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Rhetorical Analysis of “Impact of language preference and health literacy on health information-seeking experiences among a low-income, multilingual cohort” by Janet N. Chu, Urmimala Sarkar, Natalie A. Rivadeneira, Robert A. Hiatt, Elaine C. Khoong

### **Audience**

The target audience for the article seems to be those in the field of healthcare and officials. This article examines the impact of multilingualism and knowledge of health literacy on health information-seeking experiences in low-income individuals, so for the audience to be healthcare professionals and officials makes sense because those are the people that need to know about this information to make a change and make people’s lives better.

### **Purpose**

The author’s purpose is to bring awareness to the fact that non-English speakers with low health literacy have negative health information-seeking experiences. By bringing attention to this problem efforts can be pushed to improve health communication and take into consideration the language barriers among patients.

### **Genre**

The genre is a research article. These types of writings explain the process and results of research that was conducted. Research articles typically contain an abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion and conclusion.

### **Language and Tone**

The language used in the article is very professional and scholarly. For example, the author says, “In multivariable analyses, age, gender, education, survey language, limited health literacy, self-reported general health, having a usual place of care, and first seeking information from the internet were associated with at least one negative health information-seeking experiences” (Chu et al. 4). By using words such as “multivariable,” the authors create a serious and informing tone.

The professional language and tone of the article relate to the author’s purpose and audience because his audience of doctors and officials are all professional people, so for them to take the article seriously, it must be written with a professional tone and language.

### **Evidence**

The author uses data points from surveys as well as bar graphs to support their arguments. For example, figure 1a is visual evidence and titled “Negative health information-seeking experiences by survey language” (Chu et al. 4). The author also discusses the results that show in the tables and graphs in the writing. For example, the article states, “82% of respondents reported at least one negative health information-seeking experience” (Chu et al. 4). While this data is shown in the table, the author reiterates it when discussing the results and conclusion. This relates to the audience because most people who are going to read this article work in science and are used to reading graphs and visuals. This relates to the purpose because the author can

clearly show the comparisons between the different groups he is surveying to explain his main points.

### **Organization**

The article is organized into 4 main sections: abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion and conclusion. Here are headings and subheadings for each section. There are also graphics in some sections that relate to the information being written. The transition between ideas is rather abrupt but it still flows because it is sectioned off with titles.

### **Introduction and Conclusion**

In the introduction of the article, the author introduces the ideas of health information-seeking and health literacy. Past studies similar to this one are also mentioned and the authors mention what past studies have suggested about this topic, giving some background information. The hypothesis is also introduced in the last paragraph of the introduction which is, “language preference and health literacy both independently contributed to health information-seeking experiences” (Chu et al. 2). The author concludes the article by discussing all the data results as well as practice implications based on what the conclusions say about the way healthcare is working for multilingual, low-income individuals.

## Works Cited

Chu, Janet N, et al. "Impact of Language Preference and Health Literacy on Health Information-Seeking Experiences among a Low-Income, Multilingual Cohort." *Patient Education and Counseling*, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2021.08.028>.