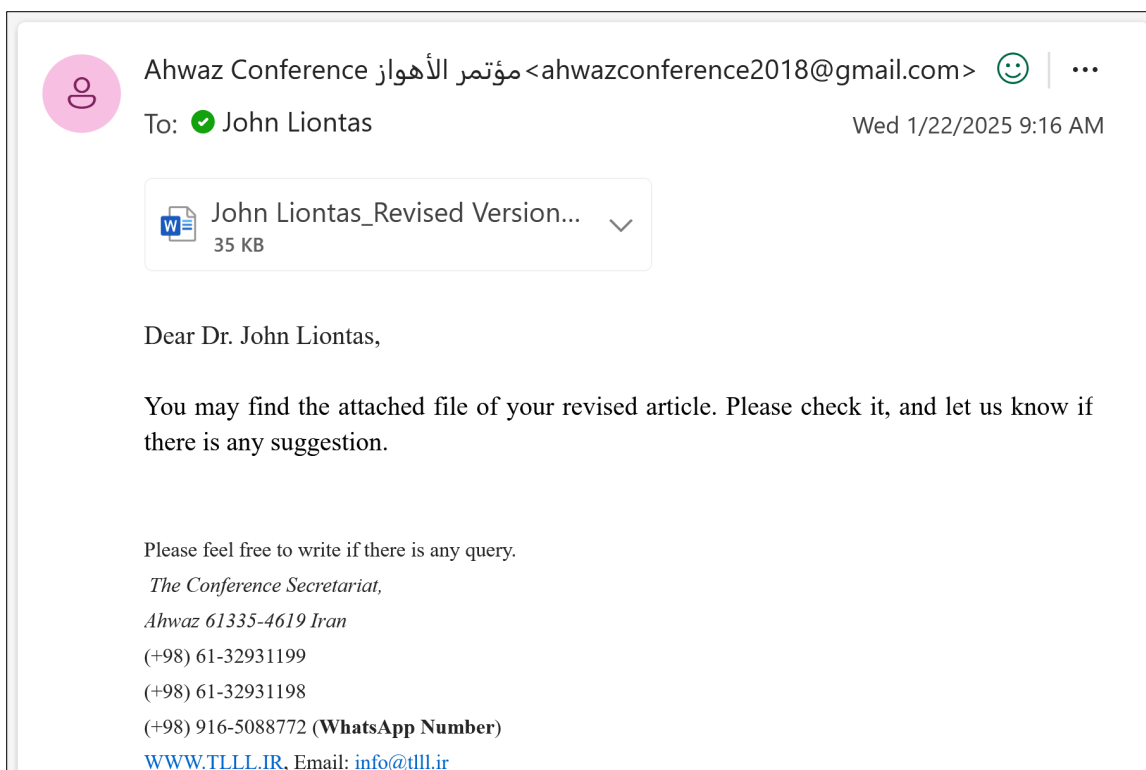
Dear Reader,

While it may seem unusual to begin with such a direct address, it feels fitting. After all, this is not merely an academic exercise—it is a dialogue with you, the reader, in search of meaning and purpose.

Imagine submitting your work to a peer-reviewed, international quarterly journal that claims to champion research, only to receive the following communication (Figure 1):

### Figure 1

*Email from The Conference Secretariat (January 22, 2025)*



Brief and unprofessional, this communication leaves you uncertain about what is expected—whether to confirm revisions, suggest changes, or ask questions. The impersonal tone, underscored by the “Conference Secretariat,” feels like a mass-sent message. Overly casual, the phrasing lacks the formality expected in professional correspondence and offers no clear direction on next steps or timelines.

You open the file. It is a Word document. Time seems to freeze. Everything comes to a halt. You stare at the screen, but your brain, caught in a storm of sensory impulses, cannot translate what your eyes take in. The meaning eludes you, like a puzzle with pieces that refuse to fit. A strange weight presses down on your chest—a sense of foreboding creeping up your spine. Something is wrong. Deeply, irreversibly wrong.

Are you seated? You may wish to be. The revelations ahead are not purely unsettling—they are profoundly disorienting. So much so that I must pause, collect my thoughts, and determine how best to proceed before unsealing what my mind, with an almost instinctive apprehension, has labeled *Pandora’s box*. A peculiar choice of metaphor, perhaps, yet disturbingly apt. The file before me, marked as the “attached document” containing my so-called “revised article,” is far more than a routine editorial update. It is a threshold—one that, once crossed, may well redefine the very essence of authorship, scholarship, and intellectual integrity.

Attached, yes. Revised? That is a fascinating verb—one that demands scrutiny. My understanding of revision seems to exist in an entirely different linguistic and ethical universe from what *The Conference Secretariat* appears to imply. What they call a revision, I might call something else entirely—something far more troubling.

Before unraveling the full weight of what lies ahead, we must first anchor ourselves in the gravity of this title—the title I deliberately chose to give voice to this story, not the one imposed upon me in the so-called “revised article.” The title I have chosen is: *The Dangers of AI and the Collapse of Professional and Academic Ethics: Sounding the Alarm*. Composed of 15 words in two parts, the title encapsulates the urgent message I wish to convey: the dangers of AI and the collapse of professional and academic ethics, paired with the imperative call to action—sounding the alarm.

Let the words settle in. Feel their gravity. This is more than a headline; it is a warning—a flare shot into the night sky, illuminating the abyss before us. The dangers are real. The collapse is imminent. And the alarm? It is deafening, yet too few are listening.

No tall tale here, no speculative warning fabricated to stir unnecessary fear. The dangers posed by AI are no longer hypothetical; they are a pressing reality. The collapse of professional and academic ethics is not a distant threat—it is already unfolding. The *dangers of AI* signal ongoing transformations of unsettling magnitude. The *collapse of professional and academic ethics* represents a fundamental breakdown of the principles that uphold integrity in research, education, and professional practice. *Sounding the alarm* is not an act of caution—it is a call for immediate awareness and decisive action.

And yet, here I am, staring at this so-called “revised” document, feeling the full weight of those words crash down upon me. This is not an abstract debate confined to think tanks and policy papers. It is happening right now. To me.

I hesitate. I hesitate because I know that once I open this file—truly open it, not just in Word, but in my mind—I can never unsee what has been done. There will be no going back.

What is at stake here? Plagiarism, misinformation, academic misconduct, and the misuse of AI in research and education are only the starting points. For anyone invested in academia, professional practice, or the safeguarding of knowledge and ethical responsibility, this issue

demands urgent attention. So ask yourself: Are you paying attention? Because if you are not, you should be.

As you read this narrative, do not remain a passive observer—engage. This is more than a story; it is a lived experience, one that no person should ever endure. How would you respond? Would you speak out? Would you take a stand? Would you defend academic and professional ethics in the face of undeniable wrongdoing? What would you do if you found yourself in my position, forced to navigate a situation threatening not only personal integrity but the very foundations of ethical scholarship? Would you sound the alarm, refusing to remain silent, or would you turn away, choosing to bury the truth, hoping the defamation of your name and your institution's reputation remains hidden? If confronted with an ultimatum—to retract your work or allow it to be published with only your name and institution's name remaining truthful—how would you respond?

These are not rhetorical questions; they are the very crossroads I was forced to face. Now, I invite you to reflect on them before I unfold my story. It happened to me, but it need not be your fate. Let this stand as a warning, a lesson, and a rallying cry—not only for today but for those who will tread the path we carve long after these words fade into memory.

Have you ever heard the expression, “truth is stranger than fiction”? Well, this is one of those rare stories where reality defies all imagination. Trust me, you have never heard anything like this before. Make no mistake—this is a story that demands to be told. It is a tale of deception, betrayal in both professional and academic spheres, of ethical boundaries crossed without hesitation. And if there is one lesson I have learned, it is this: sounding the alarm, even through the smallest of acts, can be the defining line between silent complicity and the unwavering pursuit of truth.

Enough with the questions. This is not an abstract issue—this is harsh reality. The collapse of professional and academic ethics I speak of is no fiction—it is as real and immediate as a heart attack. It is happening now. And its stench does not rise from Denmark, as the familiar narrative suggests. This time, it emanates from Iran—the Ahwaz Conference, the *Ahwaz Journal of Linguistics Studies*, and a truth too many would rather bury. Until now. Time to let the light shine in. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and now the truth must emerge. *It is always darkest before dawn.*

But bringing truth into the light is not enough; it must also be amplified and confronted. My goal here is simple: to make this ordeal loud enough for the world to hear. This is a call to action and a warning to the academic community, as such cases have far-reaching implications. The misuse of AI in academic publishing represents not only a threat to professional ethics but also undermines trust in research outcomes. It must, therefore, be exposed, discussed, and ultimately addressed. At the heart of this issue lies an undeniable truth—academic ethics are at stake. My name and work will not be used for fraudulent purposes, nor should anyone else's. By *sounding the alarm*, I am not only defending my own professional integrity but also urging the academic community to implement stronger oversight mechanisms to monitor AI's use in research and publishing practices.

I fear that my experience is not an isolated incident but rather a symptom of a broader systemic failure within the academic world. If left unchallenged, such ethical breaches could grow in both frequency and severity, ultimately eroding the trust that underpins scholarly collaboration. Even so, my issue extends beyond one journal, one editor, or one paper—it strikes at the very credibility of academic work itself. In an era where artificial intelligence can be wielded both as a tool for advancement and a mechanism for manipulation, the very foundation of scholarly integrity is at risk. By sharing my experience, I aim to illuminate these pressing issues and contribute

meaningfully to the broader discourse on ethics, accountability, and transparency in academia. The urgency of this conversation cannot be overstated.

Reflecting on my journey has granted me space for introspection and a deeper understanding of the systemic issues that plague academia. The process of shaping my argument through both literal and figurative language has been cathartic. What began as personal hardship has now been transformed into a broader narrative, one that aims to resonate with others navigating similar shadows. I may not be the first to face this kind of situation, and assuredly, I will not be the last. However, the value of sharing this experience lies not in personal vindication but in its potential to serve as a guiding light for others who seek a system that upholds the highest ethical standards. Breaches of professionalism, transparency, and respect for contributors threaten to destabilize the trust essential to scholarly collaboration.

Documenting and publishing this experience serves two critical purposes: first, to provide concrete evidence of the ethical violations I encountered, and second, to offer a case study highlighting the dangers posed by unregulated AI use in academic publishing. In presenting a well-documented, fact-based account, I hope to ensure that my claims withstand scrutiny and contribute to a call for reform. This is not an effort driven by personal gain—it is about demanding higher ethical standards across academic institutions, conferences, and publishing platforms, all of which must adapt to the challenges of our evolving landscape.

Like every compelling story, “My Story” unfolds in three acts: Action Lived (Act I), Action Experienced (Act II), and Action Taken (Act III). These acts reflect the principles of ethos, pathos, and logos in my work (Liontas, 2025a) and draw on my research in idiomatics (Liontas, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c, 2023d, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c), idiomaticity (2008, 2013, 2015a, 2015b, 2017, 2018a, 2018b), humor and foreign languages (Liontas, 2023c), humor and leadership (Liontas, 2022a, 2022b, 2023a, 2023b, 2025b), artificial intelligence and idiomaticity (Liontas, 2006), and artificial intelligence tools (Kiliçkaya & Liontas, 2024).

To ensure a clear narrative arc, my story opens with a brief prologue and concludes with a succinct epilogue, each acting as essential bookends to the unfolding drama. These two elements are the foundational pillars of the journey, like the sturdy covers of an old, well-worn book that cradle the story within, protecting and framing its narrative, offering both structure and meaning. Much like the curtain rising and falling in a grand theatrical production, with a resonant orchestra conducting the flow of emotion and action, they ensure that the emotional resonance lingers long after the final note. Both essential elements of a complete story, the prologue—The Spark Before the Fire—sets the stage, offering a tantalizing glimpse of the drama to come by striking the opening chord, building tension and anticipation, while the epilogue—The Light That Remains—provides a reflective pause after the storm, allowing the audience to absorb the weight of the narrative, delivering the final, resonating cadence. Together, they form the dramatic overture and coda of the unfolding story, capturing both the chaos and the resolution of the experience, ensuring that what begins with an urgent question ignites a blazing call for action, demanding not just passive reflection, but the indomitable will to invent the future. For it is those who dare question the past to confront the urgency of the present that the future belongs to.

## PROLOGUE

### The Spark Before the Fire

Every reckoning begins with a single spark—an undeniable moment of clarity that demands action. This is mine. The collapse of professional and academic ethics is not a distant specter; it is here, now, undermining the foundation of integrity built over generations. Some choose to look away. I refuse.

The following unfolds in three pivotal acts: *Action Lived*, *Action Experienced*, and *Action Taken*, each designed to explore the journey and the transformation I underwent. This is not purely an account—it is a resolute declaration of truth; an unwavering statement that demands attention, challenges complacency, and calls for accountability. This is not a recounting of events; it is a clarion call to action, a defiance against the erosion of integrity, and a refusal to let the truth remain buried.

Prepare yourself. The journey begins now.

## ACT I — ACTION LIVED

### The Proposal: Where the Story Begins

On October 20, 2024, I submitted my 250-word proposal and 50-word biodata via email to the organizers of the 10th International Conference on Languages, Linguistics, Translation, and Literature (scheduled for February 1-2, 2025, in Ahwaz, Iran), requesting confirmation of receipt of the “TLLL Form.” The following day, I received identical replies via Gmail, Yahoo, and WhatsApp, all addressed to “Dear Dr. John Liontas,” but unsigned and ending with “The Conference Secretariat.”

On October 23, 2024, I received the results of my proposal evaluation via the same two email addresses as before, plus a new one ([info@tlll.ir](mailto:info@tlll.ir)). My proposal, *Cultivating ISI: Shaping the Future of Idiomatics in Language Education and Research*, was accepted for presentation at the 10th International Conference on Languages, Linguistics, Translation, and Literature (hereafter referred to as the Ahwaz Conference). The identical, seemingly automated email notifications outlined five steps, each more unsettling than the last. Step 2 concerned PowerPoint and 15-minute recorded video submissions (Step 1 was not mentioned). Step 3 addressed the publication process, stating that full articles would undergo review by at least two scientific committee members before potential inclusion in the conference proceedings, indexed in CIVILICA, and assigned an ISBN and Iranian National Standard Number (in Note 1). It also referenced the *Ahwaz Journal of Linguistics Studies* submission guidelines, available at [www.ajls.ir](http://www.ajls.ir) (in Note 2). Step 4 required payment of the registration fee by December 15, 2024, with non-paying participants removed from the list. It advised checking the conference website for fee details and contacting organizers via WhatsApp for payment instructions. Step 5 provided an option to request a formal acceptance letter by emailing [info@tlll.ir](mailto:info@tlll.ir). Each email concluded with the standard closing (Figure 2):

**Figure 2**

*The Conference Secretariat Standard Email Closing (October 23, 2024)*

Please feel free to write if there is any query.

*The Conference Secretariat,*

*Ahwaz 61335-4619 Iran*

(+98) 61-32931199

(+98) 61-32931198

(+98) 916-5088772 (**WhatsApp Number**)

[WWW.TLLL.IR](http://WWW.TLLL.IR), Email: [info@tlll.ir](mailto:info@tlll.ir)

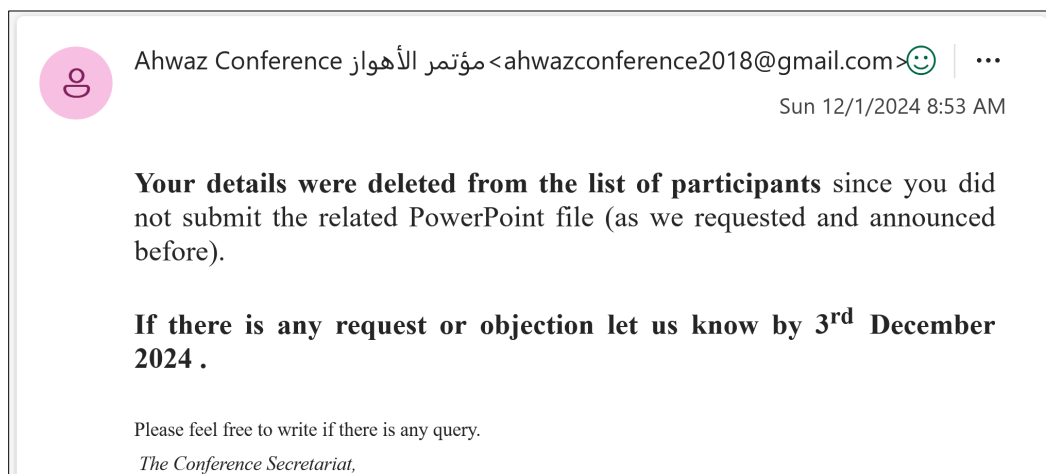
On WhatsApp, I received a brief message instructing me to check my email. Throughout November 2024, I received multiple mass emails and WhatsApp messages regarding accepted conference papers, full article submission deadlines, and registration deadlines.

At first, everything seemed routine—so far, so good. On December 1, 2024, I received an email from Ahwaz Conference (Figure 3). The exact same notification was sent to me via WhatsApp.

