### 張月菁

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>年份</th>
<th>職務</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>美國紐約州立大學水牛城分校 英語教學碩士</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>美國加州州立大學河濱分校 課程與教學博士</td>
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<td>2012-2010</td>
<td>美國南加州大學教育學院 兼任助理教授  教授教育研究所之師資培育課程</td>
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<td>現今-2012</td>
<td>國立交通大學英語教學研究所/語言教學與研究中心 助理教授  教授研究所課程“研究生論文寫作”“質性研究”“英語教學理論與方法”及大學部語言課程，並提供英文寫作諮商，寫作工作坊</td>
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#### 研究領域
- 第二外語課程與教學
- 社會文化理論與第二語言學習
- 學術英文寫作
演講大綱

- What is a research report?
- Communicative purposes in English Writing
- Communicative purposes in Academic English Writing
- Communicative purposes and the organization of the “Introduction”
- Significant sentence patterns in the Introduction

What is a research report?
A research report ...

- describes a research study that the researcher has completed.
- explains to others in the field what the objectives, methods, and findings of the study were.
- may be published in a professional journal, may appear as a monograph distributed by a research institution, or may be written in the form of a thesis or dissertation.
- is designed around a research question (the researcher formulates a hypothesis and then designs the study to test the hypothesis)

Commonly used format

- **ABSTRACT**
- **INTRODUCTION**
- **METHOD**
- **RESULTS**
- **DISCUSSION**
Dear Ms. Lin:

Thank you for your interest in our university.

On behalf of the Dean of the Graduate School, I congratulate you on being accepted to the program in Mechanical Engineering to study at the master level. This letter is your official authorization to register for Fall 2013.

As a reflection of the importance the Graduate School places on its students’ abilities to communicate effectively, the Graduate School requires all new students whose native language is not English to have their English evaluated. Specific details for this procedure are given in the enclosed information packet.

We look forward to welcoming you to our university and wish you success in your academic career.

Sincerely,
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Communicative Purposes in Research Reports

Other research by Loftus, Miller, and Burns (1978) has revealed that a further variable affecting the reliability of eyewitness accounts is the time lapse between the event and the introduction of post-event information.

The communicative purpose is to ...

review previous studies
Communicative Purposes in Research Reports

The present study examined the role of three variables on estimates of details of an automobile collision. These variables were: (a) the adjective used in phrasing a question, (b) the format of the stimulus material, and (c) the delay interval.

The communicative purpose is to ...

state the objective of the study

Take-away points...

- Writing research reports is like playing chess.
- One needs to understand the context-purpose-text connection.
- To write a good research paper, one needs to recognize the communicative purposes in your text and organize these texts into a structure that is commonly accepted in your academic discipline.
The Introduction—An Illustration

Skim the sample introduction “Using Microcomputers in Teaching”.

- Why is the Introduction divided into 5 sections?
- Can you identity the communicative purpose of each section?

The 5 Stages in the Introduction

1. The setting
   - Orient readers to your topic by providing them with general statements or background information about a field of research.

2. Literature review
   - Present more specific information about the aspects of the problem already studied by other researchers.

3. Research gap
   - Indicate the need for more investigation

4. Purpose
   - State the purpose/objectives of your study

5. Value
   - Give a value or justification for carrying out the study
The 5 Stages in the Introduction

- The 5 stages are presented in a sequence that starts with general information to very specific information.

5 Stages of the Introduction

This sequence arrangement may vary.

- In theses and dissertations, Stage 2 (literature review) is separate from the rest of the introduction.

- Stage 5 (value statement) is often omitted entirely.
Stage I: The Setting

The setting provides your readers with the background information to see the particular topic of your research in relation to a general area of study.

- Begin with accepted statements of fact related to your general area.
- Within the general area, identify one subarea.
- Indicate your topic.

Revisiting the sample “Introduction”

In the setting:

- What is the “universe” (general area)?
  computers in the U.S. society

- What is the “galaxy” (subarea)?
  small, inexpensive computers/ microcomputers

- What is the “star” (topic)?
  microcomputers in education
Stage 2 Literature Review

- Review findings of other researchers who have already published in your area of interest (also called “literature review” or “review of literature”).
- Give readers background information needed to understand your study.
- Assure that you’re familiar with the important research in your area.
- Link your current study with a chain of research in your field.

