



展望(Prospect)全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材

英语论文写作

陈倩 编著

*English Dissertation
Writing*



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“展望（Prospect）全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材”由对外经济贸易大学出版社联合全国多所重点本科大学推出。教材针对全国本科院校英语专业设计，内容涵盖英语专业必修和选修课教学，包括基础技能、语言学、文学、文化、商务等方面，囊括当前我国高校英语专业所开设的大部分课程，并充分考虑到我国英语教育的地区差异和不同院校英语专业的特点，为英语教学提供更多的选择。

展望系列教材在内容选材上反映了各个学科领域的最新研究成果，除了帮助学生打下扎实的语言基本功外，在编写上更着力培养学生分析问题、解决问题的能力，并提高学生的思辨能力和人文、科学素养，培养健康向上的人生观，使学生真正成为我国新时代所需要的英语专门人才。

本系列教材的作者为学科带头人和一线优秀教师，教材充分体现了当今大学英语专业教育的发展方向和水平。具体书目包括《基础英语教程 1-4》、《英语听力教程》、《英语口语教程》、《英语视听说》、《英语阅读教程 1-2》、《英汉/汉英口译基础教程》、《大学英汉翻译教程（第三版）》、《大学汉英翻译教程》、《英语写作》、《学术类论文写作手册（第三版）》、《经贸英语文章选读》、《经贸英语翻译》、《经贸英语口译》、《商务英语写作》、《跨文化交际》、《国际商务礼仪》、《英美国家概况》、《英国文学简史》、《美国文学简史》、《英美文学作品选读》、《实用英语文体学教程》、《英语语言学教程》、《英美报刊高级阅读教程》、《英语论文写作》等。

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2012 年 1 月

Preface

前言

英语论文写作是英语专业学生的必修课，是科研人员从事国际交流的必要和重要的手段。能否写好英语论文直接关系学生的学业和深造发展，以及科研人员科研成果的推广和应用。无论本科生、硕士生还是博士生，英文学术论文写作的结构、格式、语体基本一致。因此本书适用于所有需要学习英文学术论文写作的各个层次的学习者，尤其是英语专业的本科生、硕士生。

本书是作者多年从事英文写作及学术论文写作教学和调研的结果。书中的一部分内容曾在《大学英文写作》(2001)出版。随着英语教学的发展、深化、提高，教学内容不断地充实，教学的路子更加地开阔。此书在教学和调研实践中形成，并已在我校英语专业本科生、研究生、成教生中使用多年，成效颇丰。

本书共由三部分十九个单元组成，基本按学术论文写作的各阶段、步骤先后顺序排列，适合课堂教学。书中例子大部分取自英文原版的学术论文。书中的论文写作格式也以英文原版学术论文写作格式要求为依据，以英文原版的学术论文中的句子为范例。此为现国内市场同类书籍所独有。考虑学生学业学术层次、语言能力的衔接，书中也采用了一些本科生、硕士生的实例，编排了练习便于教学使用和学生自习。本书配有教学 PPT 课件及练习答案（可登陆 www.uibep.com 下载）供教师教学参考。

由于时间仓促，书中难免有不足和纰漏，恳请专家、同行不吝指教。感谢河北联合大学各级领导、同事为出版此书给予的大力支持和鼓励，使此书的出版成为可能。感谢对外经济贸易大学出版社给予此书出版的大力支持。也感谢我的研究生、本科生给予我的合作和支持。希望本书能给广大使用者带来有关英文学术论文写作方面的知识，满足你们的需求。

最后我要特别感谢本书所引用例文的作者和期刊杂志社，感谢他们给予我引用的允诺和支持。谢谢！

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Part 1

Preparation

What Is a Dissertation?

INTRODUCTION

What is a dissertation? What are its nature, its difference from an ordinary essay, and its functions? What does a research paper consist of? This unit answers these questions.



Task 1

Think over and discuss with your neighbours what you know about a dissertation. What is the difference between a dissertation and a course paper or an essay?