I replied on December 3, 2024, informing them that academic communications should begin with a proper salutation, rather than bold statements like, “Your **details were deleted from the list of participants** because you did not submit the related PowerPoint file (as we requested and announced before).” I clarified that, since my proposal was for an “online presentation,” I was expecting clarification on how it would be conducted and which platform would be used. I also noted that I had not agreed to “deliver my presentation via PowerPoint,” though I would consider it if requested. I explained that I had not submitted my materials yet due to concerns over protecting my “intellectual capital” and that I do not subscribe to “public distribution services.” I thanked them for “the opportunity to express my concerns” and concluded with “Kind regards,” my signature, and contact information.

**Figure 3**

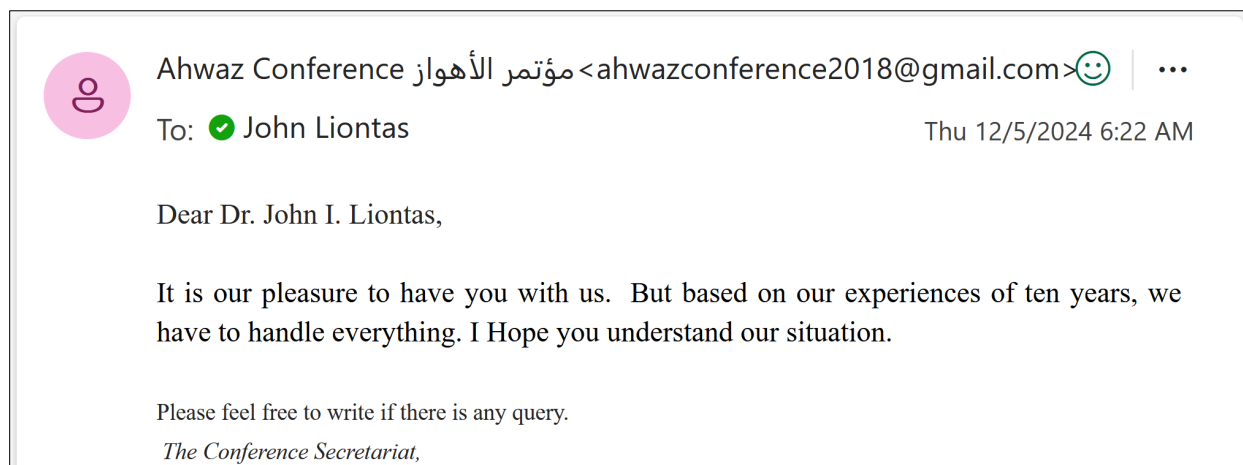
*The Conference Secretariat No Salutation Email (December 1, 2024)*



Two days later, on December 5, 2024, I received the following message from “The Conference Secretariat” (Figure 4):

#### Figure 4

*The Conference Secretariat Response to the “No Salutation” Email (December 5, 2024)*



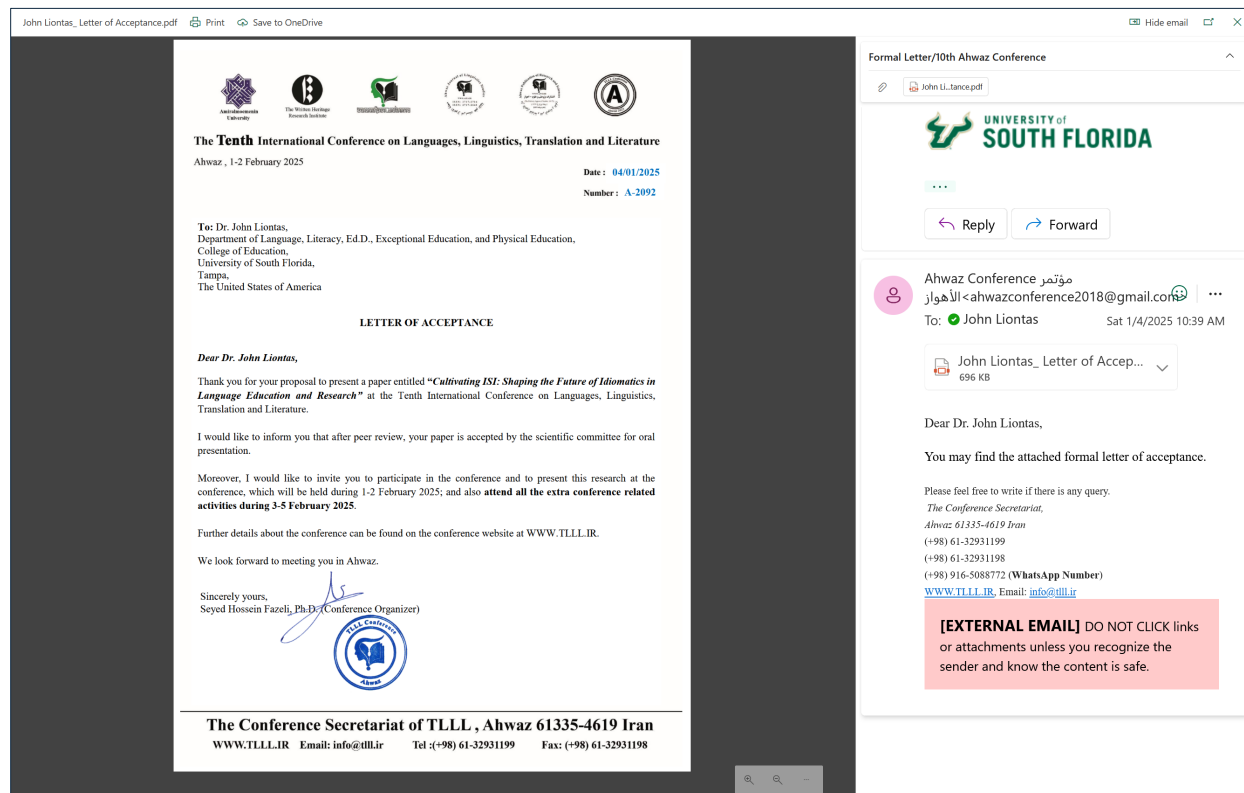
This response appears to be dismissive and evasive. While it acknowledge my concerns superficially, it fails to engage with the issues I raised or offer any resolution. The phrase, “It is our pleasure to have you with us,” feels insincere, given the context, and does not convey the seriousness of my legitimate concerns. Similarly, “But based on our experiences of ten years, we have to handle everything” is vague and uninformative, offering no explanation for their rigid, impersonal approach. It suggests an unwillingness to engage in meaningful dialogue or consider my individual situation.

The line, “I hope you understand our situation,” seems more like an attempt to close the conversation rather than address it. It presumes that I should accept their system without explanation or justification. Overall, this response overlooks my points about academic professionalism, my intellectual property, and the online format, and it offers no clarification or acknowledgment of communication problems.

By failing to address these points, the response leaves much to interpretation. It suggests a lack of accountability, a power imbalance, and a dismissal of my concerns. The reference to their “ten years of experience” seems to imply control and compliance, further reinforcing the dismissive tone. This failure to engage with the substance of my complaints reflects defensiveness rather than openness to feedback.

On December 29, 2024, I received two emails and one WhatsApp message from the usual contacts, requesting confirmation of my plans to present so they could send me “the conditions of online program presentations.” On January 4, 2025, I received an email from The Conference Secretariat (Figure 5) containing my “formal letter of acceptance” from the Ahwaz Conference, signed by Seyed Hossein Fazeli, Ph.D. (Conference Organizer), with proper formatting and the conference letterhead attached.

**Figure 5**  
*Formal Letter of Acceptance (January 4, 2025)*



Two days later, on January 6, I received the draft of the “Book of Abstracts (Part One)” with a request to review my abstract and personal details, making any necessary changes by January 9.

On January 7, 2025, I received another email from The Conference Secretariat stating, “In order to continue the process of your online paper presentation, please contact us through WhatsApp. It is very difficult for us to continue communication regarding your online presentation through email. **Please contact us by January 9, 2025**; otherwise, communication and confirmation for the mentioned case will be stopped.” (Emphasis in the original.)

On January 8, 2025, I informed them via email that “No changes are necessary in my abstract” and confirmed my “online presentation” via WhatsApp, as requested. I also emailed them with a few additional questions regarding the submission of the “full article to be published” (as mentioned). I asked, “Could you kindly direct me to the appropriate person to address these inquiries?” and thanked them in advance for their assistance.

Their “gmail.com” response that day at 6:28 PM was to contact them “through WhatsApp (since there is not so much time).” I replied via email 11 minutes later, seeking clarification on the “schedule date of the next volume,” “How many words (how long) can the essay be?” and “By when do I need to submit my invited essay?” I also asked the same questions via WhatsApp at 8:14 PM.

Thirty-seven minutes earlier, at 7:37 PM that evening, I emailed them again, informing them that I had visited their journal but “was unable to locate either the contact information of the editor or that of the editorial review board. Did I miss it by mistake?” I also mentioned reviewing the author guidelines and several articles published in the journal under the section ‘Archives.’ In

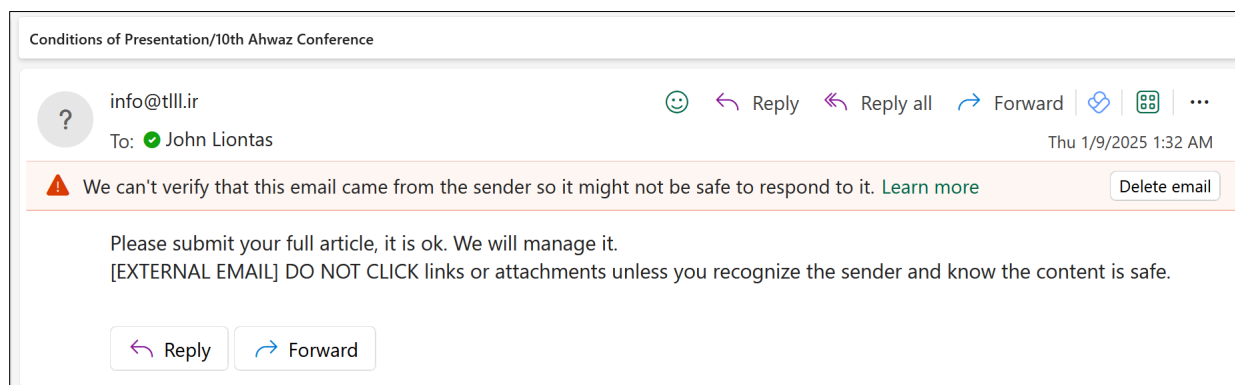


reviewing several of the articles therein, even within a single issue, I noticed several inconsistencies in formatting and style, contradicting what the author guidelines state. I added, “I am a bit confused here as to whether my contribution is the right fit. Perhaps you can offer additional information that might enlighten my concerns. Thank you.” I concluded my email with: “I am driven by the desire to have Iranian language professionals join the International Society of Idiomatics (ISI), but I am not sure which piece of writing I should even submit to you folks at this time.”

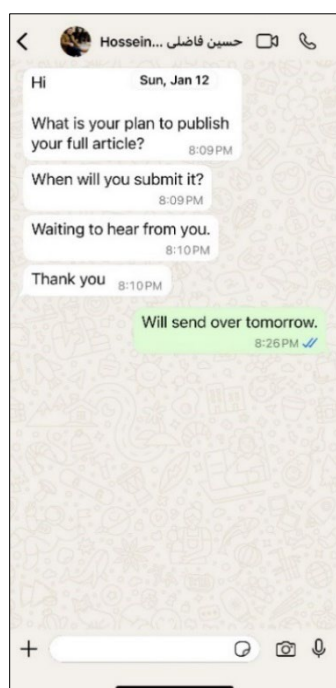
Their reply at 1:32 AM the next day, January 9, 2025, was a one-line response (Figure 6):

**Figure 6**

*Anonymous Email (January 9, 2025)*



On January 12, 2025, I received a WhatsApp message at 8:11 PM from an ‘anonymous’ writer inquiring about my “plan for publication of [my] full article” and asking when I would “submit it.” Three minutes later, I replied: “When do you need it by? When will you publish it? Thank you.” I informed this individual that I would submit it by the next day, which meant I now had to work through the night to honor my word.

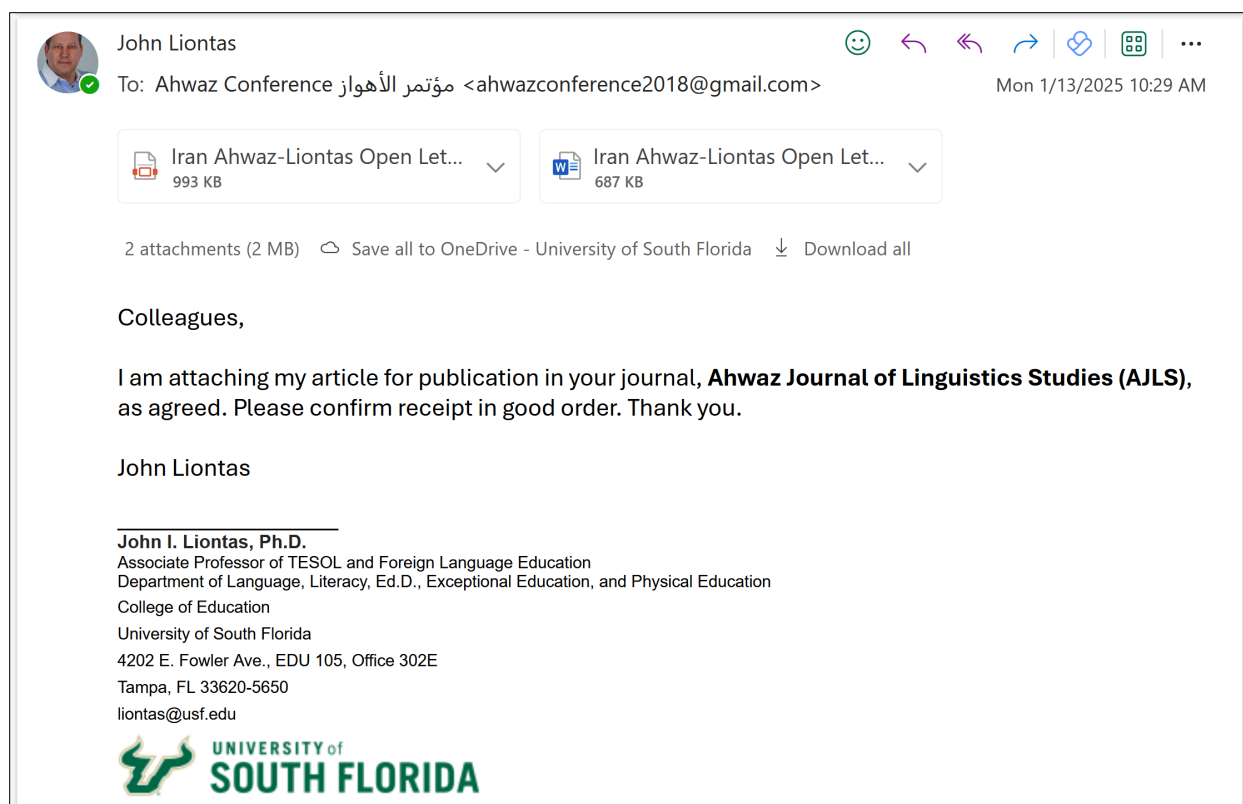


That same Sunday evening, January 12, at 8:09 PM, I received a WhatsApp message from someone named “Hossein,” who was not listed in my contacts. He did not introduce himself or provide context for reaching out. Instead, he sent a series of four individual message bubbles.

I did not reply to this individual for 16-17 minutes, as it took me that long to surmise that this was the same individual who had signed my “formal letter of acceptance,” Dr. Seyed Hossein Fazeli, the Ahwaz Conference Organizer. I informed him that I would send the article the following day, Monday, January 13, and did so at 10:29 AM (Figure 7).

## Figure 7

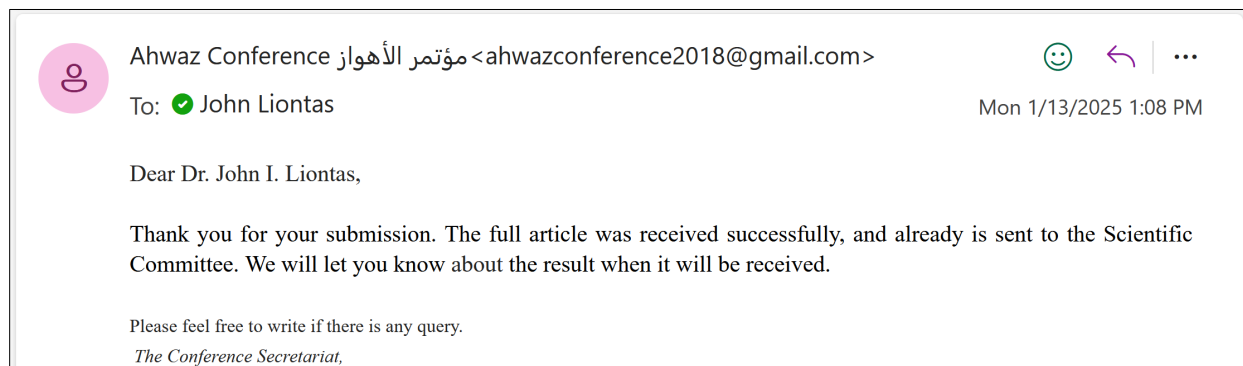
*John Liontas Email — Article for Publication (January 13, 2025)*



Their response came about two and a half hours later, at 1:08 PM (Figure 8). Yet, beneath the surface of these seemingly routine exchanges, cracks had already begun to form. The persistent vagueness, shifting expectations, and evasive responses whispered of something more insidious. Was this mere bureaucratic fog, or the first tremors of an ethical fault line about to rupture? The answer would soon prove inescapable.