ORDERING OF CITATIONS

Citations grouped by approach
- One approach
- Another approach
- Still another approach

Citations ordered from distant to close

Citations ordered chronologically
- (earliest)
- (latest)
Revisiting the sample “Introduction”

- How are the citations ordered?
  - Chronological order
  - Different Approaches

Stage 3: Research Gap

- Serve to signal the reader that the literature review is finished.

- Sum up the review by pointing out insufficiency/unresolved conflicts among previous research or a new question not considered by previous research.

- Usually take only 1 or 2 sentences.
Signal Words in Research Gap

- Start with signal words, such as however and but, followed by modifiers, such as few, little, or no to indicate a gap in previous research.

![Diagram with signal words and examples]

Signal Words in Research Gap

- Using signal words, such as although and while, followed by modifiers, such as some, many or much in the 1st clause and modifiers, such as little, few or no in the 2nd clause.

![Diagram with signal words and examples]
Revisiting the sample “Introduction”

- What are the signal words that identify the gap of the literature?

**Although** X has been done to date, **more studies** need to be conducted to Y.

Modifiers in Research Gap

- **Countable Nouns**
  - Studies; reports; researchers
  - Many ↔ few; no
    - Few studies have been conducted to examine this issue.
    - To the best of our knowledge, no researchers have addressed this issue.

- **Non-countable Nouns**
  - Research; literature; evidence; work; information
  - Much ↔ little; no
    - Much research has been provided to support this theory.
    - Little literature is available on this topic.
Stage 4: Purpose Statement

- State the specific objective(s) of your research report.
- Answer the need expressed in the research gap for additional research.
- Your statement of purpose should be directly related to the research question upon which you based your study.

Purpose Statement and Your Research Question

When your research question is a yes or no question, the word *whether* or *if* are used.

- Is an automatic measurement system suitable for classroom and laboratory demonstrations?
- The purpose of this thesis is to determine *if* an automatic measurement system would be suitable for classroom and laboratory demonstrations.
Statement of Purpose and Your Research Question

When your research question is an information question, a noun phrase is used.

- What is the distribution and status of manatees in Honduras?

- This paper reports on the distribution and status of manatees in Honduras.

Stage 5: Value Statement

- Justify your research on the basis of possible values or benefits the work may have to the field.

- Not included in every introduction.

- When writing a thesis, a dissertation, or a research report funded by outside agencies, you should include it in the introduction.

- When writing up a journal article, it is often omitted in the introduction.
Two perspectives in writing the value statement:

1. Indicate the **practical benefits** which may result from applying the findings of your research.
   - The results of this study could be *useful to educators* responsible for planning course work in consumer education.

2. Emphasize the **theoretical importance** of your study in advancing the knowledge in your field.
   - Results of this study may suggest a *broader hypothesis for further research* into the effects of atmospheric chemicals on rubber.

Value Statement and Model Auxiliaries

- The value statement is usually written in a way that suggests an attitude of **tentativeness** or **modesty** on the part of the author.
- To sound more cautious, use modal auxiliaries, such as *may, should, and could.*

- The application of the strategies described here *may/should* increase the proportion of drug abusers who can be identified.
- The system described here *could* serve as the basis for a study of automatic measurement systems in an instrumentation course.
Now, let’s try out!!

Significant Sentence Patterns

- The learning of communicative purposes should be supported by learning the significant sentence patterns that perform these purposes.

- Learning the significant sentence patterns helps you recognize and communicate your purposes better.
Significant Sentence Patterns

Stage 1: The setting:
• There has been considerable interest in...
• .....is an important factor for determining...
• ....has experienced explosive growth...

Stage 2: Literature review
• Teng and Li [10] demonstrated that ...
• Lam’s (2000) study suggests that ...
• There have been many experimental studies of ... using....
• ... are effectively studied by numerical techniques [1-3].

Significant Sentence Patterns

Stage 3: Research gap
• Although....has been subjected to..., still no systematic study of ...has been reported yet.
• However, few studies have been done on ....
• Nevertheless, there is little information available on....

Stage 4: Purpose
• The purpose of this thesis is to present ....
• The aim of the present paper is to determine....
• The present paper reports....

Stage 5: Value
• The application of the strategies described here may increase ....
• The system described here could serve as the basis for.....
• Findings from the study could contribute to ....
Tips to Learn Significant Sentence Patterns

- Reading for content
- Reading for improving research report writing by noting the major language features
- The shoebox method: collecting the skeleton sentence structures commonly used in each section of research papers as you read. You may create a log for it.

So, start to compile your log of significant sentence patterns NOW!

References:

More Resources:
Questions and Comments

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