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英语 学术论文写作

*Academic
Paper Writing*



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Academic Paper Writing

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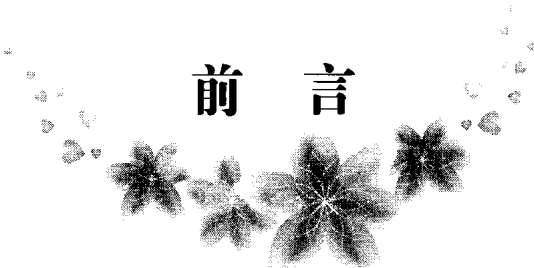
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前 言



《英语学术论文写作》系理工院校教材立项，它的受众对象是该类院校的英语专业本科生、其他专业的研究生以及博士生。英语学术论文写作对于理工院校英语专业学生撰写毕业论文，公外学生撰写毕业论文的英文摘要、学术与科研论文的英文摘要以及用英语撰写学术与科研论文都十分重要。该教材的编写，一方面，可以使此类院校英语专业的学生了解英语毕业论文写作的基本范式；另一方面，还侧重将大学生的应用技能训练与创新能力开发相结合，使大学生的创新能力与学术水平提升到较高的层次，从而激发他们的创新意识。该教材主要结合此类院校的理工特色，为学生提供了撰写英语学术/科研论文所应遵守的范例，同时为他们归纳整理出了各专业的标准术



语。本书拓展了理工院校本科生、研究生、博士生的英语教学内容，有助于提高学生的英语应用能力。

英语学术论文写作的重点是学术论文题目的拟定和摘要的写作。针对这两个章节的内容，本教材从题目和摘要的基本作用、语言特征入手，引导学生了解题目和摘要在论文中的基本作用和语言特点，掌握其基本内容，同时采用标准的语言表达形式，按照其写作的基本要求，培养学生撰写学术论文题目和摘要的能力；为适应英语专业和理工科专业特色，本教材收录了英语语言学和理工科专业基本的标准术语，以附录形式编写在教材的结尾部分，供学生们撰写论文时参考。

由于作者水平有限，加之时间紧迫，错误、遗漏和不妥之处在所难免，恳请各位专家、学者、同仁以及使用本教材的广大教师和同学提出宝贵意见，以便再版时改正。

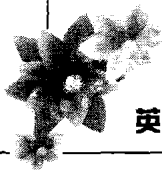
徐艳英

2011年2月



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Unit 1

A decorative floral wreath composed of various flowers and leaves, arranged in a semi-circle around the title 'Unit 1'.

General Introduction to Academic Writing

Academic writing can be also called as professional paper writing. A professional paper is a formal printed document in which professionals present their views and research findings on any deliberately chosen topic. It is variously known as “research paper,” “course paper,” “thesis paper” or “library paper.” No matter what kind of paper it may actually belong to, the task of the author may, in most cases, be the same: to do research on any particular topic, gather information on it, and report the findings of his research. We mainly discuss thesis paper

1.2 Ways of Preparing Professional Papers

In order to write and get a research paper accepted in an international journal, the writer has to spend months or even a longer period in preparing for it. Generally speaking, there are four steps to be taken for its final submission.

1.2.1 Searching for Good Ideas

Thesis papers are different from ordinary compositions in that they have to be highly specific in their topics and do have a certain practical, scientific or an economic value. Investigations are to be carried out based on laboratory or social practice, and on library research.

1.2.2 Finding Topics

Usually, a suitable topic can be formulated and finally decided on by following the five general rules:

- (1) It should be a topic within the reach of the author and capable of being finished within the

assigned or suggested time limit.

- (2) It should be a topic of practical value for the specialty or the development of economy or science in general.
- (3) It should be a topic for which sufficient materials and documents can be made available either through readings or through investigations.
- (4) It should bear being tested theoretically and experimentally if the research is experimentation and investigation in nature as science demands thoroughness, accuracy and objectivity.
- (5) It should be a topic free from the author's personal bias or preference even if it may be a topic of humanistic nature.

Just for the above and many more other reasons, it is worthwhile making a careful choice of topics before starting a long research process.

1.2.3 Moving from Brainstorming to Drafting

“Brainstorming” has become one of the popular

terms in scientific research circles, which may refer to “a meeting of a group of professionals to develop some clever ideas.” “Brainstorming” can also mean a painstaking thinking process that an author experiences before making a draft for an article.

A good draft is necessary because it is necessary to organize all the facts and ideas related together in a logical and systematic way, that is, in a manner that all the details and related facts appear in the paper as a whole. Drafting can only be started on the basis of a perfect outline. However, the drafting process can help to improve the outline too. In many cases, a good thesis paper may have to be finished through more than one draft.

1.2.4 Editing and Refining

When following the outline prepared to complete the writing of a thesis paper, the author has to bear in mind that even if he is an exceptionally skillful author, he also has to make considerable revisions. In most cases,

revision work would continue until the last minute for the submission of the paper. It is advisable to revise the paper from its general layout to the minute omissions and mistakes in language use.

1.3 Different Sections of a Thesis

Included in a thesis (dissertation) are more or less such sections as abstract (including the title and keywords, both in Chinese and English for Chinese candidates), introduction (methodology, data collection and analyses introduced in it) and/or literature review, body, conclusions (findings or future work and suggestions, etc. presented in it), references and acknowledgments.

Needless to say, to be able to write effective professional papers, it is very important to have an overview of their linguistic features and writing requirements. In the following units, we'll deal with the different sections of a thesis respectively.

A decorative floral wreath composed of various flowers and leaves, arranged in a semi-circle around the text.

Unit 2

Titles and Keywords

2.1 Titles

If we regard a paper as a commodity, then, the title is its brand. The title can be vividly described as the “Abstract of an Abstract.”

A title to a research paper should be highly generalized. It reflects the basic connotation and quality of a paper with the most concise words. It is the logical combination of the most suitable and simplest terms to express the most important given content of a paper. It can also be named as the topic or principle of a paper.



2.1.1 General Functions

A. Generalizing the Text

A title should summarize the central idea of the paper concisely and correctly. By glancing at the title, the reader will immediately know, incorporating with the abstract, what is mainly dealt with in the paper.

B. Attracting the Reader

If a title is accurate, concise and distinct, it will attract readers a lot and stimulate readers to read the whole text. An interesting title may draw particular attention among professionals, for only when readers are interested in the title will they decide to read the whole paper.

C. Facilitating the Retrieval

A title usually provides leads for the international information retrieval organizations to choose the appropriate keywords contained in it when they organize index and secondary documents. So, a title serves as