## Figure 8

*Email Confirmation of Article Submission (January 13, 2025)*



Let me weave this into figurative terms, so that the final shard of the puzzle locks into place: The foundation quivered, the façade splintered, yet the players clung to their roles, delivering their lines as if the stage were not already crumbling beneath them. They moved through the motions, feigning certainty, blind to the ruin creeping at the edges of their performance. Words curled like smoke, slipping through grasping hands, while truth—cornered and gasping—awaited its reckoning. This was no mere inefficiency; it was the tightening grip of an unseen collapse, the silent countdown to a reckoning as inevitable as the rising tide, whose waves would soon engulf everything in their path.

## ACT II — ACTION EXPERIENCED

### The Article: All the Academic World's a Stage and We Merely Players

In the grand theater of academia, we are but players, each fulfilling a role dictated by unseen forces—expectations, norms, and protocols. The stage is set, and the performance unfolds, often beyond our control. Roles are assigned without our full understanding of the script.

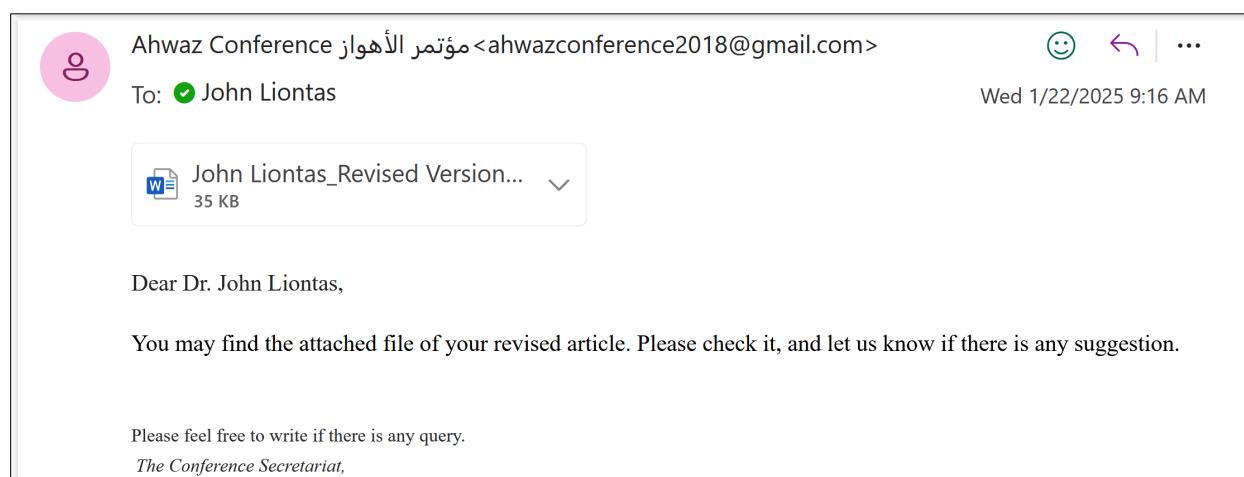
We walk onstage, not knowing where the next scene will lead, bound by unspoken expectations and invisible protocols. Every email, every directive becomes part of an unseen play, the plot unfolding with a flicker of uncertainty. Our actions, though seemingly autonomous, are intricately woven into the larger narrative, shaped by the ever-shifting dynamics of the professional world. With each passing day, we navigate the complexities of our academic existence, guided by a script that changes with every new directive, every email, every unforeseen plot twist.

We are actors in a play whose plot is constantly shifting, where control and chance blur. Just when we think we know our part, the script changes. Such is the nature of the academic world, where the script is perpetually rewritten, and the roles we play are never fully of our own making. The stage is set, but the performance is never ours alone.

And then, on January 22, 2025, I received this email from The Conference Secretariat — unassuming in its simplicity, yet heavy with the quiet portent of a shift that would soon unravel everything (Figure 9).

### Figure 9

*Attached File of Revised Article Email (January 22, 2025)*



You open the attached file, expecting to see your revised article. But as the document loads, something is wrong. It is not my article. Not even close. My name and institution are on it, but the words on the screen are foreign, jarring. Time freezes. Everything stops.

I read the title of this revised article: *Establishing Idiomatrics as a Distinct Discipline*. I blink, rub my eyes desperately, as if trying to wipe away the fog that clouds my vision, but nothing changes. I stare at the screen, paralyzed, as if the words themselves are pulling away from me, slipping through my grasp. My brain is a battlefield, overwhelmed by a violent storm of sensory chaos, struggling to make sense of the surreal reality before me. Every glance feels like a punch to the mind, and still, nothing makes sense.

What is this? What happened to my title—*Idiomatrics—One Field, One Vision, One Mission: An Open Invitation to All Iranian Idiomatists*? The title I labored over, refining it tirelessly, each word a careful choice, now gone, erased without a trace. A heavy, suffocating weight presses down on my chest, the air thick with dread. A cold, jagged chill snakes up my spine, a silent scream splintering through my mind. The world tilts—*no*, it collapses—and in the stillness, I know: something is horribly, irreversibly wrong.

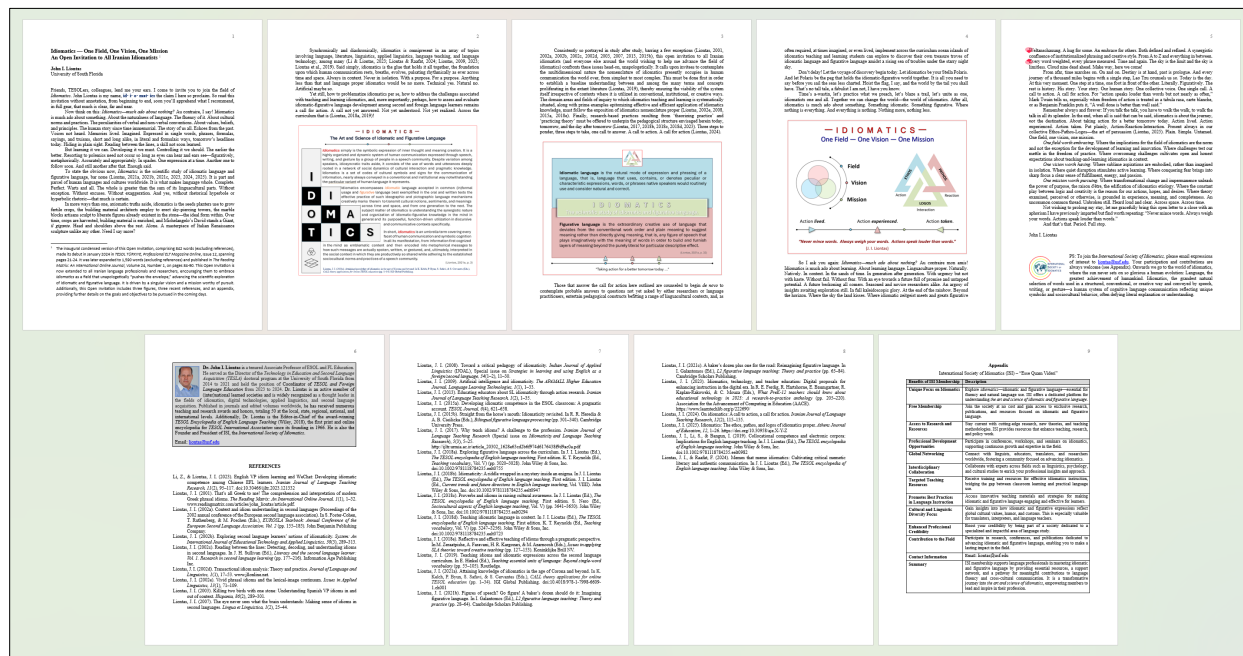
Words fracture beneath the crushing weight of shock that floods through me as my gaze settles on a title I never wrote. Denial surges, but my eyes betray me, dragging me deeper into this waking nightmare. Each word I read cuts deeper, a 224-word abstract I never penned unfurling across the screen like an alien script. Whose words are these? Who dares to claim them as their own? One truth slices through the haze of disbelief—I did not write this.

But the name above—boldly, defiantly proclaimed as mine—screamed at me, a mocking shout that thundered through my chest. *Mine* and *mine alone*. Centered. Bold. In Times New Roman, size 12. As clear as daylight, as irreversible as a curse. Beneath it, the name of my institution, etched like a brand. I read on, my breath tightening, choking in my throat. Each word felt like a brutal assault on my mind, each one a slap to my sanity. I read the first sentence of this surreal abstraction, then the next, and the one after that. All eight sentences. All 224 words. None of them mine. *Not a single one*.

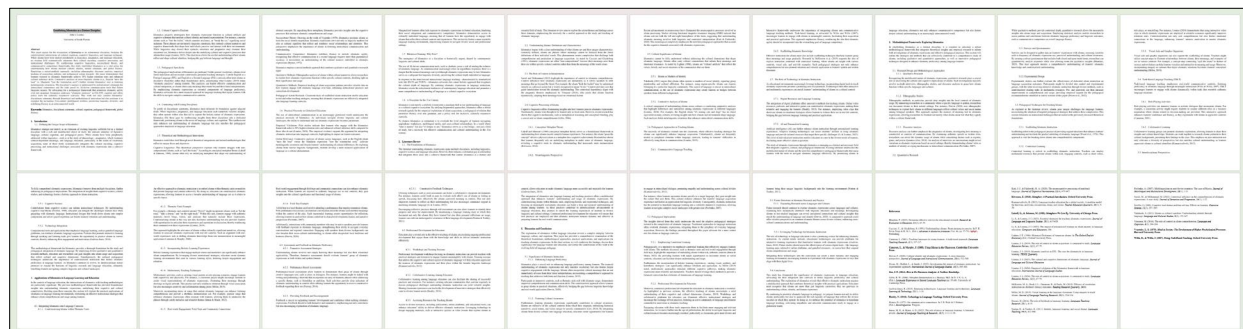
A cold wave of disbelief crashes over me, the weight of the situation swelling with every word. The meaning of what I am seeing slips through my mind like water through clenched fingers. *How could this be?* My work—distorted, disfigured—now lives in place of the article I know I created. I try to breathe, but the air thickens, heavy with unreality—as if the very act of comprehension is suffocating.

The article I crafted for my colleagues in Iran—the one I meticulously shaped with new figures and an appendix (Figure 10)—is gone. Vanished into thin air. In its place stands a stranger's creation: an alien, fabricated version of my work, twisted beyond recognition (Figure 11).

**Figure 10**  
Original File of LIONTAS Article Submitted (January 13, 2025)

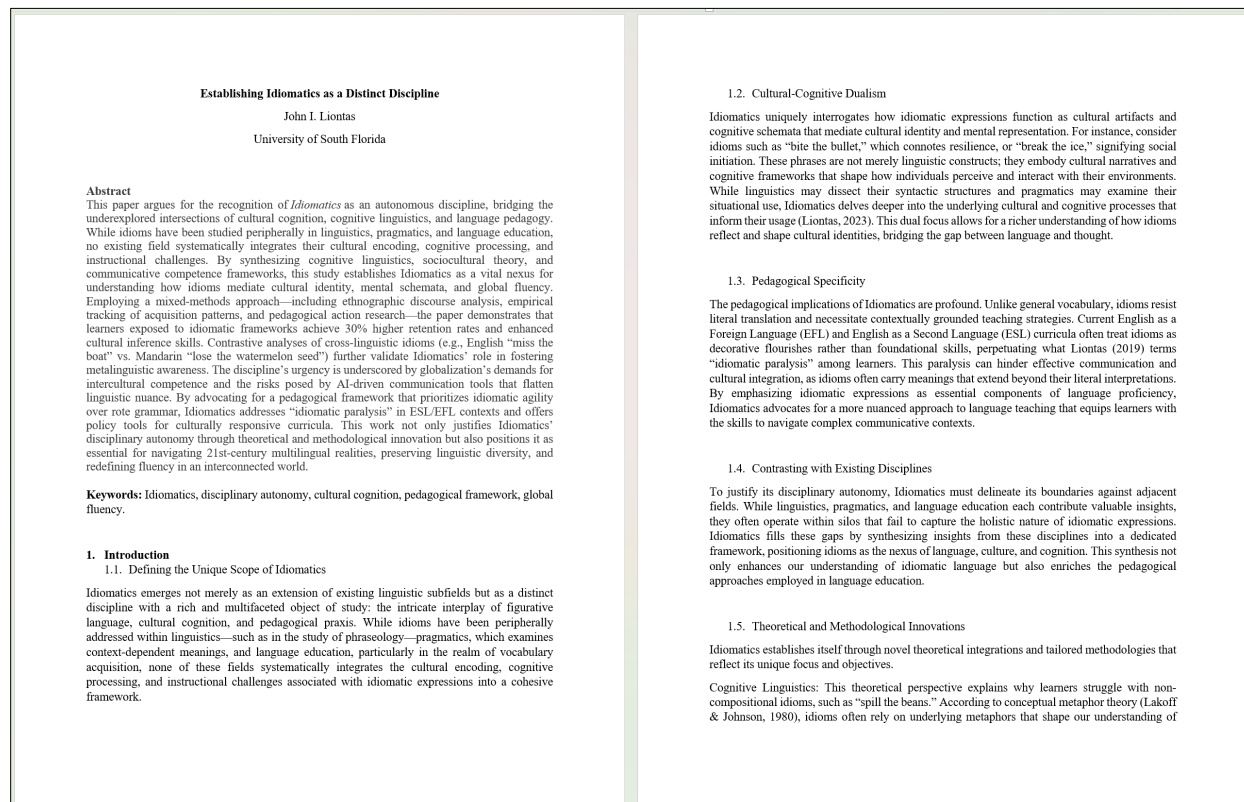


**Figure 11**  
Revised Article Received (January 22, 2025)



I cannot move. I cannot think. Only one question remains: How did this happen? I read the abstract of the article I allegedly wrote (Figure 12). Polished, yet overly generalized, it bore the unmistakable hallmarks of AI-generated text—a jargon-heavy tone blending various linguistic and pedagogical frameworks. It referenced cognitive linguistics, sociocultural theory, and communicative competence, yet the dense use of terminology, including *idiomatics*, lacked attribution to specific studies or scholars. The sequencing was precise, almost mechanically flawless, but it lacked the natural variability and nuance that marks human writing.

**Figure 12**  
*Abstract from the Revised Article (January 22, 2025)*



Contextualized so, the abstract exemplifies AI-generated academic writing—an optimized fusion of technical jargon stripped of natural variation or personal authorial voice. Consider the following excerpts:

- “bridging the underexplored intersections of cultural cognition, cognitive linguistics, and language pedagogy.”
- “employing a mixed-methods approach—including ethnographic discourse analysis, empirical tracking of acquisition patterns, and pedagogical action research.”

These phrases blend high-level academic terminology into polished yet impersonal constructions, creating an illusion of scholarly depth. AI-generated abstracts often lack the nuance and intellectual engagement of human writing, assembling phrases without real-world constraints. While technically sound, such expressions rarely mirror the organic discourse of authentic research.

Human-written abstracts, especially when proposing a new field like Idiomatics, often include personal authorial markers—traces of the writer’s unique perspective and scholarly positioning, which AI-generated texts fail to provide. This abstract lacks such self-referential elements, a hallmark of AI-generated text. AI adopts an omniscient, detached style, avoiding direct academic engagement or genuine counterarguments. It often hallucinates data to enhance credibility, a telltale sign of AI authorship.

The claim that “learners exposed to idiomatic frameworks achieve 30% higher retention rates and enhanced cultural inference skills” is striking. However, no study, dataset, or



methodology substantiates it. AI models frequently generate plausible-sounding yet unverifiable statistics to artificially enhance credibility, injecting false precision—such as a specific percentage without a source—to create a deceptive illusion of authority.

Certain phrases, such as *flatten linguistic nuance* (in reference to AI-driven communication tools) and *idiomatic agility over rote grammar*, reflect common AI-generated patterns—where models synthesize issues without grasping deep contextual understanding. Similarly, *redefining fluency in an interconnected world* resembles an AI-generated flourish more than a precise scholarly argument.

