

<<应用语言学研究方法与论文写作>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach him how to fish and he eats for a lifetime." Doing research is a mystery to many graduate students and second language teachers in China. This book aims to demystify the process of carrying out research in the field of applied linguistics, particularly in the area of second language acquisition and teaching. This book is written for those who have no previous research experience at all or those who have done some research without formal training. It is particularly useful for graduate students of applied linguistics, second language teachers and teacher-trainees.

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1. What is research? If someone asks you to make a cake, you should know what kind of cakes/he wants. To look for a key, you must know what a key looks like. Without a good understanding of the outcome you intend to obtain, you will experience a lot of frustrations and even failures. The extreme case is that you might have spent your lifelong time and efforts doing a piece of work but the eventual results you have obtained are not what you desired at all. Similarly, once you make up your mind to make a commitment to research, the first legitimate question you should ask is: "What is research?" The importance of such a question is well illustrated in the following parable: **A MAN LOOKING FOR FRUITS** There was once a man who lived in a country that had no fruit trees. This man was a scholar and spent a great deal of time reading. In his readings he often came across references to fruit. The descriptions of fruit were so enticing that he decided to undertake a journey to experience fruit for himself. He went to the market and asked everyone he met if they knew where he could find fruit. After much searching he located a man who knew the directions to the country and place where he could find fruit. The man drew out elaborate directions for the scholar to follow. With his map in hand, the scholar carefully followed all of the directions. He was very careful to make all of the right turns and to check out all of the landmarks that he was supposed to observe. Finally, he came to the end of the directions and found himself at the entrance to a large apple orchard. It was springtime and the apple trees were in blossom.

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