

# The Analysis in the Writing of Postgraduate Students' English Academic Thesis

Yitang Chen

Southwest petroleum university, China

**Abstract:** English academic writing got a lot of attention in teaching area, this paper mainly analyzes some general phenomenon in postgraduate students writing and give suggestions. By literature research methods to analyze these problems when they are writing, these problems including introduction, literature review, discussion, text logic and conclusion in text aspect; bad English basis and wrong expression; lacking of native language habits, cultural thoughts and writing practice; by analyzing these problems, hoping it can be helpful for postgraduate students academic writing.

**Keywords:** Postgraduate academic writing, Problem, Suggestion.

## 1. Introduction

Academic thesis is the science or social researchers who publish their writings on academic books or academic journals. Academic thesis strengthen creativity and it can be the conclusion of previous researchers, the latter is often referred to as the review article. With the increasing number of English major students, the academic writing problems are becoming more and more prominent, a lot of scholars research these problems, such as Problems and Solutions in Response to Postgraduates' Academic Writing (Zhu Haiqing 2020). Processes, Challenges and Coping Strategies of English Writing by University EFL Learners: A Case Study (Liu Shisheng, Liu Meihua 2013). Research on the Use of Chunks in Academic Papers of Chinese English-Major Postgraduates—A comparative Study based on Corpus ( Si Yanyuan 2020). All these researches analyzed problems in the writing of postgraduate students' academic thesis, Liu Shisheng and Liu Meihua analyzed the academic writing problems and gave the suggestions; Zhu Haiqing did research on postgraduates' academic writing. This paper is aimed at collecting and analyzing scholars' researches about postgraduate students writing problems and give some suggestions to postgraduate students when they are writing.

## 2. Methodology

By literature review methods, collecting scholars writing about the problems in postgraduate students' academic thesis.

The purposes of this paper are to answer the following questions:

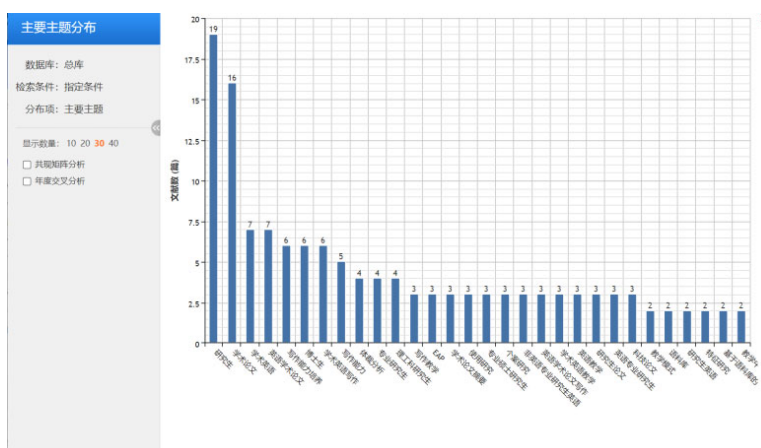
- (1) What's the problems in the writing of postgraduate students' English academic thesis?
- (2) How can the researcher solve these problems?
- (3) What suggestions can be got in teaching aspect from these problems?

Step1: searching the academic writing definition

The definition of academic writing is given from Baidu engine, which said that academic thesis is the science or social researchers who public their writings on academic books or academic journals. Academic thesis strengthen creativity and it can be the conclusion of previous researchers, the latter is often referred to as the review article.

Step2: collecting scholars' articles about the postgraduate students English academic writing

In CNKI, words "postgraduate" and "academic thesis" were used together as theme words to search, there are 106 articles were issued, the following picture can be seen that 19 articles including the word "postgraduate", 16 articles including the word "academic thesis", 14 articles including "academic English" and "English academic thesis", 6 articles including "writing ability cultivation", 3 articles including "writing teaching", 3 articles including "academic thesis abstract", 3 articles including "academic English teaching". 3 articles including "EAP", 3 articles including "case study", 2 articles including "corpus", 2 articles including "teaching modes".



Step3: analyzing scholars' articles about the postgraduate students English academic writing

The related researches collected from CNKI, most of articles structure include the writing process, writing challenges, writing suggestions. Such as Liu Shisheng and Liu Meihua proposed that *Processes, Challenges and Coping Strategies of English Writing by University EFL Learners: A Case Study*; Zhu Haiqing proposed that *Problems and Solutions in Response to Postgraduates' Academic Writing*.