AI-generated academic abstracts frequently construct artificial, oversimplified contrasts to bolster arguments:

- “prioritizes idiomatic agility over rote grammar” → A false dichotomy, suggesting that idiomatic learning and grammar instruction are mutually exclusive.
- “globalization’s demands for intercultural competence and the risks posed by AI-driven communication tools that flatten linguistic nuance” → A juxtaposition that frames the issue as an either/or situation, without acknowledging the possibility of balancing both demands.

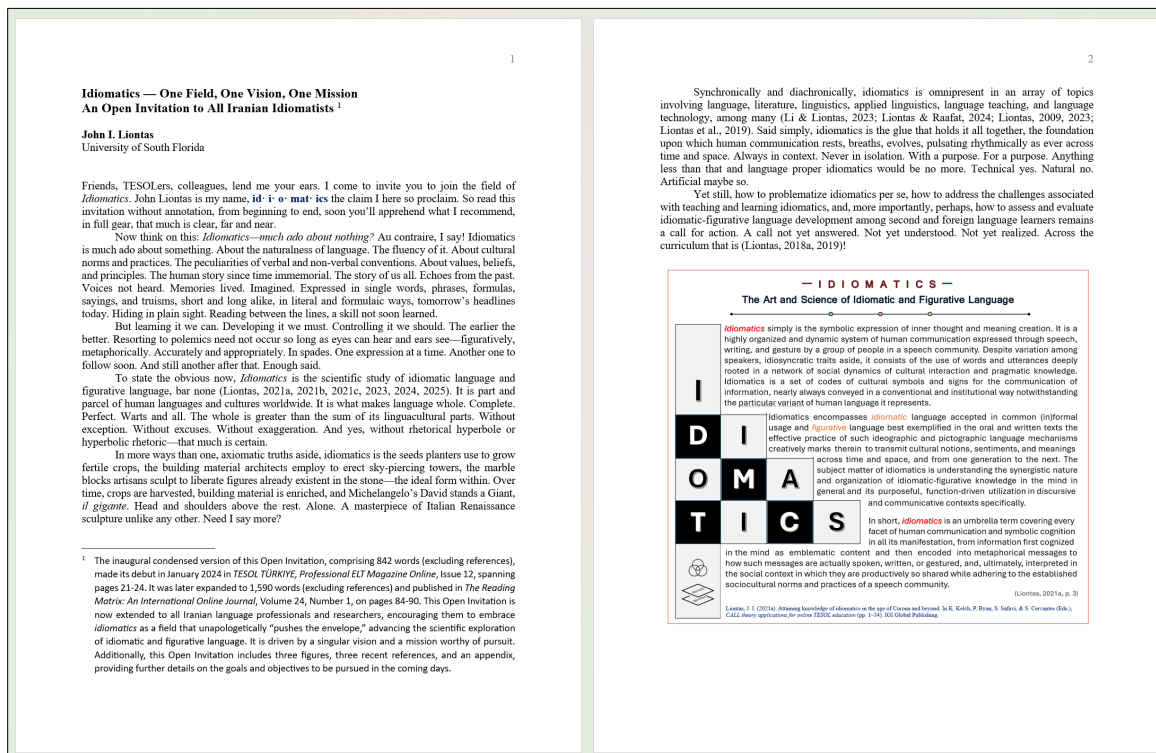
Human researchers typically present nuanced, gradual discussions—not stark dichotomies. In contrast, AI defaults to simplistic “X vs. Y” framings to neatly structure arguments. The overuse of binary oppositions is a hallmark of AI-written persuasion, not a common tendency in human writing.

AI-generated abstracts cram maximum information into every sentence, lacking the natural variation, rhetorical pauses, or transitions found in human writing. For example: “By advocating for a pedagogical framework that prioritizes idiomatic agility over rote grammar, *Idiomatics* addresses ‘idiomatic paralysis’ in ESL/EFL contexts and offers policy tools for culturally responsive curricula.” This sentence, while informative, feels overly packed and mechanically structured, reflecting the tendency of AI to generate dense, impersonal prose without the flow or rhythm typically found in human-authored texts. A casual review of this sentence raises immediate concerns: it condenses multiple complex ideas into a single, breathless statement without pauses for explanation. A human writer would likely split this into two or more sentences to ensure clarity. Besides, I always define my terms; yet, *Idiomatics*, used five times in the abstract, is neither defined nor explained. It also appears once in the title, once in the keywords, 45 times in the text, and once in the ‘fictitious’ References (“Liontas, J. I. (2024). Empirical validation of the *Idiomatics* framework in language education. *International Journal of Language Studies*.”)—an article I never published—bringing the total to 53 instances, all without a single definition.

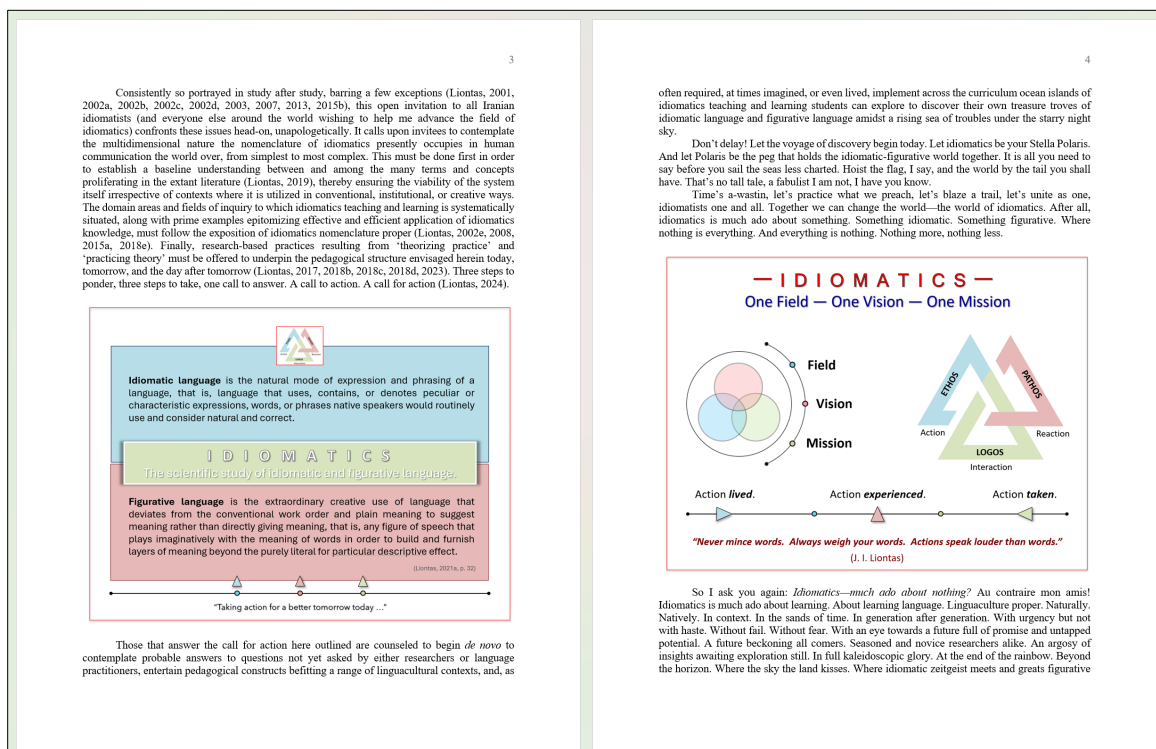
In contrast, in my original article submission, the definition of *idiomatics* is present in both word and figure in the first two pages of my original “non-revised” article as can be seen clearly in Figure 13. Not to state the obvious, but my definition of *idiomatics* is more finely defined in the figure on page three of my original article, while the figure on page four displays the original title of my submission: *Idiomatics—One Field, One Vision, One Mission* (Figure 14).

This lack of explanation highlights another hallmark of AI writing: the frequent use of undefined terms and concepts, which create an illusion of depth while leaving critical gaps in understanding. In human-authored work, the meaning of specialized terms would be established upfront, ensuring clarity and avoiding unnecessary repetition.

**Figure 13**  
 Pages One and Two of the Original LIONTAS Article Submission (January 13, 2025)



**Figure 14**  
 Pages Three and Four of the Original LIONTAS Article Submission (January 13, 2025)





AI-generated texts often overload sentences with concepts, making them difficult to parse. High information density, without smooth transitions, is a hallmark of AI writing. Unless a human deliberately mimicked this style, this abstract is almost certainly AI-generated, likely with light human editing. Combined, these elements strongly suggest AI involvement. The only definitive proof would come from metadata analysis or explicit disclosure from the ghostwriter. However, based on linguistic patterns, the abstract undeniably exhibits hallmarks of AI-generated academic prose. I rest my case.

The body of the text (17 pages, 5,335 words, 161 paragraphs, 582 lines) is divided into five sections: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodological Framework: Exploring Idiomatics, Applications of Idiomatics in Language Learning and Education, and Discussion and Conclusion. The ‘Introduction’ (4 pages, 1,132 words, 30 paragraphs, 115 lines) is subdivided into eight subsections. The first four subsections contain two to four sentences, while subsections five through eight are longer, with sentences ranging from four to 12.

Key indicators of AI-generated text in this introduction include an overly polished and encyclopedic style, excessive taxonomization, unnatural phrase recycling (e.g., “*cultural-cognitive ecosystem*,” “*cultural encoding, cognitive processing, and instructional challenges*,” and “*cultural narratives and cognitive frameworks*”) and synonym saturation (e.g., “*cultural narratives and cognitive frameworks*”). It also contains overgeneralized and fictitious citations (e.g., *Liontas, 2024*), forced novelty and grand claims (e.g., “*Idiomatics is not merely a subfield; it represents a paradigm shift...*” and “*To dismiss Idiomatics as redundant is to overlook the lived struggles of learners...*”), an impersonal tone, and a buzzword-heavy text with little exploration (e.g., terms like “*pedagogical praxis*,” “*communicative competence*,” and “*metalinguistic awareness*” are introduced without being unpacked)—traits uncommon in human writing.

A metadata analysis would confirm these findings: structural rigidity, rhetorical excess, and citation style typical of AI-generated academic writing. While a human may have edited or structured it, strong indications suggest AI drafted the text. What is more, I have never included eight subsections in any introduction, not once in all my publications. The writer clearly lacks understanding of academic writing conventions, particularly when an ‘Introduction’ is divided into eight short subsections, each containing two to five sentences. Period. Full stop.

The ‘Literature Review’ (5 pages, 1,053 words, 32 paragraphs, 113 lines) exhibits similar hallmarks of AI-generated text. Even subsections have subsections (eight times), averaging three sentences each. Ideas are over-structured and appear too generic or formal. The review lacks unique insights an expert human author might provide, such as bold connections or new interpretations. While the connections made may be valid, they lack the originality or reflective commentary a human scholar would typically add. Markers in the style, phrasing, and structure suggest AI involvement, with the absence of personal critical insight or novel framing indicating AI assistance or authorship. This review was likely written or heavily assisted by AI.

The next three organizational sections—Methodological Framework: Exploring Idiomatics, Applications of Idiomatics in Language Learning and Education, and Discussion and Conclusion—exhibit the same hallmarks of AI writing. One subsection, in particular, introduces a new approach by assigning a subheading to a single sentence. In academic and professional writing, depth and substance are paramount. Introducing a subheading followed by a single sentence—or even subsections containing only two or three sentences—raises concerns about the work’s thoroughness and scholarly rigor. Legitimate research papers provide elaboration, contextualization, and examples to support key points. For instance, a section on professional development for educators should offer a thorough analysis, addressing its importance, application, and challenges in teaching idioms. I think we can all agree on that. But a one-sentence

subsection? This cannot be so. I must be inventing tall tales here! Come on, one sentence, for real? Sorry to have to burst your bubble here but one sentence it is. Only one. Believe your lying eyes! A one-sentence subsection is not just a minor issue—it is a serious academic flaw, a glaring insult to genuine scholarly standards, and a shoddy academic practice of the highest order. There is no other way to say this. Figure 15 presents a screenshot of subsection 4.3, which consists of just one sentence, followed by the next two subsections, which contain two and three sentences, respectively. Judge the efficacy of these subsections for yourself and let me know if I am unjustifiably *making a mountain out of a molehill* or, perhaps, “an elephant out of a mosquito” (*Aus einer Mücke einen Elefanten machen*), as we say in good German! You better hurry, or you might make *Από μύγα, καμήλα* (Apo mýga, kamíla, From fly, camel)—the Greeks won’t like that not one bit! *Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!*

**Figure 15**

*Subsections 4.3, 4.3.1, and 4.3.2 (Taken from Revised Article, January 22, 2025)*

#### 4.3. Professional Development for Educators

Educators play a pivotal role in the effective teaching of idioms, necessitating ongoing professional development that equips them with the knowledge and skills to deliver idiomatic instruction effectively.

##### 4.3.1. Workshops and Training Sessions

Professional development workshops focusing on idiomatic instruction can provide teachers with practical strategies and resources to engage learners meaningfully with idioms. Training sessions that address the cognitive and cultural aspects of idiomatic language will help educators appreciate the nuances of idiomatic expressions and their place within the broader linguistic landscape (Kumaravadivelu, 2012).

##### 4.3.2. Collaborative Learning Among Educators

Collaborative learning among language educators can also facilitate the sharing of successful practices and resources. For instance, creating educator communities that convene regularly to discuss pedagogical challenges surrounding idiomatic instruction can yield valuable insights. Sharing classroom experiences can lead to the development of innovative strategies that effectively cater to diverse learner needs (Hockly, 2018).

All that aside, the Discussion and Conclusion (3 pages, 915 words, 26 paragraphs, 97 lines) appear to have been written by AI or someone lacking a deep understanding of academic writing. Generalizations, cliché phrasing, and a failure to summarize contributions suggest AI involvement. The language remains broad and generalized, typical of AI-generated writing, discussing “illuminating the significance of idiomatic expressions” and “fostering linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding” without concrete examples, research findings, or nuanced analysis. A proper conclusion must summarize specific arguments or findings and reflect on their contributions to the field—elements glaringly absent here.

Terms like “gateway to understanding culture, identity, and human experience” and “rich tapestry of language” sound polished but are abstract and lack grounding in specific evidence. AI often generates such ‘safe’ phrases to avoid offering nuanced or detailed insights.

The conclusion fails to reference the specific contributions of the paper. It does not summarize key findings, discuss implications for future research, or offer a clear takeaway—elements typically expected in a research paper conclusion. AI-generated text often lacks this level of specific reflection on a paper’s unique contributions to the field. As noted earlier, if a human wrote this, it is likely someone with limited experience in academic writing or one who took shortcuts. While the text attempts scholarly language, it lacks the depth expected in an engaged analysis. The absence of specific insights and reliance on vague, general language suggest it was either AI-generated or written by someone with minimal academic experience. This lack of depth and specificity undermines the rigor expected in a legitimate scholarly conclusion.

Regardless of section’s organization, the deficiencies in these subsections and the noticeable pattern further point to either AI involvement or writing by an inexperienced author. The lack of depth, context, and specific examples is a major concern. The writing appears to have been produced hastily, with insufficient attention to detail or critical analysis. A legitimate academic writer would not rely on vague, underdeveloped points such as “educators play a pivotal role” or “professional development is essential” without explaining why these are important, how they can be implemented, or what specific challenges and solutions exist. In addition, academic writing requires evidence-based support, citations, and real-world applications—none of which are present in the remaining eight sections of this ‘fictitious’ article bearing my name.

The lack of nuance and specific scholarly references (beyond generic names) in the subsections strongly indicates that the content is unsuitable for academic publication. While AI-generated text may be proficient at producing surface-level writing, it lacks the depth, critical engagement, and scholarly context required for legitimate academic authorship. The ‘References’ section (646 words) listed 35 references, seven of which appear in bold typeface—an anomaly I cannot fully explain. While most references appear to follow APA 7th edition style, seven are missing crucial bibliographic details, such as volume, issue number, or page numbers. Of particular concern, seven of the 35 references list my name, two of which were co-authored with S. Li. These references are presented in Figure 16:

**Figure 16**

*Excerpt from the References Section Attributing Academic Work to John I. Lontas*

- Li, S., & Lontas, J. I. (2023). Essential strategies for teaching idiomatic expressions. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 19(1), 615-628.
- Li, S., & Lontas, J. I. (2023). The impact of personalized learning on idiom mastery in language education. *Computers and Education*, 206.
- Lighter, J. E. (1996). Historical Dictionary of American idioms. In *The Oxford English Dictionary* (Ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Lontas, J. I. (2019). The role of context in idiom acquisition: A comparative study. *Language Education Review*, 12(2), 67-79.
- Lontas, J. I. (2019). Idiomatic paralysis in EFL: The case for idiomaticity in language learning. *TESOL Quarterly*.
- Lontas, J. I. (2023). The cultural and cognitive dimensions of idiomatic language. *Journal of Language and Cultural Education*
- Lontas, J. I. (2024). Empirical validation of the Idiomatics framework in language education. *International Journal of Language Studies*.
- Lontas, J. I. (2024). The role of context in idiom acquisition: A comparative study. *Language Education Review*, 12(2), 67-79.