NATURE OF A DISSERTATION

Essentially a dissertation is a research paper. It is different from a course paper or an ordinary essay, which usually demonstrates common knowledge, a personal interpretation or understanding of a course, theory, subject, condition, and/or the writer's experience. A research paper presents information gathered systematically through the researcher's literature survey in the library or through direct investigation, observation and experimentation. It is also different from a course paper in function, structure, length, and style in that:

- Course papers are usually evaluated by the relevant course teachers for a specific course and would be given chances for resit if a student fails it, and it relates to one semester's work or credit points, while dissertations usually require the approval of a group of readers and an oral defense or justification, and the approval of the procedures and conclusions before readers and other faculties of a department community, according to which and the other university academic work fulfillment a degree is granted. It is relevant

to the entire academic years of a student's university life.

- Course papers or essays are simpler, shorter, and usually casually-styled; however, dissertations are conventional-fixed, lengthy, and formal.

‘The term research paper describes a presentation of student research that may be in a printed, an electronic, or a multimedia format.’ (Gibaldi 1999:2)



Task 2

Compare the style of the following writings and identify their differences by ticking the items in the table.

Writing 1

Drama is one of the literature genres, like novel, prose, poem and essay. However, drama translation is different from other forms of literature translation, because of its unique feature—being a literary art and a performing art at the same time. This duality seems to be translators' dilemma: whether the translation is for readers, who appreciate it as a literary text; or for performers who play it on the stage. This dilemma of drama translation has been noticed by Bassnett and Pavis (quoted in Li 2008). Bassnett holds that drama translation is 'the most problematic and neglected area of translation study research' (1998:90). The dilemma of drama translation imposes difficulties for drama translators to determine whether to reproduce the drama text as the reading work in the target literary system or as one in the target theatrical system. Drama translation study has left us great room for further exploration.

This study takes the three translated versions of William Shakespeare's drama *Romeo and Juliet* as a case. William Shakespeare, a distinguished playwright with literature well-known not only in English-speaking countries but in non-English speaking countries, is the most popular and most widely respected writer in the world. Shakespeare's excellent literature contribution characters the age of Renaissance literature in England. His works are reprinted and circulated all over the world. Most of his plays have been put on the stage and translated into different languages including Chinese. The researchers (Zhang Chong 2004, Liu Yueluan 2002, Xi Yongji 2007) in China have done a lot of study on the literary and language concepts of his works, but they have paid little attention to the study of the translation of his plays to be performed

on the stage. Shakespeare's plays, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, have received a great popularity in western countries but it is hardly shown in Chinese theatres because the Chinese translated versions are not suitable for performance on the stage.

(Taken from a student's paper)

Writing 2

Space research has been a hot project in many countries in the recent years. Lots of finance has been put into the project. But more and more people begin to doubt the necessity of space research, because after all it is a money-and-time consuming project. Is space research necessary and essential? Whatever people ask or question, personally, I think space research is definitely necessary and essential, because such a research is closely concerned with a nation's creativity, education and people's lives.

(Taken from a student's essay)

Table 1 Similarities and Differences Between Writing 1 and Writing 2

	Writing 1	Writing 2
What is the writing?		
What is the subject?		
Number of words		
Style of language		



Task 3

Think over and discuss with your neighbours why a dissertation is required.

PURPOSE FOR WRITING A DISSERTATION

The writing of dissertation provides you with the opportunity to recall and practise what you have learned over the years' work and allows the authorities to examine your abilities and skills in relevant fields and subject areas like:

1. specific field of your research and study
2. research ability and study skills
3. language competence
4. writing competence
5. computer skills

So, it is a time to examine and show your overall ability and knowledge and to decide if you are qualified to get the degree.

WHAT IS RESEARCH?



Task 4

You may ask what the essence of a research is. According to Zou Sheng (2007:4):

1. Research involves curiosity about a phenomenon and the posing of testable questions about relationships among observed phenomena.
2. Research involves serious and systematic activities, requiring hard work, dedication, and perseverance.
3. Research is a planned and systematic investigation. It attempts to study a phenomenon through careful description and identification.
4. Research concerns obtaining knowledge about something unknown or making a discovery.

In a word, research is a series of planned and systematic activities seeking for knowledge, discoveries, answers and facts about certain phenomenon, subject and effect based on one's motivation like curiosity and interest.

