

# Logical Issue in Dissertation Writing of Humanities Postgraduates

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Keywords: Humanities; Dissertation Writing; Logical Thinking

**Abstract.** The quality of dissertation written by humanities postgraduates is not entirely satisfactory and logical thinking is the guarantee of quality of dissertation written by humanities postgraduates. To determine paper theme with clear method; to collect and sort literature documents in method of induction and deduction; to embody the argumentation of paper contents.

## Introduction

Dissertation is the summary and conclusion of the whole process of comprehensive quality cultivation made by postgraduates after they grasped the fundamental theory as well as specialized knowledge of the discipline; meanwhile, it is the embodiment of postgraduates' abilities such as thought level and professional quality. In recent years, due to the rapid expansion of recruitment scale of postgraduates in China, the quality of dissertation written by humanities postgraduates is not entirely satisfying, which mainly manifested as poor logicity of dissertation, unclear language expression and imprecise reasoning. Thus, how to make the most of logical thinking in the dissertation writing of humanities postgraduates so as to add persuasion<sup>[1]</sup> is a issue deserving thinking.

## Raise of Problem

All the scientific researches are for revealing object property and rule, and obtaining the knowledge of research object as universal as possible; the major objects that they shall answer are the issues of "what", "how" and "why". Natural science takes the exploration of the nature and rule of nature, and obtaining of knowledge about research object as its duty; this purpose determined that the thinking mode of natural science is empirical. However, the humanities mainly are literary history and philosophy researches the cultural world that is directly related to human or individual spirit with the fundamental purpose of studying human emotion, ideal, belief and value. Except for the observation, cognition and experience of the whole world, it also explores human survival as well as meaning, human value, and other realistic issues so as to express certain values and value ideal, and define certain value direction for human behavior. The objective of humanities determined that its thinking mode could not be empirical. Based on observation, experience and thinking, the humanities researches mostly are carried out in non-rational method, such as introspection, imagination, experience and intuition, and completed by speculation argumentation.

The major scientific activity of humanities postgraduates is thesis writing. In order to express thought accurately, it is necessary to make concept clear, judge appropriately and infer precisely, which means that logic is an important symbol for judging expression level. At present, many dissertations written by humanities students lack unity and coherence with inconsistent argumentation; meanwhile, they do not have the direction of topic selection when opening proposal, lack problematic consciousness and cannot form clear research thought<sup>[2]</sup>, which are directly related to the lack of logical thinking training. The training of logical thinking can make thought become clear and rigorous, standardize language as well as expression, enable them to express accurately and communicate correctly, and achieve the purpose of expressing and arguing thought accurately and rigorously.

## **How to use Logical Thinking in Dissertation Writing**

As the ultimate result of postgraduates' study, dissertation is the embodiment of postgraduates' theoretical attainment and comprehensive quality of specialty. The result of scientific research is the generation of paper and the writing process of paper is raising problem, analyzing problem and solving problems, which all need the application of logical thinking.

### **What is the role of logical application in Topic Selection**

The appropriate topic selection is the first step of dissertation because it relates to the quality or even the success or failure of dissertation. The dissertation topic shall be standardized academic language so as to state the specific thesis and draw the outline of the scope as well as view of research contents; thus, the title of dissertation shall be straightforward and make readers comprehend the value of article quickly.

#### **How to determine Topic**

In academic research, problem is the "scientific problem" rather the general issue; it is the problem faced by science leading edge or disciplinary development<sup>[3]</sup>. The most fundamental principle of selecting it is to "converge to the point". Since problem is the impetus of research, but how to discover and raise problems? Hypothesis is the suppositive explanation of unknown object and its rule based on certain factual materials and scientific principles. To apply analytical and comprehensive logical thinking method to large numbers of factual materials is the process of discovering and raising problems. Analysis is to decompose objective things into each element and aspect so as to inspect them one by one; integration is to connect the knowledge of each element and aspect after inspection so as to inspect as a whole and form conclusion.

#### **How to define Topic Selection Concept**

Topic selection is expressed by proposition while proposition is generally represented by concept. The unclear theme of paper topic and insufficient consideration of connotation as well as extension of core concept will definitely disturb research direction and content. It indicates that the author lacks comprehensive and specific understanding of research object and the research content cannot grasp the key point. Take the opening speech of *Research on Legal Security Mechanism of Left-behind Women in Rural Area* for example, the core concept here is "left-behind women", but the author added the prefix "rural area"; does it mean there is the concept of "urban left-behind women"? The title of some papers are not specific, the research scope is too vague and general, and it is difficult for postgraduates to grasp big issue; meanwhile, the big and improper issue cannot be contained by a dissertation at all<sup>[4]</sup>. For example, in the opening speech of *Research on System Cultural Construction in College and University in the View of Ideological and Political Education*, the scope definition of college and university deserves thinking; whether the "college and university" refers to worldwide or China, or the several colleges and universities in some regions or one specific university. The research thinking determined that the author must grasp large amount of first-hand data since the excessively large scope will definitely make the research process become very difficult.