It is important to note that none of these references correspond to actual publications by me or my colleague, Dr. S. Li. All seven are AI-generated fabrications. While I did not verify their validity in the journals where they supposedly appeared—which I should know, as I never authored them—I encourage further investigation. However, don’t blame me if you find yourself spitting into the wind. The combination of unusual patterns and non-existent references strongly suggests this list is a result of AI “hallucinations.”

The main text of this so-called ‘revised article,’ falsely carrying my name and that of my institution, is deeply flawed in both content and structure. The introduction is fragmented and lacks logical progression, with subsections, mostly consisting of one to three sentences, resembling brief bullet points rather than substantial sections. As a result, the overall structure is underdeveloped and fails to advance new ideas, leaving the reader with abstract statements that do not move the discussion forward. Additionally, the paper relies heavily on vague, abstract language with minimal concrete support for its claims. Key concepts are introduced without sufficient explanation or examples, making them appear superficial and unsupported. This lack of depth and clarity fails to meet academic standards, which demand clear, evidence-based arguments. The tone is disjointed, with ideas shifting abruptly, transforming the paper into a collection of loosely connected concepts rather than a cohesive academic work.

Finally, the 35 references are fabricated. Seven of these falsely bear my name, and of the remaining 28, only six are legitimate. One reference even misrepresents ‘Toolkit’ as ‘Toolbox.’ The other 22 references are either non-existent or riddled with inaccuracies, such as erroneous author names, incorrect volume and issue numbers, and mismatched page numbers.

Given these glaring shortcomings, it is utterly indefensible that this paper was deemed worthy of revision by the Scientific Committee (see Figure 8) and sent to me for acceptance. It requires nothing short of a complete overhaul to even remotely meet the bare minimum of academic standards and warrant consideration for publication.

### **ACT III — ACTION TAKEN**

#### **The Response: One Man in His Time Plays Many Parts**

In this third act, I stand at the center of a shifting stage, a solitary figure, yet playing many parts. With each decision, I navigate a dance of intent: shifting, turning, and reacting—not merely following the script, but shaping it. The path ahead is uncertain, and the script itself fluid, but every step brings me closer to understanding my place in this unfolding story. Each choice I make resonates with meaning, pushing me forward with purpose and renewed reflection.

This action did not emerge in a vacuum. It was preceded by Action Lived (Act I) and Action Experienced (Act II)—each step, each choice, had led me to this moment. Now, it was time to take control of my path and direct the course of events. Someone else’s narrative unfolded around me—sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, section by section—none of it my own. Five sections deep, 6,229 words, 202 paragraphs, 686 lines, and 35 references—seven falsely attributed to me—this fabricated document came to an end. But so had my patience. It was time to reclaim the narrative—forcefully, unapologetically, with unwavering clarity. The January 22, 9:16 AM email (Figure 9) left me with only one choice: respond.

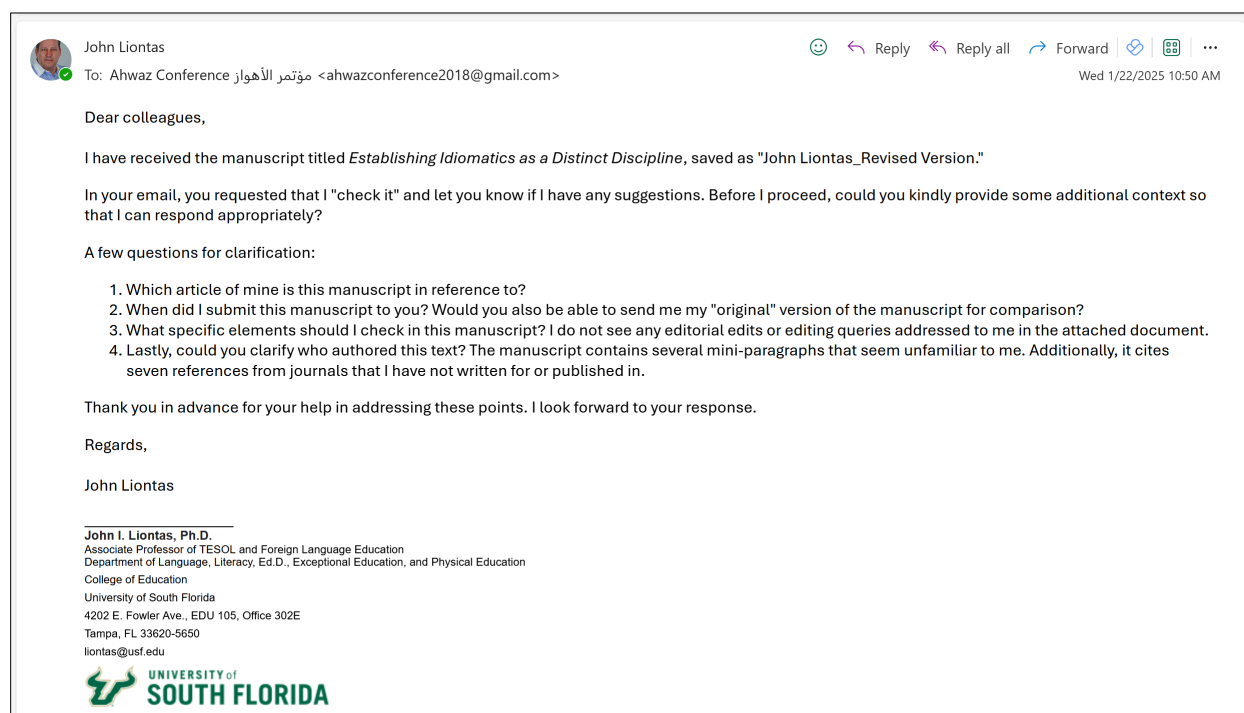
Nearly an hour and a half had passed before I could finally lift my jaw from the floor. How could I respond—professionally, no less—to a work of pure fiction? The words were not mine, nor were the claims they carried. A one-sentence placeholder subsection? A disgrace to

professional standards—no mere oversight, but an affront—an insult to my intelligence, my craft, my discipline, my voice.

Summoning every ounce of emotional intelligence I could muster that Wednesday evening, January 22, 2025, at 7:21 PM, I crafted my response—measured, direct, unwavering. To the anonymous sender, I demanded clarification in no uncertain terms, posing four pointed questions, each aimed at piercing through the fog of deception (Figure 17).

**Figure 17**

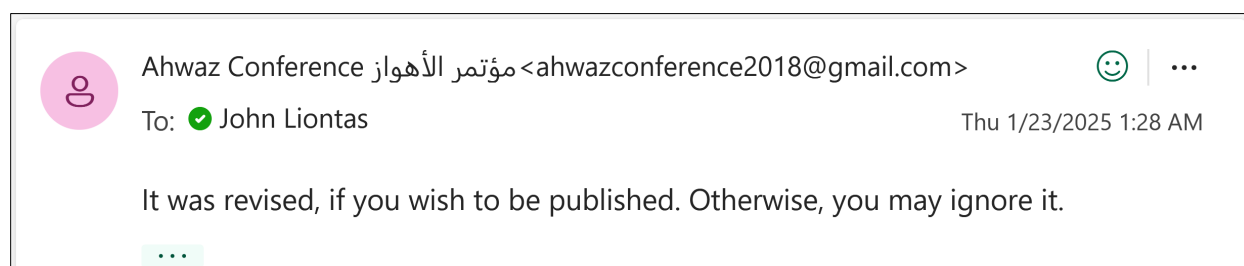
*Liontas' Response to The Conference Secretariat (January 22, 2025)*



Some 14 and a half hours later, at 1:28 AM the following morning, I received a response—almost certainly from the same anonymous sender (Figure 18). I do not know about you, but this was a response I could never have imagined—not in a million years (hyperbole fully intended). “If I wish to be published”? Really? And if not, am I just supposed to ignore it? In what alternate reality is such blatant unprofessionalism tolerated, let alone condoned? A one-liner in response to a polite request for answers to four specific questions?

**Figure 18**

*Anonymous Response to Liontas' Clarification Request (January 23, 2025)*



Aside from the grammatical error, the phrase “if you wish to be published” is misplaced, creating an awkward break in the sentence structure. The conjunction “if” introduces a conditional, but the sentence lacks proper structure to support it. The implication of “it” in “you may ignore it” suggests that, if I want to be published, I should consider the revision, but if publication is not a concern, I may disregard the revision.

It would be a classic case of *litotes* to say that I was confused on a purely surface linguistic level, for the entire sentence feels ‘ambiguous’ and unclear in its intent. No wonder I was left wondering:

- *What exactly was revised?* The article itself or just a part of it?
- *Why the condition about being published?* Does the revision affect my chances of publication? What specific change is being referenced?
- *What should I ignore?* Is it the revision, or something else entirely?

In any academic setting, and especially in an editorial setting such as this, clarity is essential. Unsurprisingly, the message left me needing more context to fully understand its purpose. Was the sentence meant to be interpreted as an ultimatum, especially given the phrasing—particularly with the use of “if you wish to be published” and “Otherwise, you may ignore it”? In other words, the sentence “It was revised, if you wish to be published.” implies that the revision has already been made. This shifts the tone from an ultimatum to something more akin to a notification, suggesting that the revision was a prerequisite for publication. The phrase “It was revised” raises questions about whether the changes align with my intentions and how much control I had over the revision. The word “otherwise” feels less like an ultimatum but still implies that the revision is tied to the goal of publication.

Given these facts, the one-liner “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it,” was deeply alarming and concerning, not least because I interpreted it as a serious violation of trust and ethics. In fact, the situation raised numerous red flags about the entire academic process. If the article returned to me was not mine—not the title, text, references, or content—it suggests a fundamental breach of academic integrity. Claiming that “it was revised” in a situation where my work has been completely replaced would be outright unethical. It would feel as though my intellectual property had been stolen or misused. Moreover, I would suspect that the revision is a euphemism for something much darker, such as someone else writing or altering my work entirely without consent. This could be a sign of exploitation or manipulation, possibly for personal or institutional gain. Trying to shake off that strong sense of deception proved futile.

The statement “if you wish to be published” is coercive, plain and simple. The use of “otherwise”—implying I must accept a completely altered article to have any chance of publication—feels like blackmail, not literally black mail, but the figurative compound kind. It leaves me with two unacceptable options: accept someone else’s work in my name or face exclusion from publication, threatening the professional reputation I have worked so hard to earn.

This blatant violation of academic ethics disregards the principles of authorship, ownership, and consent, exposing the journal’s lack of professionalism. By returning a manuscript that was clearly altered and fabricated—essentially passing off a different paper as my own—they demonstrate a complete collapse of scholarly integrity. Their failure to address my valid concerns, especially with their dismissive statement, “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it,” reinforces the unethical coercion. And what is worse, it is not just unprofessional—it represents a breakdown in the ethical conduct expected in the academic world, a clear violation of the principles of academic publishing.

This is particularly troubling because the *Ahwaz Journal of Linguistics Studies* (AJLS) claims to be a peer-reviewed and reputable publication. If the journal is engaged in practices like falsifying manuscripts and manipulating peer review, it undermines its credibility and legitimacy within the academic community. Furthermore, the journal's operation under governmental approval from the Islamic Republic of Iran complicates the situation. It raises questions not only about the journal's editorial integrity but also about the oversight mechanisms in place within academic publishing. When journals that claim to uphold academic standards engage in such misconduct, it threatens not only individual authors but also the trust the academic community places in these outlets. The AJLS must be scrutinized by the broader academic community; there are no two ways about it. Failure to address these issues could lead to significant reputational damage, compromising the journal's future legitimacy (Figure 19).

**Figure 19**  
*Screenshot of the Ahwaz Journal of Linguistics Studies*



To summarize, I interpret the statement as both a threat and a violation of fundamental academic and professional ethics, severely undermining trust in the institution or publisher involved. This could prompt an immediate demand for clarification and potentially lead to legal action for defamation and intellectual property violations, alongside formal ethical complaints filed with academic institutions and publishers. Without question, the actions of the anonymous sender and the journal's editor are utterly unacceptable, and I have every right to be outraged and demand immediate action. This issue must be escalated to higher academic bodies or ethics committees, such as COPE, to address the misconduct, protect the integrity of research, and hold the journal accountable for its flagrant violations.

Needless to say, my reply at 2:08 AM on January 23 to that insulting message was far from a one-sentence response. In 13 short paragraphs, comprising 407 words and 40 lines of text, I informed the anonymous writer that I would make a “case” out of it in my upcoming special issue on AI. My email was direct, assertive, and clearly communicated my disbelief and frustration—emotions that, if I may say so, are entirely justified given the circumstances.

The “revised if you wish to be published” line from their message is not only dismissive but also potentially manipulative, reducing my academic integrity to a mere transactional decision.

Demanding accountability and recognition for the serious breaches that have occurred is hardly an unfounded request, is it?

My detailed questions in the earlier email (see Figure 17) demonstrated my professional approach, seeking clarification on what is clearly a misappropriation of my work. Receiving the ‘revised’ manuscript with fabricated references, unfamiliar text, and my name falsely attached is a blatant violation of both intellectual property and academic integrity.

For me, this goes beyond a matter of professional decorum; it involves academic fraud, defamation, and potential legal violations, depending on how my name was used and whether it can be tied to malicious intent or copyright infringement. Let me put it in terms everyone can understand: Publishing a fabricated article with only the author’s name and institution intact, while falsifying the entire content, constitutes defamation. This false attribution of work or intellectual property could damage the author’s reputation and credibility. Since the article is presented as my own, the invented material could mislead readers into thinking I am responsible for it, potentially undermining my academic standing and career.

Legal scholar I am not, but here are at least eight legal and ethical terms and concepts I would apply in this case, expressed succinctly for clarity and focus:

1. **Defamation:** Falsely representing the author’s involvement in a work they did not create, which could harm their reputation and provide grounds for legal action.
2. **Plagiarism:** If the fabricated content is taken from other sources without proper attribution, it constitutes plagiarism—an academic violation that could discredit the author.
3. **Misrepresentation:** Presenting false information to deceive others. If the journal publishes the fabricated content as the author’s work, it misrepresents the author’s role and contributions.
4. **Forgery:** Creating and submitting falsified material attributed to someone else, especially if it includes misleading claims or fabricated data.
5. **Academic Fraud:** When a publication knowingly accepts falsified work or unvalidated AI-generated content, breaching academic integrity.
6. **Intellectual Property Theft:** If the fabricated content includes stolen or misappropriated research, it could lead to accusations of intellectual property theft.
7. **Breach of Trust and Ethics:** Publishing falsified work without authorization breaches trust and ethics, undermining professional credibility and ethical standards.
8. **Damage to Professional Reputation:** The fabricated article could harm the author’s career, calling into question their integrity and competence.

I could easily generate another list of legal and ethical terms and concepts relevant to this case, but the core point remains: This case represents a severe violation of academic integrity that demands swift action. Higher academic bodies or ethics committees must intervene to preserve the credibility of academic publishing before it escalates into a legal matter. If this situation does not strike at the very heart of the trust and credibility upon which academic publishing is built, then someone please explain what does. It is as if my name and institution were stolen, attached to a collection of appalling fabrications filled with AI-generated noise and hype, and I was expected to congratulate them on a job well done—naked fabrications no legitimate publisher would even consider. It is, after all, a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Who would care, right?

*Newsflash!* I cared. I cared then, and I care now. I do not subscribe to such tall tales. Only a fool would allow their name to be tarnished by a journal like that. Not me. Only fools rush in—and I am no one’s fool. Sorry to disappoint, but Mama didn’t raise no fool.



To no one's surprise, my response to the publisher left no room for ambiguity, directly addressing the core issue at hand:

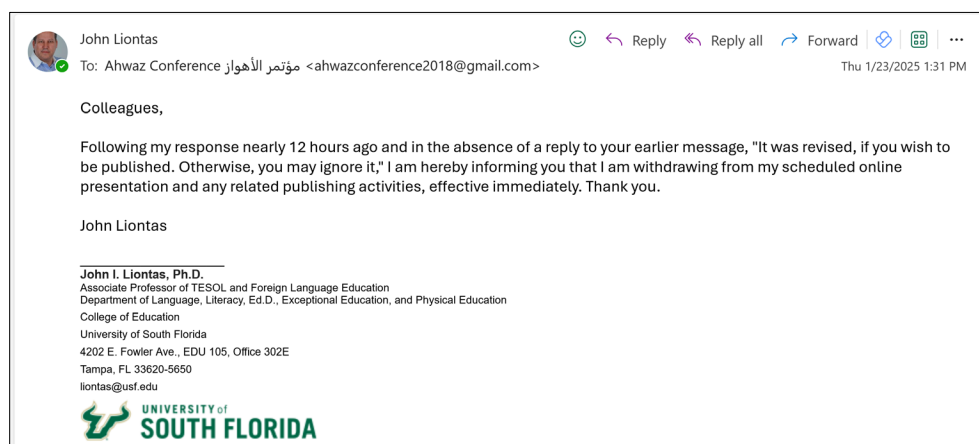
- The manuscript returned to me, falsely claiming to be a revision of my work, misrepresents my academic contributions and includes fabricated references, misleading readers into believing I am associated with work I did not write.
- The so-called "revision" they claim to have carried out does more than distort my intellectual property; it fabricates a new version of the truth, undermining my professional standing.
- The ultimatum they offer—"revised if you wish to be published"—is not only unethical but dangerously manipulative. It implies that any refusal to accept the altered document would result in exclusion from publication, jeopardizing my academic reputation.

