

Analytical Summary of Li-2008-

Introduction

University of Michigan press published an article titled "Learning to write a thesis with an Argumentative edge" by Xiaoming Li, who wrote this article in 2008. In this article, the author shared his experience about the master's thesis and how she learned to write a doctoral thesis with argumentative edge, Later she explained what textual features she used to write argumentative edge thesis and then what steps she took to write the same so that readers can get idea of the process she was gone through. Li X. was the master's student at Chinese university and she wrote her thesis on "English rhythm and sentence stress". In that thesis she didn't used an argumentative edge. But later during her doctoral thesis at American university she used some tactics. First is to start with a question but not a statement, second is to choose a topic in which you have deep knowledge and third is to read as much as possible. As the author adopts the writing skills with argumentative edge, she got some stand so that she can communicate with others as a peer among equals.

Focused Analysis of Key terms: Insiders and Outsiders

Author used key terms "Insiders" and "Outsiders" in the article. Roz Ivanic says that there are two types of writing skills which are at opposite ends. First is "essay of assessment" and the other one is "an article for publication". As Bartholomae quotes in his article that "The key distinguishing gesture of this essay that which makes it 'better' than the other, is the way the writer works against a conventional point of view. . . "(p. 607). An article for publication must contain an argumentative edge which gives writer a right to speak and hence it is much better than essay of assessment.

Essay of assessment is like the master's essay of author in which she gathered all the information from papers which are already published and simply writes about that topic what is already known to everyone. In this type of writing, writers has to be a student, and on the margins of community membership. For this type, author used the term "Outsiders". Here outsiders means the writes does not have the right to speak because he do not have his own thinking in the thesis, and he just have to read all other papers and summarize them or to write the same concept in other words.

An article of publication have the argumentative edge. Here writer have an argument about the topic and then he studies and writes about the topic. Here writer gets the special right to speak because he has made an argument with his side of study. Here writer contribute to the knowledge making project of the community. For such type of writers, the key term used by author is "Insiders". Here those writers are insiders because they have their own point to express.

The insiders who contribute to society are highly rewarded that the outsiders who plays the role of student.

Connection with the Other Articles

Li X. is a Chinese student goes to America for her doctoral studies. Hence the author was an international student during her doctoral studies. She did not have English language problem as mentioned adjustment in de Araujo. Author said that she has good contacts with her professors from America and from China. Hence we can say that she has a social support or a support network and she also maintain the relations with Americans.

We can connect this to Phillips as Chozin was also an international student having difficulties with his writings. He used some strategies to overcome his problems and here author uses some strategies or steps to write with argumentative edge.

Analysis of the Language Pattern

This article is "Learning to write argumentative way", and here authors tells us the importance of the insiders and how the writer gets the special rights to speak if the thesis is with argumentative edge. In the article I think that writer sometimes uses that "right" and she wrote some sentences which can be crossed. On page 49 writer says that "no academic paper is worth writing or reading if it does not advance a proposition that has an argumentative edge". Here she wanted to say that all the other papers are not worth to be published if it did not contain an argumentative edge. Here she uses her right states her point.