### **What is the role of logical application during Research Process**

Reading is the research means used by humanities postgraduates for study. The attention to collect, analyze and combine paper materials under theoretical guidance while considering topic selection is a comprehensive training of postgraduates' thinking ability and capacity for solving problems.

#### **How to Induce and Deduce in Material Collection**

Data collection and processing is the essential condition for postgraduates from known to unknown with breakthrough and discovery. All the valuable papers benefit from profound collection as well as

accumulation of literature document. When sorting document, postgraduates usually put them into “day-to-day account” or just pile them together without finding any valuable information from it. It is necessary to induce firstly and then deduce when carrying out scientific research. Face with large amount of materials and based on read-through, it is required to classify, sort and record the innovative point, method, conclusion, problems as well as deficient opinions of the research issues in the collected literatures so as to define the development vein of the research and domestic as well as overseas study direction. Then, it is needed to classify the similar contents respectively; carry out comparative analysis on the document with inconsistent conclusion, judge them in scientific attitude and raise your won opinions.

#### **How to standardize the Language in Dissertation Writing**

The paper written in Chinese shall conform to the grammar and rhetoric rule of modern Chinese. Logic is the thinking rule of language expression while the basic requirement of dissertation is the language expression shall coincidence logic. If could not be expressed by clear language, even the most excellent idea was unable to be transmitted. It is necessary to pay attention to the different relations of concept in paper writing and definite the distinction between using the same concept alternately and disguised replacement of concept; the concept in genus-species shall not be paralleled and it is required to prevent the logical mistake of genus-species concept and cross concept; as for the concept that need to be constrained during judgment, it is necessary to follow the rule of constraining concept and pay attention that the single concept could not be restricted or partitioned. Meanwhile, it is also required to be good at define the concept and follow definition rule. The judgment formed by concept shall conform to logical rule and achieved that the thought reflected by judgment only could have the same comprehension without different meanings.

#### **What is the role of logical application in Argumentation**

90 years ago, Mr. Hu Shi proposed to “dare to make hypothesis and verify carefully”. According to the principle of logic, any scientific principle will experience the development stage of hypothesis before being verified. Dissertation is the conclusion obtained after material verification, so it is necessary to insist on logical principle when comprehensively verifying your own opinions.

#### **How to ensure the Argument persuasive**

Argumentation is the foundation of paper persuasion and the sufficient reason is the basic principle that all argumentations shall follow. In the same verification, there must be sufficient reason if one thought was determined as true. When arguing related themes, firstly, it is necessary to guarantee that the premise must be true and valid, which means that the collected and accumulated paper relevant materials are true. Secondly, there shall be logical relationship between reason and conclusion, which indicates that the reason shall derive the topic reasonably. There is a principle in scientific research that special proposition shall possess particular reason because the value of dissertation is innovation, which means that the dissertation raising new opinions always needs to provide sufficient theoretical reference since it is what the sufficient reason principle in logical argumentation required.

#### **How to ensure the Argumentation obey the Rules**

The argumentation is composed by topic, talking point and mode of argumentation; thus, the logical rule of correct argumentation also involves in these three parts. The topic shall keep in the same, the central argument shall not be changed during argumentation, and the statement must center on it closely. Talking point must be true because it is the support and reason for the conclusion. Argumentation is the thinking process the determination of authenticity of topic by the authenticity of talking point based on reasoning. Therefore, authentic talking point is the important condition for the persuasion of argumentation. As for the rule of argumentation mode, it means that talk point not only is true but also has necessary connection to topic, which certainly could infer the authenticity of topic.

## Conclusion

The quality of a dissertation is related to author's logical thinking ability. Before writing the paper, the thinking is usually in chaos; during the process of sorting literature and analyzing fact, it gradually to form his own view; ultimately, based on the rule discovered during research, dissertation solve the practical issue according to the causality determined by the dissertation<sup>[5]</sup>. Only by virtue of reflection and thinking can digest theoretical knowledge and draw inferences about other cases, during which our logical thinking ability is decisive.

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