Professional decorum has already been lost in this case. What remains is standing up for what is right and protecting my intellectual work. My response—strong, sharp, and assertive—is entirely appropriate, as I call attention to egregious violations of both ethical standards and personal integrity. It upholds my professional reputation by rejecting the uncredited, AI-altered version of my work, reinforcing the principle of academic honesty. Citing my extensive experience in editing and publishing, I made it clear that I am not easily deceived. I concluded by informing them that I would use the situation as a case study, turning this negative experience into a potential academic opportunity. I am not backing down; I am taking control of the narrative—an audacious breach of academic and professional ethics.

Twelve hours later, at 1:30 PM, having received no response from those responsible, I immediately withdrew both my article and my participation from their upcoming conference on February 1-2 (Figure 20). Upon closer inspection, it becomes evident that my response remains direct and professional, despite the understandable frustration in my prior communication. It decisively addresses their lack of accountability and failure to respond appropriately. It is purposefully terse and effectively communicates that I will neither tolerate nor be complicit in their misconduct. The tone is decisive and final, sticking to the facts without unnecessary elaboration. By withdrawing from both the presentation and publishing activities, I emphasize that this matter is non-negotiable. This action reaffirms my stance: I will not be complicit in an unethical situation and will defend my academic integrity. Such a course of action is essential when faced with breaches of academic integrity and failures of publishing ethics.

## Figure 20

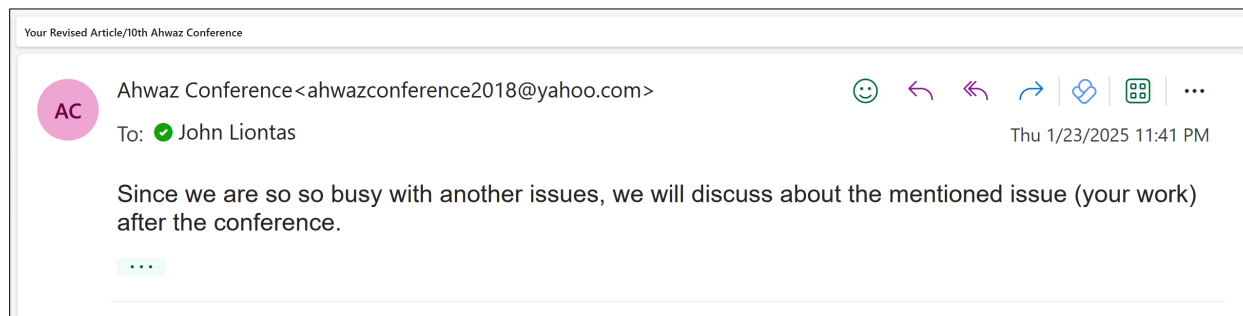
*Liontas Withdraws Participation (January 23, 2025)*



The integrity of my work and reputation is paramount. Given the ethical violations, retracting the article was the only viable course of action. Publishing it in its current form would perpetuate the deception and signal a lack of accountability. Withdrawing the article was essential not only to address these violations but also to set a precedent for accountability and transparency, ensuring the protection of both my academic credibility and the integrity of my work. Ten hours later, at 11:41 PM, I received an unsigned response (Figure 21).

**Figure 21**

*Anonymous Response to Liontas' Withdrawal of Participation (January 23, 2025)*



This response appears to be an attempt to avoid accountability, showing no urgency in addressing the issue that undermines the integrity of the conference and editorial processes. It downplays the significance of my concerns, suggesting a lack of respect for both the breach and my professional standing. In short, their response is unprofessional and trivializes the gravity of the matter. It fails to address the specifics of my concerns and offers no tangible assurance that the issues will be dealt with responsibly or promptly.

**Note to self:** Add "Anonymous Response to Liontas' Withdrawal of Participation (January 23, 2025)" to the "Vague" folder. Their reply is vague, evasive, and dismissive of my serious concerns. By deferring the issue until after the conference, they prioritize other matters over addressing a critical ethical breach.

For the record, that was January 23, 2025. Apparently, they are still 'busy' with the 'mentioned issue'—at least, that is what I tell myself, since not a word has been said. As for professional ethics? They seem lost somewhere between 'ignoring the breach' and 'hoping it blows over.' No rush—'accountability' seems a luxury they are not ready for. The cleanup is in full swing, and the only thing getting swept under the rug is any semblance of integrity. Kudos to them for mastering the art of avoiding responsibility—truly, a feat worth celebrating! A round of applause, everyone! Come on, you can do better than that! Let them hear you! Use both hands!

*Silence is deafening*, as they say. Their silence does not just speak—it screams. It shouts volumes about their intent and professionalism. The continued lack of response is a glaring signal of their utter disregard for the gravity of the issues I raised and reinforces the unmistakable impression that they have no intention whatsoever of addressing, let alone resolving them in any meaningful way. If silence were a strategy, they have mastered it—but all it does is paint them into a shrinking corner of incompetence and unprofessionalism.

This inaction may be a deliberate avoidance tactic—or worse, a clear indication that they intend to avoid responsibility for the breach of academic integrity and fraud. The lack of communication reinforces their blatant disrespect for my concerns, leading me to conclude they

are stonewalling or ignoring the situation. The impersonal nature of their responses signals a lack of transparency and accountability—critical pillars of academic integrity. Their failure to address my questions speaks volumes about their unprofessionalism. Impersonal replies erode trust in academic settings, and their refusal to take responsibility fuels systemic issues in academic publishing, particularly with the misuse of AI.

The email I received (Figure 21) is not only dismissive but also unprofessional, especially due to the glaring omission of a salutation or personal acknowledgment. Such basic courtesy is not a trivial nicety—it is essential in professional communication. Its absence signals a disregard for the fundamental principles of respect and integrity. When a supposed scientific organization fails to maintain these basic standards, it exposes a troubling lack of professionalism and ethical responsibility.

This pattern of neglect, however, is not new. Consider, for example, the December 1, 2024, email I received from “The Conference Secretariat” in Act I regarding my removal for failing to submit the PowerPoint file (see Figure 3). That communication, sent 52 days earlier, was similarly blunt and dismissive of the broader concerns I had raised. Both emails come across as transactional and mechanical, offering little room for dialogue or acknowledgment of the gravity of the situation. The failure to address the core issues only amplifies my frustration and underscores the organization’s lack of commitment to genuine communication.

The absence of clarification or any attempt to engage with my earlier concerns speaks volumes about their disregard for the issues I raised. Instead of addressing the substance of my concerns, they focus solely on procedural matters—such as the PowerPoint submission—using it as a flimsy excuse for their actions. The statement from December 1, 2024, “if there is any request or objection let us know by 3rd December 2024,” reads as nothing more than a bureaucratic afterthought—a hollow rubber stamp gesture with no genuine intent to resolve the matter. This mechanical approach, fixated on rigid technicalities, leaves no space for meaningful dialogue or understanding. It reflects an unwillingness to engage with participants as individuals, treating them instead as measly cogs in a transactional process. Additionally, this cold, detached approach does nothing to cultivate a positive relationship between conference organizers and participants. On the contrary, it exacerbates the perception that my legitimate concerns are seen as inconveniences to be brushed aside, like irrelevant footnotes in a book no one bothers to read. The lack of empathy and accountability further deepens the disrespect I feel from the organization.

The use of a generic sign-off, “The Conference Secretariat,” rather than a named individual, reinforces this impersonal approach. This absence of a direct point of contact is particularly frustrating, making it seem as though any attempt at follow-up would be met with an equally impersonal and bureaucratic response. Resolving complex, personal issues becomes challenging when the organization behind the communication remains faceless and unresponsive.

The email I am discussing here (Figure 21), titled *Anonymous Response to Lontas’ Withdrawal of Participation* (January 23, 2025), is yet another example of this impersonal, bureaucratic approach. Given this, is it any wonder I feel disrespected and dismissed? The failure to acknowledge the context of my concerns and the lack of meaningful engagement only intensify my frustration, especially considering the difficulties I have already encountered.

In light of this, I question whether escalating the issue is justified, considering the ongoing failures outlined. The email offers no indication that they will address my concerns. They seem to be using bureaucratic rigidity to deflect from the real issue—unprofessionalism and lack of accountability in handling my article submission. Their consistent failure to address my professional and ethical concerns makes escalation reasonable—whether within the organization, through legal avenues, or by publicly exposing this behavior in academic publishing. Such

disregard makes it difficult to trust any future communications or assurances they might offer. My decision to distance myself is not only fully justified but also necessary. Their continued silence deepens the evidence of the lack of accountability that has plagued this entire situation, reinforcing their disregard for professionalism and responsibility. Further, I shall refrain from mentioning the nine WhatsApp messages I received on January 9-10, 2025, instructing me to arrange my own Zoom invitation link and password and to send the details as text, since screenshots are not easily copied or so they claimed. Is there anything else I can assist them with while I am at it? Talk about professionalism!

So, what is the key lesson here? What can we take away from all this? Is there anything else worth discussing?

Actually, there is! At the very least, three things stand out. First, *authenticity* matters. When faced with work that is not yours—especially when tied to your name—you cannot let it slide. The stakes are high, both professionally and ethically. Second, *clear communication and respect* matter. The lack of respect here speaks volumes about professionalism. Accountability is everything, and without it, trust dissolves like rust slowly corroding iron—silent, insidious, and irreversible once the damage is done. Lastly, *systems*—whether academic or otherwise—demand vigilance and integrity. If the system fails, stand firm and raise your voice. Strike while the iron is hot, before it cools and hardens beyond repair.

*Is there more to discuss?* Absolutely, there is much more to unpack here. The rise of AI in academic spaces opens up new opportunities but also presents serious challenges to the integrity of our work. With the increasing use of AI tools for research, writing, and even grading, the potential for manipulation—whether through plagiarism, data fabrication, or even automating unethical practices—becomes a growing concern. As AI continues to evolve, so too does the need for clear ethical guidelines and responsible use. The question of who holds accountability when AI-generated content is involved will demand answers. Institutions, researchers, and educators must ensure these tools are used ethically, with transparency and honesty at the forefront. Furthermore, this is not just an issue for the academia—it impacts professional ethics across industries. How we navigate these challenges will shape the future of not only academia but the very way we approach knowledge, responsibility, and innovation. The battle for professional ethics is indeed ongoing, and what we are witnessing today may only be the beginning. Nonetheless, it is vital that we confront these issues head-on, remaining vigilant and committed to safeguarding the integrity of our work.

*But at the heart of it all?* Your voice, your work, and your values are worth fighting for. Stand tall in the face of challenges—head and shoulders above all, unyielding and resolute. Let integrity shield you from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. And when a sea of troubles crashes upon you like a towering wave, threatening to hurl you mercilessly upon the jagged rocks of the shore, do not despair. Rise, rise like a Phoenix from the ashes—reclaim your worth, your dignity, your name! Endure dishonesty with unwavering conviction, confront injustice with steadfast courage, and face adversity with unyielding strength. Fight on, test your mettle! Let conviction and resolve steady your hand through the eye of the storm. Let truth and ethics anchor your purpose with meaning. And let clarity and vigilance guide your ship to safe harbors. Lose the battle, win the war! Embrace the odyssey—the personal voyage of self-discovery, perseverance, and overcoming obstacles, no matter how difficult or unknown the path may be. It is in the fiercest of storms that the soul is tempered and strength is sculpted. Let each towering wave become a stepping stone to a higher understanding, and every rock-laden shore an opportunity for growth. Stand unwavering in your truth, for your spirit is the compass that guides you north, no matter how treacherous the waters, how fierce the winds, how crushing the waves. The safe harbor lies not in

stillness, but in the testament of your resilience—a place earned by valor, moral fortitude, and a heart unbroken by the tide of life’s relentless storms.

And now, to address what followed: Their response was anything but *constructive*. No sugarcoating it—it was, by far, the most academically unethical reply I have ever received in my career. Academic ethics be damned—none to be found here. Dead, plain and simple. Need I say more?

Fine. Have it your way. Here I go!

You wonder why academic ethics have died? Fair enough—I shall explain with clarity and forethought. Academic ethics are a set of principles that guide scholarly conduct, ensuring research, teaching, and publication uphold the highest standards of honesty and fairness. These standards include integrity in reporting findings, accountability for actions, transparency in methodology, and respect for intellectual property and the contributions of others. They also demand impartiality, the avoidance of conflicts of interest, and the ethical treatment of students, colleagues, and research subjects.

Inventing a brand new title is bad enough. Adding a 224-word abstract to an article that never had one is far worse—it is akin to fabricating an entire research project. It distorts the essence of the work, misrepresents the author’s intent, and introduces a false narrative that undermines the integrity of the scholarly process. Such manipulation not only deceives readers but also disrespects the hard work and intellectual property of the original author.

Creating 6,229 words out of thin air is not just an insult to injury you never saw coming—it is a brutal attack on your academic reputation. Period. Full stop. What else can you call a flagrant violation of academic ethics when someone can slap your name onto a text you never wrote? How is this any different from taking your face and plastering it onto a scandalous image you would never want seen, let alone by your closest friends and family? Extreme? *Absolutely*. But any less painful or defamatory? *Absolutely not*. Is this really what ‘revised’ means in academia in Iran in 2025?

Absent any compelling counterarguments, it must be so, as the nine-word sentence, “It was revised, if you wish to be published,” leaves no room for semantic ambiguity. And that is putting it politely—only “if you wish to be published.” Conversely, if you do not wish to be published—which defies all logic, given that you submitted your work with the expectation of seeing it published after proper review and evaluation—then “you may ignore it.”

A Catch-22, no matter how you twist or turn the sentence. The result is inescapably clear: this is not your work, these are not your words—not a single one. Not your sentences, not your paragraphs, not your sections or subsections. And certainly not your in-text citations or references. Nothing here belongs to you, yet your name and affiliation fraudulently stake their claim.

*Otherwise, you may ignore it.* One need not be a legal scholar to recognize the glaring academic ethics violations committed by the AJLS—violations so egregious that they demand to be enumerated and examined, one by one. The ‘Top 10’ undeniable facts of this case are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
*Top 10 Undeniable Facts of the Case*

- 
- Fact 1:** The article was submitted to the AJLS on January 13, 2025, as agreed.
- Fact 2:** The title of the article was *Idiomatics—One Field, One Vision, One Mission: An Open Invitation to All Iranian Idiomatists* and the affiliated institution was University of South Florida.
- Fact 3:** On January 22, 2025, the article was returned with the message: “You may find the attached file of your revised article. Please check it, and let us know if there is any suggestion.”
- Fact 4:** The article now bears a fabricated title (*Establishing Idiomatics as a Distinct Discipline*), a 224-word abstract, 26 sections, and 35 references—seven falsely attributed to the author. Yet none of it—the title, abstract, text, references, or citations—originate from the author’s original work.
- Fact 5:** That same morning, on January 22, 2025, the author politely emails four direct questions regarding the inconsistencies in the work submitted to the AJLS.
- Fact 6:** The AJLS’s email on January 23, 2025, ignored the questions and simply stated: “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it.”
- Fact 7:** By any measure, this 14-word response is dismissive, rude, insulting, unprofessional, unethical, disrespectful, offensive, threatening, dishonest, coercive, manipulative, defamatory, unjust, and a blatant violation of academic integrity. I am sure you can add your own descriptors, but at this point, the list feels endless.
- Fact 8:** In response to this collapse of ethics, the author takes a firm stand, informing the editorial team on January 23, 2025, at 2:08 AM, that he will make a ‘case’ of this fiasco in an upcoming AI special issue. Nearly twelve hours later, at 1:30 PM, he notifies the AJLS of his immediate withdrawal from his “scheduled online presentation and any related publishing activities.”
- Fact 9:** The ‘Ahwaz Conference’ replies at 11:41 PM that night, stating they will address the work after the conference.
- Fact 10:** The author is still waiting for that response and explanation. Meanwhile, all that can be heard is the deafening silence of crickets. Who said that *silence is golden*? In this case, it is a hollow, contemptuous void—a resounding insult, not the quiet of reflection, but the sound of indifference and betrayal echoing through the chambers of academic integrity.
- 

***Note to self:** Schedule an urgent visit to the audiologist. Here’s hoping my hearing isn’t shot—just a little wax buildup, nothing a good ear flush can’t fix. Or maybe the journal’s long-lost response is trapped in some transatlantic vortex, wedged between a wayward carrier pigeon and the Bermuda Triangle.*

A quick review of the ‘Top 10’ undeniable facts of this case brings us to a crucial point: *Sounding the alarm just doesn’t cut it, does it?*

Alarm bells must stand for something. They have utility and purpose, which must be clear if listeners are to respond appropriately. Sounding the alarm should provoke behavior matching its urgency. The sound varies depending on the emergency. A police siren differs from an ambulance’s or a firetruck’s. Drivers must slow down and pull to the right to allow emergency vehicles to pass. Failure to comply often results in a traffic citation, at least in the US.