### **3. The Analysis in the Writing of Postgraduate students' English Academic Thesis**

#### **3.1. The problems in the postgraduate students' writing**

##### 1) Introduction problems in the academic writing

Introduction is the beginning of the article, serves as an introduction and indicates the author's views and standpoints. Some postgraduate students do not understand the status and role of introduction, and it is easy to write not according to the norm and deviate from the requirements of the rules. The possible reason for this phenomenon is that due to the interference of the English language, students are more inclined to use English to express content that they are more familiar with, rather than academic content, and are less familiar with this new language content.

##### 2) Ignoring the writing process

Postgraduate is easily to ignore the writing process. If writing is regarded as a process activity, the generally recognized steps include: (1) Brainstorming. Gathering materials, sorting out ideas. (2) Organizing. Organize the stages of the material, eliminating irrelevant material, leaving the focus content, and outlining the structure. (3) Drafting. Writing the first draft of the paper, if a detailed framework has been laid out, the writing phase will not miss the point. (4) Reviewing. Check that the tasks and points originally scheduled have been completed, and add or subtract some information. (5) Revising. In this stage, the important point is that check language problems, word usage, word forms and the spelling. (6) Publishing. This stage refers to the paper publishing or submitting.

In these six stages, the most prominent problems are existed in the first two stages. In the collecting stage, many students do not have ideas and mixed feelings, there is no deep understanding about the Chinese materials and it is difficult to understand English materials; Therefore, they are always into a daze. When they are in the second stage, because they do not have a clear thought, the organizing structure is unreasonable. In a word, the main problem in the first two stages is that the research scope is too big and impractical. Another problem is that students are always forget about to revising and reviewing stage. After finish their papers, most of students submit immediately, but their paper exists obvious disadvantages and mistakes.

##### 3) language problems

There is a lot of language problems in the postgraduate students' English academic writing. The prominent problem in language aspect is that improper use of technical terms. English major can be divided many branches, when students write the paper about their own area, they have to use their own technical terms, but students are limited to know the

technical terms. They cannot identify the differences of polysemy when they are dependent on dictionary, so that there are a lot of language problems. In the practical writing process, another problem is prominent too, that is improper use of the syntax structure. When express some special sentence functions, there are special sentence structure in English. Such as in introduction part, expressing writer's purpose are always take this sentence: By examining the features of bank borrowing, this paper will show that this is the best choice for Vietnamese small enterprises. In conclusion part, this sentence structure is always used in English: Ways of decreasing the impact of construction on the environment have been analyzed, and the way in which these solutions can result, to some extent, in higher profits for their investors has been explained. However, when Chinese postgraduate students are writing academic papers, they are always writing Chinese and then translate it into English. This direct result is that the sentence structure is not based on native English, which express almost according Chinese words order. There is a big problem in language expressing aspect, subjective expression exists in students' papers, such as word "I" and "we" as the subject. Such as starting from the characteristics of the new mainstream movies, we can see how the characters that appear as national symbols relate to..., actually, in order to highlight their scientific and rigorous nature, students need to avoid using highly subjective words and sentences in academic papers.

#### **3.2. The suggestions in the postgraduate students' academic writing**

##### 1) Exercising students' thinking ability in practice

In the preparing writing stage, students need to collecting and organizing materials, confirming research theme, a lot of thinking works need to be done in this stage. After collecting enough materials, students need to understand the logic relations between these materials. Gradually narrow down the scope of the research to the appropriate degree and determine the thesis. Teachers need to guide in this stage so that help students to cultivate a clear idea and confirm research scope. If the research scope is too big, it will make the research over generalization so that lose the practical value; in contrast, if the research scope is too narrow, which cannot achieve the paper writing task.

##### 2) Sample essays can be used to develop English skills

The English learning mainly focus on the general English learning in postgraduate periods. In the process of writing English academic paper, teacher could help students to find 10-20 sample outstanding articles which related to their paper theme in corpus, students could learn it after copy it. These sample article's structure can be learned because these articles are compact and logical, which has reference significance for students' writing. At the same time, these articles language usage, words, sentence form and style can be learned. Students could study these articles repeatedly as language input, which is conducive to the development of language output activities.

##### 3) Cultivating postgraduate students' positive writing attitudes

The writing should be valued, it is important for postgraduate students to understand the relation between "learn to write" and write to learn". Teacher should carry out more writing practice so that students familiar with the process of English writing and combine their professional

learning with language learning.

#### 4. Conclusion

English academic writing is one of the most important parts in English teaching, which cannot be ignored. It can be seen that problems in English academic writing are language problem, word usage, sentence form, article structure and logic relations, student's thinking ways, teaching methods. Both teachers and students should take seriously the problems in English academic paper writing. Teachers should continuously improve their writing literacy to meet teaching requirements. At the same time, it is also necessary to constantly discover the problems that students have in writing and solve them in a targeted manner. Thesis writing generally requires one-to-one detailed guidance, so it requires more time and energy from the teacher of the writing course.

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