

EXPLORING SECONDARY RESEARCH IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS: A SCOPING REVIEW OF METHODOLOGIES, TRENDS, AND IMPACT



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Journal

Research Synthesis in
Applied Linguistics

Year

2025

WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS RESEARCH?

How has secondary research in applied linguistics evolved methodologically over time?

KEY TERMS

Secondary research

Research that synthesises existing studies' findings rather than generating new empirical data

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

815

secondary
research
studies

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY PRACTICE?

- Language teacher training programmes can:
- Highlight the value of secondary research in applied linguistics to inform evidence-based language teaching practices.
 - Integrate systematic reviews (e.g., meta-analyses) into training to build research literacy and methodological awareness.
 - Foster collaboration and transparency by embedding these principles into classroom discussions and group projects.
 - Explore citation trends to help trainees understand the influence of rigorous research on language education.

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- The review identifies a notable decline in narrative reviews (from 11.41% to 7.85%) and a sharp rise in meta-analyses (from 2.33% to 12.88%) after 2000, signaling a shift toward more rigorous and standardised research practices.
- Findings also show that studies involving meta-analysis and author collaboration ($p \leq .001$) are linked to more significant citation impact, indicating methodological maturity and growing scholarly influence in AL.

CONTEXT

Applied linguistics