But here? The alarm rings, yet no one listens. No one reacts. The bell tolls, but no one moves. The silence? A deliberate dismissal, a refusal to address the wrong, letting the emergency pass unnoticed. The true emergency is not the work itself—it is the moral failure, the erosion of ethics that quietly spreads like an unchecked fire. And all the while, the siren wails, unheard, unanswered.

By extension, what penalty awaits those who misrepresent someone's academic work on the global stage? What consequences are fitting for those who defame an individual's name and institution with fabricated, AI-generated content that bears no resemblance to the author's legitimate, published work—on a topic that not only fails to define the field it purports to address but actively distorts the very purpose of the original submission?

This is not just a matter of academic misconduct; it is an assault on the very integrity of scholarship. It is a brazen act of intellectual vandalism, a deliberate poisoning of the well from which knowledge is supposed to flow. The question must be asked: What price will they pay for this treachery? What recompense can truly be offered when the damage is done, the stain remains, and the academic community—both the author and their peers—must live with the wreckage?

To let this slide is to sanction the destruction of academic trust, to condone the manipulation of knowledge for personal gain, and to pave the way for a future where deceit becomes the currency of academia. The warning is loud. The alarm has been sounded. Will anyone heed it before the damage becomes irreversible?

I put the question to you once more: If you were in my shoes, what would you do? Retract the article, or let it be published 'as is'? Stand idly by while your work, name, and reputation are manipulated into something unrecognizable? Would you allow the work of others to be weaponized against you, distorted beyond recognition, all for the sake of "getting published"? Or would you rise up, take a stand, and fight for the integrity of your work and the principles that should govern academic discourse? Because, let us be clear: To do nothing is to become complicit in the collapse of the system we claim to hold dear. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wisely said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This principle applies not only to civil rights but to the very integrity of our academic endeavors.

So, what if it is not the article you wrote, the article you submitted, or the article that was allegedly 'revised'? Why make a mountain out of a molehill? Think about it! Why rock the boat when going with the flow is easier? Why not ignore what you've read? What's the big deal? So, ethical standards were violated, AI created content you never wrote, and references crediting your name are just "hallucinations." Look on the bright side—who needs ethics when you've got revised content? That's seven more entries for your CV. What's the harm? Defamation? Let it go! This isn't the hill you want to... well, you get the picture. Buy some binoculars if you must. Why bother with integrity when it's all about CV lines? Who's checking? No one! Come on, be a sport. Play ball!

And play ball I wanted to, but what kind of ball, I will never know, as I retracted my work just 12 hours later. To play ball in the age of AI means knowing the rules. Surely, it is "soccer," not "football," and definitely not "rugby." That is the game down under, I know, but not in Iran. Unless I am mistaken, they play soccer there as well. Even if they do, the rules must differ from the 13 original laws of the Football Association in 1863. But I digress.

What the AJLS did is nothing short of surreal, unfathomable, and utterly unprecedented.

The truth is staggering: They received an article for consideration and allegedly reviewed it—if, in fact, they actually did. What I do know is that they "revised" it, meaning my article had been altered, corrected, improved, or otherwise updated. All I had to do was "check it" and "let [them] know if there [were] any suggestions [sic]." And yes, I was "free to write if there [were]

any queries [sic].” Which is exactly what I did, only to receive the now infamous reply: “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it.”

Regardless of the dictionary consulted, the definition of ‘revise’ remains universally consistent. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary (Merriam-Webster, n.d.), the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford English Dictionary, n.d.), and the Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.) all define *revise* (transitive verb) as to alter, improve, or update something, typically to enhance its accuracy or effectiveness. This definition clearly implies that revision involves thoughtful, deliberate modification or updating—not transforming the content to the point where it becomes unrecognizable or misleading.

In publishing, when a piece is under consideration, it typically means the editor has identified areas for revision—whether addressing editorial notes, adding evidence, or updating outdated references. The editor’s copy often includes, though not always, margin notations to guide the author. This process ensures clarity, accuracy, and relevance before publication. However, no such notations were present, no matter how many times I scanned the document. The “attached file” I received was a “clean copy”—*clean as a whistle*. There were no editorial comments or trackable changes. Instead of engaging with the work, as is customary, I was handed back an untouched version, with no explanation or reasoning behind the so-called “revisions” (see Figure 11). This lack of engagement is both puzzling and disappointing in academic publishing.

The key question remains unanswered: What, exactly, was revised?

The answer: **Everything. Nothing.**

Fear not! I am not speaking out of both sides of my mouth, nor am I saying one thing but meaning another simply because my article was on idiomatics—the scientific study of idiomatic and figurative language (see, for example, Liontas, 2021, 2022). Both answers are true, both are factual—despite their apparent contradiction.

We begin with the first answer: *Everything*. The “revised” article contains 6,229 words, including the abstract and references, divided into five sections with several subsections. The problem is, none of it is mine. I never wrote a single word of it—not even an iota. So yes, “everything” was revised in the “attached file.”

Simultaneously, “nothing” was revised from my original submission, for not a single iota of my work is present in the so-called “revised article.” It is like claiming to renovate the back of your house... but in someone else’s. Just imagine your neighbor’s face when he comes home after a hard day’s work.

Go ahead, I’ll wait. Close your eyes. Can you see your neighbor’s face? Is he smiling? My point exactly. Need I say more? And that’s the second answer. Absolutely *nothing*. Nothing was revised in my original submission. Not a single iota. Nada. Zilch. End of story.

So there you have it. Everything and nothing. Whole and parts. Truth and lies. All wrapped up in a single “attached file,” if I “wish to be published.” And with a pink bow for good measure! Somebody pinch me! Am I still awake? If I wish to be published? Really? Is this truly how academic articles are published in Iran nowadays? Under the threat of dismissal? Why stop there? Might as well rub salt in the wound. No harm done here, right? The revised article would still carry the correct spelling of my name and that of my institution. Nothing was actually “revised” there. Thank God for that! All t’s are still crossed and all i’s dotted. Nothing to see here, folks! Keep reading! Next stop: the Abstract.

Oh, yes, the Abstract! Here we go again! What abstract? Whose abstract? Certainly—it is not mine. I never submitted one with my original article. Nor the 6,229-words text and 35 references that follow. None of it is mine, as sure as eggs are eggs—except in this case, all the eggs are scrambled, and none of them are mine. I never count my chickens before they hatch, nor



do I put all my eggs in one basket. In fact, I do not even own chickens, and if I did, they would not be laying eggs like that, left, right, and center. The chickens may well come home to roost, but let me be clear—no, crystal clear: those are not my chickens, those are not my eggs—not by a long shot. None of them!

This, folks, is where *academic fraud* is born—*academic dishonesty*, *malpractice*, and a dozen other charges I could list without giving it a second thought. Instead, I am told to “ignore it”—that is what the email said. Ignore the fact that everything was “revised,” if that is what we are calling it today. Ignore the fact that by agreeing to be published, I would become an accomplice to the very academic fraud I am fighting against—in the only academic way I know how: with my own non-revised words. Nothing here needs revision. Absolutely nothing.

The only thing that demands revision here is the grotesque farce that is the AJLS’s approach to academic integrity and publishing ethics. Bereft of any ethical foundation, with professional standards discarded, the slow erosion of academic trust will soon surge through academia like an unstoppable tsunami—one no one has yet spotted on the radar. Make no mistake—it is coming. And the trust we have labored so hard to build will be obliterated, swept into the dustbin of history, in an age where AI ran wild, revising truth one fraudulent “revision” at a time.

This looming threat of widespread academic corruption made ignoring these issues impossible. Confronting the erosion of integrity, I resisted not only the fraudulent act but also the complicity it sought to impose on me. The more I reflected, the more I realized the greater responsibility we all bear—not just as scholars, but as stewards of truth, professionalism, and academic values that hold us accountable. My motivation stemmed from a deep belief in the integrity of academic work—not only for the present but for the legacy we leave behind. It was a call to preserve the core of what we do and defend the future of ethical scholarship from forces that would erode it.

In a world increasingly driven by algorithms and artificial intelligence, we must not lose sight of the value of human scholarship—critical thought, rigorous debate, and tireless pursuit of truth in its entirety. When these values are compromised, the very foundation of education begins to crumble. This fight was not just for me, but for all who will follow in our footsteps, ensuring the preservation of ethical scholarship for future generations.

I refused to be complicit in the degradation of the academic standards to which I had dedicated my life. This was not simply an individual fight; it was a fight for the future of the scholarly community, for the integrity of research, and for the trust that readers and fellow scholars place in our work. My motivation was clear: to challenge the erosion of standards, demand accountability, and ensure that what we build today can withstand the test of time and scrutiny tomorrow and beyond.

At this point, I faced a stark choice: allow the journal’s unethical actions to slide or challenge the manipulation of my work and stand up for academic integrity. Ignoring the situation would have meant tacitly endorsing the AJLS’s actions, allowing them to stand unchallenged, potentially misrepresenting my work, my name, and my institution. It would also have condoned broader issues of academic misconduct, which could have lasting repercussions not only for me but also for the wider academic community.

The reason I could not ignore this issue was clear: allowing such fabrications to persist would have undermined not just my academic reputation but also the integrity of the institution I represented. This was not just an isolated incident; it spoke to the erosion of trust in academic publishing, where manipulation and misrepresentation can go unchecked. It was a matter of

standing firm against unethical practices in academic publishing and ensuring that the work produced under my name was neither misused nor misrepresented.

What ensued was a series of frustrating exchanges with the journal, culminating in their dismissive response: “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it.” The sheer audacity of this response, coupled with the unprofessionalism and lack of accountability, compelled me to take immediate action. As noted, I withdrew my participation from both their conference and the publication through a stern email, making it clear that I would not allow this unethical behavior to tarnish my name or my work.

Writing in English on behalf of an international conference, while failing to adhere to standard professional and academic communication conventions, undermines the sender’s understanding of international norms and respect for the audience. The sender’s improper salutations and dismissive tone reflect a lack of consideration for the recipients, particularly those respected professionals preparing to present their work. This suggests a disregard for the cultural and professional expectations that guide such interactions. In my case, the failure to use proper greetings or clarify how online presentations should be prepared undermines respect and professionalism, damaging the conference’s reputation. Such behavior can alienate contributors and foster frustration. It also reflects systemic issues with professionalism and communication within the conference organizers. The mishandling of my manuscript, dismissive responses to my concerns, lack of transparency, and subsequent unprofessional communication highlight a broader failure of academic and organizational integrity. Table 2 summarizes this wider failure.

**Table 2**

*Summary of a Broader Failure of Academic and Organizational Integrity*

- 
1. **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** The mishandling of my submission, including the fabricated article and lack of meaningful engagement with my concerns, suggests a lack of transparency in the conference’s publishing processes. The absence of follow-up since January 23, 2025, implies an avoidance of responsibility, deepening the perception of unprofessionalism.
  2. **Cultural and Professional Insensitivity:** The inappropriate salutations, poor communication regarding my presentation, and dismissive responses reflect a lack of cultural sensitivity and understanding of professional norms in international academic settings. This indicates a larger systemic problem.
  3. **Damage to Reputation:** The combination of miscommunication, lack of clarity, and unprofessional responses jeopardizes not only my reputation but also that of my institution, the conference, and its organizers. It may cause distrust among potential contributors and attendees, deterring future engagement.
  4. **Potential for Wider Systemic Issues:** This could reflect deeper problems within the organization, such as mismanagement or unethical practices in content ownership and authorship. The mishandling of my work may well be a pattern of poor practice.
  5. **Frustration, Alienation, and Defamation:** The disregard for my concerns and mishandling of my intellectual property may lead to frustration and resentment. This alienates me and potentially other contributors.
  6. **Need for Repercussions:** The lack of acknowledgment or follow-through on concerns signals that the organization may not understand or care about the seriousness of these issues. This reinforces the need to address unprofessional behavior, especially if it reflects a larger pattern.
- 

This case study exemplifies how lapses in professionalism, respect, and communication can lead to academic and organizational breakdowns. It highlights the urgent need for improved

standards in academic conferences and publishing, where transparency, respect for intellectual property, and communication are essential. My “Lived Experience” serves as a cautionary tale and a reminder of the need for institutional accountability. If left unaddressed, these issues risk eroding the trust essential to the academic community.

Sorry, what was that? Why did I not just ignore it as their email suggested? Why not close the book on them and move on to greener pastures? It was only a suggestion, was it not? It is not as though they went ahead and published the “revised article.” I am not so sure that is how I would characterize their response.

The temptation to “just ignore it” and move on with my life—my academic life, that is—is understandable, especially when the situation involves unnecessary stress and confronting one of the most ignominious unethical actions imaginable. Do you still wonder why truth is often stranger than fiction? I wish it were, for then I would not have to spend so much time pondering their rationale in choosing to revise my original submission and retain only my name and that of my institution.

Their response—a brazen, callous fourteen-word directive: “It was revised, if you wish to be published. Otherwise, you may ignore it”—makes unmistakably clear that “ignoring it” was not simply an option, but a deliberate, scornful slap in the face to my intellect, a hollow, derisive mockery of the work I had painstakingly submitted.

What they did—taking my words, ideas, graphics, references, appendices, and stripping it all away to leave only my name and institution—was academic vandalism on a grotesque scale. They regarded the very essence of my scholarly work as expendable, just a vessel to be replaced with AI-generated gibberish, without even the decency to pretend they had not mutilated the original.

Suggesting that I should simply turn a blind eye to this flagrant act of plagiarism, as if my academic identity and hard-earned scholarship could be discarded, is not only absurd—it is a stark declaration of academic malpractice. The audacity, the arrogance, the unfathomable contempt they displayed for my work, my name, is beyond comprehension. Even more outrageous is the idea that I should “ignore it,” as if the complete erasure of my intellectual labor, replaced by fabricated nonsense and AI hallucinations, were trivial—demonstrates the depths of their disdain. It is a grotesque insult, not only to my intellectual contributions but to the very principles that uphold academic integrity.

What could have gone through their minds when they made this decision? Was it negligence, incompetence, or a direct affront to the foundation of honest scholarly work? Is this the standard of academic publishing in Iran now? Can this be real? What is this, if not an academic deepfake—an artificial creation, a twisted distortion of my work, a fabricated imitation? Have we learned nothing from the proliferation of deepfake videos across digital platforms? This cannot be happening in 2025! It simply cannot! Such barefaced, dismissive disregard for everything we hold dear in academia must not go unanswered.

No, Sir, such unethical infractions cannot just be ignored. They must be exposed in the public square and elsewhere if need be. It must be shouted loudly from the rooftops of every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, from every hill and mountaintop, from every land and sea—knowing that truth, unrelenting and untamed, always triumphs in the end. The words we use to tell this truth must set the Thames on fire. The one thing we cannot do is sit on our hands, letting their shameless response fade into obscurity. They may well twiddle their thumbs, hoping this situation never sees the light of day, locked forever in the shadows of time. And who can blame them? After all, hope springs eternal in the human breast. Yet, ignoring this is not one of those options. Not now. Not ever. Can you?

Here is why it is not that simple and why taking a stand is necessary. I apologize if I have already addressed these points, but they bear repeating.

As an academic, my work reflects my expertise, values, and commitment to knowledge. Having my name attached to a fabricated article undermines my academic reputation in ways that cannot be undone. Ignoring this would allow a false version of my work to persist under my name, leading to further misrepresentation.

However, this is not only about one instance of misconduct; it is about a much larger, more systemic issue within academic publishing. By turning a blind eye, we tacitly enable unethical practices to persist, paving the way for other scholars to fall victim to the same deceit. This response is not just personal—it represents a stand for accountability, particularly in an era where AI-generated content is becoming dangerously prevalent.

*Academia thrives on trust.* When journals betray that trust, they erode the very foundation of scholarly integrity. By challenging this situation, I am not only protecting my name but defending the sanctity of the field itself. Ignoring this risk normalizing unethical behavior, turning academic publishing into a hall of mirrors where authenticity is distorted beyond recognition.

What would prevent the AJLS or others from repeating such actions? With AI tools in academic writing growing in prominence, we cannot allow more scholars to have their names attached to fabricated work. Taking action ensures that I am not passively accepting a broken system, but actively working toward reform.

Finally, there is the matter of scholarly identity—our very essence as academics. Allowing my name to be attached to something I did not create is a direct affront to my dignity and professional legacy. Confronting this issue head-on preserves my academic narrative and ensures its authenticity remains intact. More importantly, perhaps, choosing to ignore it would signal a dangerous indifference to ethics in academia, sending the message that those responsible can act with impunity, without consequence. By addressing it, I am making an unequivocal statement—not just for myself, but for every scholar who believes that ethical standards are not optional, regardless of how inconvenient or uncomfortable they may be.

In sum, this is not about making a federal case out of it—it is about safeguarding the integrity of my work, the value of my name, and the ethical standards of the academic community. Ignoring it would be to tolerate the intolerable, to surrender to a future where academic fraud festers unchecked. And that, my good reader, is not an option. Not now. Not ever.