TYPES OF RESEARCH

Research can be generally classified into primary research (or field research), secondary research and the combination of both primary research and secondary research, according to intention of research and source of information gathered. Primary research obtains information by direct observation, experimentation, analysis, and field investigation, while secondary research gathers information from other researchers' study through the library literature, e.g. printed materials, electronic files, and other multimedia materials (Gibaldi 1999). For example, the research to find out student population taking spare time jobs in your university could be a primary research if you obtain the answer or the information through your direct investigation and no other written information is available. The research to find language teaching methods available at present is a secondary research because obviously you have to gather information via literature of other researchers' investigations. However, if the teaching methods available in the existing literature are all unsuitable or ineffective for your teaching context, and you want to develop an effective teaching method for your case through your investigation and experimentation, the research is the combination of both primary research and secondary research. In fact, most researches are the combination of both primary research and secondary research because every research needs library survey to get the theoretical support and to understand the

research context (i.e. the research situation on the topic you intend to investigate).



Task 5

Work in groups of four or five, clarify your understanding about the types of research and suggest some cases to illustrate them.

Zou Sheng (2007) classifies research into basic research or theoretical research and applied research. For example, if you want to know the kinds of course books that teachers and students like, you have to gather the opinions from the teachers and students, and find the common answers and reasons, which could or would be the principles or rules for defining a good course book for your context. The paper based on this research would be basic or theoretical (research). The principles drawn from the research could be used as guidelines for course book writers to write course books. On the other hand, if you want to evaluate a course book's effectiveness, you could also take these principles as guidelines to assess the course book, and this research would be applied research. These two kinds of research are mutually related.



PRACTICE 1

Make a list of areas that you are interested in and have curiosity on finding the answers or expanding your knowledge, and then discuss in groups the types of research that the listed items suggest.



PRACTICE 2

Skim at least 5 research papers you could find and identify their sources of information and their research intentions, i.e. what kind of research is each of these papers based on?

Writing Process Awareness

INTRODUCTION

A good piece of writing is the outcome of repeated discovery—drafting—evaluating—redrafting, not of ‘a one-shot deal’ (Raimes 1983:263). Research also shows that good student writers spend more time on prewriting, and do more revision and correction on their papers, than poor students.



Task 1

As writers,

- How do you start each time when you write?
- Do you write an outline?
- Do you think for a period before you write?
- Do you stop and read through what you have written?
- Do you cross out or put in extra sentences?



Task 2

The following are some of the randomly arranged writing steps and experiences taken by effective writers. Do you experience the process in writing? What does each of the cards really mean? Work in groups and answer the questions.

Table 1 Writing Process Awareness-Raising Cards

Considering constraints of time and space	Editing and proofreading
Revising	Experiencing pain, panic, and fear
Drafting	Analysing the task

Table 1, continued

Establishing one's identity as a writer	Establishing goals and purposes
Considering audience	Reading around the topic
Experiencing pleasure and satisfaction	Planning one's use of time
Experiencing frustration and boredom	Assembling a bibliography
Rewriting	Reviewing
Preparing materials	Deciding on the outline
Record-keeping	Compiling the appendixes
Reviewing	Writing the abstract
Making a tentative outline	Revising the outline
Making neat copies	Establishing or confirming the thesis



Task 3

In groups or pairs, discuss and arrange the cards in an order that represents your writing process. Rewrite, delete, or add cards when it is necessary.



Task 4

1. After you have finished arranging the cards, share and compare the work with the other groups.
2. Find and discuss similarities and differences.

The process of writing is the process of generating ideas and discovering new thoughts. The longer the paper, the longer the process and time will be needed. Writing steps and strategies could be varied depending on the type of writing and experience of writers.



PRACTICE

Write a research paper on one of the given situations below and follow the process that suits this writing considering the length, time, requirement and personal writing experience.

1. Some people hold that while enjoying the benefits the fast development of science and

technology has brought to mankind, mankind is seriously suffering from the harms caused by it, e.g. ailments, natural disasters and extinction of some wild lives. The suffering far outweighs the benefits. The development of science and technology should be carefully arranged or slowed down. How many people hold this view? How is the real situation of the development of science and technology and human's inhabiting environment now? What are their suggestions towards this phenomenon? Write a paper of about 3 500-5 000 words to report your investigation. You may take a historical approach to investigate the issue (i.e. you may compare the application of science and technology and people's living environment 30 years ago with the application of science and technology and people's living environment today, indicating also the consequences to human life or living creatures).

2. Is science or academic English the same as or different from general English (daily used English)? What do language experts say about them? Survey at least 10 papers of each kind and find the answers. Write a paper of about 3 500-5 000 words to report your investigation.