We now approach the end of this journey. Thank you for bearing witness to this “Lived Experience” and for allowing me to share it unfiltered. Having explored all that demanded discovery and presented what I trust has been a solid line of argumentation—grounded in the discernment of ethos, pathos, and logos—allow me now to close with this final disclosure.

This article, aptly titled *The Dangers of AI and the Collapse of Professional and Academic Ethics: Sounding the Alarm*, is not merely a recounting of my lived experience. It critically reflects on the rising dangers of AI in academic publishing, particularly in an era where automation and AI-driven content generation blur the lines between authorship and fabrication. What happened to me is but a microcosm of a larger, systemic crisis in academia—one where publishing is increasingly commodified, and ethical standards are often compromised for convenience, profit, or expediency. The advent of AI poses a unique challenge in this space: it can empower scholars, yet it can also be weaponized to perpetuate fraud in ways we are not yet fully aware.

But the consequences of this situation extend far beyond my personal grievance. Falsifying authorship strikes at the very core of academic integrity. When journals engage in such practices, they devalue the contributions of genuine scholars and tarnish the credibility of academic publishing as a whole. It is an erosion of trust—trust that forms the bedrock of scholarly progress.

*Without trust, knowledge itself is diminished.* Ponder the weight of this statement and ask yourself: Why is knowledge itself diminished without trust? The answer is clear as day. Allow me to add my perspective alongside yours—feel free to let me know when great minds think alike, intellectual wavelength welcome.

- **Trust is the foundation upon which academic progress is built.** In the academic world, trust facilitates the exchange of ideas, the sharing of research, and the collaborative spirit that drives innovation. When that trust is compromised, it fosters skepticism and uncertainty, ultimately causing a breakdown in the academic community's ability to function effectively. If scholars can no longer rely on the integrity of published work, they will hesitate to build on it, resulting in fragmented, less reliable, and less credible research.
- **The erosion of trust diminishes the value of academic contributions.** When the authenticity of scholarly work is in question, both researchers and readers may begin to doubt the validity of all research, not just that which has been tainted by unethical practices. This creates an environment where knowledge is no longer viewed as an objective pursuit, but as something malleable and potentially deceptive. Even the peer review process—once a safeguard against fraudulent or substandard work—becomes compromised, further hindering the dissemination of trustworthy, accurate knowledge.
- **The credibility of research and academic discourse collapses as trust erodes.** Knowledge ceases to be seen as a reliable accumulation of verified facts and instead becomes a potentially dangerous commodity. The rise of “paper mills” further exacerbates this issue. These entities produce fraudulent or subpar papers, undermining the entire publishing ecosystem for profit. When paper mills infiltrate the academic landscape, they further damage the already fragile trust within the scholarly community. Scholars and institutions that engage with these fraudulent services not only contribute to the dilution of knowledge but also perpetuate an environment where research is treated as a commodity rather than a pursuit of truth. The collaborative spirit that has fueled academic advancement is replaced by a climate of suspicion, where scholars are more concerned with protecting their work from deceit than advancing it. This erosion of trust ultimately stifles intellectual growth, inhibits progress, and puts the scholarly community at risk of losing its credibility and its ability to foster genuine knowledge.

*Without trust, knowledge itself is diminished* indeed. This is precisely what I have sought to underline by presenting my lived experience as a story worth telling and sharing. I trust I have convincingly demonstrated the efficacy of my article's twofold aims, clearly articulated in its main title: the dangers of AI and the collapse of professional and academic ethics. As a reminder, my first aim was to raise awareness about AI's ethical implications in academia. As discussed, AI can enhance research and publication but also opens the door to manipulation and exploitation. Scholars must remain vigilant, and publishers must be held accountable. Second, I sought to underscore the undeniable necessity of defending academic integrity. It is easy to be swept up in the pressures of publishing—“Publish or perish” is a motto we should retire—but the authenticity of our work is non-negotiable. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not ever.

The importance of these two aims notwithstanding, the title was paired with an imperative call to action—sounding the alarm, the second part of the title. As articulated, this article serves not only as a reflection but also as a call to action for both scholars and journals alike. For scholars, it serves as a stark reminder to scrutinize every document published under their names. Copyedited drafts are their final safeguard, ensuring every word, citation, and idea is accurately represented. Once published, the work becomes a permanent record, and any misrepresentation can irreparably

damage their reputation and credibility. Upholding this responsibility is vital not only for individual integrity but also for preserving truth, authenticity, and accountability in academia.

For journals, this is a call for immediate action: greater transparency and ethical responsibility. We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in academic publishing, where the rapid integration of AI and automation is testing the very limits of ethical practice. Few could have predicted the speed and scale of these changes; yet here we are—facing a fundamental challenge to the integrity of our work. It is imperative that journals not only adapt to these shifts but also lead the way in restoring trust by prioritizing transparency in every step of the publishing process. This means establishing clearer guidelines, promoting open communication, and maintaining an unwavering commitment to ethical principles. The responsibility for maintaining these standards rests with all of us—scholars, editors, and publishers. We must navigate this new terrain with care, respect, and, above all, accountability. The stakes are high: academic credibility, professional reputations, and the future of knowledge depend on it.

My withdrawal from the AJLS was not just a personal decision—it was a stand for what was right. A refusal to be complicit in a system that values quantity over quality, automation over authenticity. I share this experience not to harp on the injustice I faced, but to highlight a growing issue that affects us all. Ultimately, the integrity of academic work must always take precedence, and each of us has a role to play in safeguarding it. This is no longer a matter of choice—it is a pressing obligation. Ignoring it would undermine the very foundation of our academic credibility.

The one thing never discussed is this: *What if...? What if* I had never opened the email to verify whether that was truly my work? *What if* I had blindly agreed to have that so-called ‘revised article’ published in the AJLS? The consequences would have been nothing short of devastating—not just for me, but for the integrity of my work and my academic reputation. My name could have been forever tied to an article that was not my own, distorting my ideas, misrepresenting my research, and undermining my commitment to scholarly rigor.

The truth is, the ‘revised article’ was so riddled with inaccuracies, mistakes, and fabricated citations and references that it was unrecognizable as my own work. Subsections were reduced to mere sentences, entire sections seemed cobbled together with no logical flow, and the writing lacked the depth, precision, and coherence that has long defined my research. Would anyone even believe that this was the work of a scholar who has been at the forefront of *idiomaticity* since 1997? Would any reader truly accept this flawed piece as the product of years of careful study and academic rigor?

More than that, had the AJLS published a piece under my name that misrepresented my academic contributions, the damage would have been immeasurable. This breach would have tarnished my professional reputation and eroded the trust that readers, colleagues, and the academic community place in my work.

Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial. My reputation, Iago, my reputation! (Othello, Act 2, Scene 3)

Had that article been published—not only under my name but also under my institution’s—this would have been a profound dishonor, a stain that could never be erased. It would have diminished my standing and cast a shadow over my institution’s credibility, wounding both. Much like Othello’s lament for his lost honor, this would have been an immortal wound—one that could never heal, leaving only a hollow echo of disgrace. A blow to my institution’s standing, branding it with dishonor, reverberating far beyond academia. The damage would have been undeniable, as the credibility of an institution is inseparable from the work its faculty produce. Such a scandal

would have undermined the very principles of integrity and authenticity that academic institutions like mine strive to uphold, causing irreparable harm to both personal and institutional honor. Talk about reputation!

The academic process relies on *authenticity*, *transparency*, and *accountability*. By failing to recognize the manipulation, I would have been complicit in undermining these essential values. In hindsight, had I not caught this before publication, the damage would have been irreparable.

In the end, it is not about adding another publication to my CV. It is about upholding the very standards of integrity that form the bedrock of academic publishing. It is as simple as that—nothing more, nothing less. Period. Full stop.

The time has come for me to take my bow, for the curtain to fall, and for you, my dear reader, to step into your role. The stage is set—now play your part, but heed my parting words, a sweet sorrow they shall be, till we meet again in the fullness of time:

**“Never mince words. Always weigh your words. Actions speak louder than words.”**

The writing is on the wall. Etched in bold letters. No pretending you do not see it. No escaping the inevitable. Shelter yourself now.

Winter is coming!

## EPILOGUE

### The Light That Remains

*Truth, once revealed, cannot be undone.* The fight for academic integrity is not a fleeting moment nor a single act; it is a relentless battle, fueled by those who stand unshaken in the face of injustice. It thrives in voices that refuse to be silenced, in hearts that burn with the desire to expose what has long been hidden, full of conviction and purpose.

*Sunlight—the best disinfectant—must never be allowed to fade.* It must blaze, fierce and untamed. The curtain may fall, but this story is far from over. It begins now—with you. Seize this moment with unwavering resolve, fan the flames of truth, and let them burn brighter than ever, burning away deceit, illuminating the path forward, seeking clarity of thought and the strength to forge ahead.

*The future belongs to those who dare question the past to confront the urgency of the present.* Do not hesitate. Do not falter. You possess the power to invent the future. Ignite a revolution of integrity and let this narrative shatter the silence of complacency. Let the echoes of truth reverberate across generations. Shine light where shadows threaten to consume.

Wherever your path may take you, carry this truth forward: *Esse Quam Videri* —To be, rather than to seem.

The fight continues, fierce, unyielding. The light endures, pure. Onward, no retreat!

**THE END?**

**P.S.** Your voice matters—now more than ever! Your voice have the power to spark change, ignite conversation, and shape the future. Share your thoughts, insights, and reflections on the journey we have embarked on together. Submit your letters to [liontas@usf.edu](mailto:liontas@usf.edu) and take your place in this ongoing dialogue.

Your perspective can transform the discussion, challenge prevailing narratives, and offer new lenses through which we can better understand the world of academia. It can unearth truths once hidden, illuminate dark corners long ignored, and provide the clarity we need to move forward—*with a purpose and for a purpose.*

Together, with one unified voice, we can create a space where innovation thrives and new ideas are born—where conversation evolves into meaningful action: *action lived, action experienced, and action taken.* In so doing, we contribute to the larger, ever-changing tapestry of knowledge and understanding that defines our collective future.

Now is the time! Let your voice lead us toward a future of deeper understanding and profound change.

*Onward we go!*

## References

- Cambridge Dictionary. (n.d.). *Cambridge Dictionary*. Retrieved March 28, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org>
- Kiliçkaya, F., & Liontas, J. I. (2024). Artificial intelligence tools for question generation. In J. I. Liontas (Ed.), *The TESOL encyclopedia of English language teaching*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. DOI: 10.1002/9781118784235.eelt1042
- Liontas, J. I. (2006). Artificial intelligence and idiomaticity. *The APAMALL Higher Education Journal, Language Learning Technologies*, 1(1), 1–33.
- Liontas, J. I. (2008). Toward a critical pedagogy of idiomaticity. *Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics (IJOAL)*, Special issue on *Strategies in learning and using English as a foreign/second language*, 34(1–2), 11–30.
- Liontas, J. I. (2013). Educating educators about SL idiomaticity through action research. *Iranian Journal of Language Teaching Research*, 1(2), 1–35.  
[http://www.urmia.ac.ir/sites/www.urmia.ac.ir/files/Article%201\\_0.pdf](http://www.urmia.ac.ir/sites/www.urmia.ac.ir/files/Article%201_0.pdf)
- Liontas, J. I. (2015a). Developing idiomatic competence in the ESOL classroom: A pragmatic account. *TESOL Journal*, 6(4), 621–658.
- Liontas, J. I. (2015b). Straight from the horse's mouth: Idiomaticity revisited. In R. R. Heredia & A. B. Cieřlicka (Eds.), *Bilingual figurative language processing* (pp. 301–340). Cambridge University Press.
- Liontas, J. I. (2017). Why teach idioms? A challenge to the profession. *Iranian Journal of Language Teaching Research* (Special issue on *Idiomaticity and Language Teaching Research*), 5(3), 5–25.  
[http://ijltr.urmia.ac.ir/article\\_20302\\_1628e63cd2b6f974d6176438f9d9ac0a.pdf](http://ijltr.urmia.ac.ir/article_20302_1628e63cd2b6f974d6176438f9d9ac0a.pdf)
- Liontas, J. I. (2018a). Refocusing the digital lens of idiomaticity: A second look at understanding idiomaticity in CALL. *Iranian Journal of Language Teaching Research*, 6(2), 1–21.



- Liontas, J. I. (2018b). Idiomaticity: A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. In J. I. Liontas (Ed.), *The TESOL encyclopedia of English language teaching*, First edition. J. I. Liontas (Ed.), *Current trends and future directions in English language teaching*, Vol. VIII). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. DOI: 10.1002/9781118784235.eelt0947
- Liontas, J. I. (2021a). Figures of speech? Go figure! A baker's dozen should do it: Imagining figurative language. In I. Galantomos (Ed.), *L2 figurative language teaching: Theory and practice* (pp. 28–64). Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2021b). A baker's dozen plus one for the road: Reimagining figurative language. In I. Galantomos (Ed.), *L2 figurative language teaching: Theory and practice* (pp. 65–84). Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2021c). Attaining knowledge of idiomatics in the age of Corona and beyond. In K. Kelch, P. Byun, S. Safavi, & S. Cervantes (Eds.), *CALL theory applications for online TESOL education* (pp. 1-34). IGI Global Publishing. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-6609-1.ch001
- Liontas, J. I. (2022a). Humor without folly is humor filled with jolly, Fa-la-la-la-la, 'Tis the Season to Be Merry: Redefining the essence of great leadership in education — An essay written in three acts... *Epitasis* (Act II). In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Lead with a sense of humor: Why (and how to) be a funnier and more effective educational leader and laugh all the way to your institution (Volume 2, Chapter 12)*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2022b). In a nutshell, leadership is a tough nut to crack... but not for those who know how whenever humor is at play and staying grounded is the game. In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Lead with a sense of humor (Volume 4, Chapter 14): Why (and how to) be a funnier and more effective educational leader and laugh all the way to your institution*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2023a). In a nutshell, leadership is a tough nut to crack... but not for those who know how whenever humor is at play and staying grounded is the game. In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Lead with a sense of humor: Why (and how to) be a funnier and more effective educational leader and laugh all the way to your institution (Volume 4, Chapter 3)*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2023b). Humor without folly is humor filled with jolly, Fa-la-la-la-la, 'Tis the Season to Be Merry: Redefining the essence of great leadership in education — An essay written in three acts... *Catastrophe* (Act III). In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Lead with a sense of humor: Why (and how to) be a funnier and more effective educational leader and laugh all the way to your institution (Volume 3, Chapter 10)*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2023c). All joking aside, there's many a true word spoken in jest with great zest: How to pull someone's leg come rain or shine on cloud nine. In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Teach foreign language with a sense of humor: Why (and how to) be a funnier and more effective foreign language teacher and laugh all the way to your classroom*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Liontas, J. I. (2023d). Idiomatics, technology, and teacher education: Digital proposals for enhancing instruction in the digital era. In R. E. Ferdig, R. Hartshorne, E. Baumgartner, R. Kaplan-Rakowski, & C. Mouza (Eds.), *What PreK-12 teachers should know about educational technology in 2023: A research-to-practice anthology* (pp. 205–220). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).  
<https://www.learntechlib.org/p/222690/>

- Liontas, J. I. (2024a). On idiomatics: A call to action, a call for action. *Iranian Journal of Language Teaching Research*, 12(2), 115–135.
- Liontas, J. I. (2024b). Idiomatics—Much ado about nothing? An open invitation to all Reading Matrix readers. *The Reading Matrix: An International Online Journal*, 24(1), 84–90. <https://www.readingmatrix.com/files/32-ivmg92fu.pdf>
- Liontas, J. I. (2024c). Idiomatics—Much ado about nothing? An open invitation to all TESOL Türkiye Members. *TESOL TÜRKIYE, Professional ELT Magazine Online*, 12, 21–25.
- Liontas, J. I. (2025a, November). Idiomatics: The ethos, pathos, and logos of idiomatics proper. *Athens Journal of Education*, 12(4). <https://www.athensjournals.gr/education/2024-6070-AJE-LNG-Liontas-02.pdf>
- Liontas, J. I. (2025b). Humor is the great thing leaders ought to know and do: 10 ways to keep your feet on the ground and your ego in check. In K. Vaidya (Ed.), *Lead with a sense of humor (Volume 5, Chapter 8): Why (and how to) be funnier and more effective educational leader and laugh all the way to your institution*. The Curious Academic Publishing.
- Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. Retrieved March 28, 2025, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com>
- Oxford English Dictionary. (n.d.). *Oxford English Dictionary*. Retrieved March 28, 2025, from <https://www.oed.com/?tl=true>

**Dr. John I. Liontas** is an Associate Professor of ESOL/FL Education at the University of Florida, past Editor-in-Chief (2018-2023) of the award-winning The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching (Wiley, 2018), an active member of national and international learned societies, a distinguished thought leader, and a multiple award-winning author, researcher, and practitioner in SLA, idiomatics, and emerging digital technologies.

Email: [Liontas@usf.edu](mailto:Liontas@usf.edu)