

## **Analytical Summary of Li (2008)**

Li (2008) in her discussion of the article “Learning to write a thesis with an argumentative edge” describes the difficulties non-western students experience due to the challenges in academic writing. She describes the strategies to overcome these issues. She suggested that this challenge is difficult for students with non-western educational backgrounds because the academic cultures of their respective countries are different from the western cultures. The western cultures are more focused on argumentative edge in academic writing. In order to explore this argumentative edge approach, she compared her Masters’ thesis to her Ph.D. dissertation. In her Masters’ thesis on “English rhythm and sentence stress”, she didn’t use the argumentative edge. Hence, she decided to implement tactics during her doctoral thesis.

### **Analyzing a key concept**

Several key concepts are explored in the article like argumentative edge, an insider and an outsider status. Let us consider the key concept of insider status. The author never described the concept of insider explicitly. However, she used several supporting words to describe the insider status. First, the direct quote from Ivancic describes that academic writing is of two distinctly opposite types: “an essay for assessment” and “an article for publication”. In “an essay for assessment”, the role of the writer is an ‘outsider’ job. In “an article for publication”, the role of the writer is an insider status. According to Ivancic, insiders’ are described using the following key terms, an insider with the special right to speak and social roles of insiders. The insider status is also described using ‘master’ which shows that insiders have to expertise in knowledge. Insider status is also describes as a ‘legitimate player in the game’ and master.

### **Connection to other sources**

Li, being from a non-western academic culture, faced issues with academic writing. Li’s experiences can be connected to Phillips (2014) study of Chozin, who was an Indonesian graduate student in an interdisciplinary Masters’ program. Chozin also faced many challenges in academic writing. Chozin too struggled with academic writing and English proficiency. Hence, an insider status. He developed various strategies to overcome his writing challenges and as a result, became a valued student in his discipline and was appreciated for his resourcefulness. Chozin understood his writing issues and developed strategies by pushing himself in an ‘insider status’ and therefore succeeded in overcoming his academic writing challenges.

## **Language Pattern**

In the article, Li included the research of several other scholars in her field along with her knowledge. She referred to the work of the other scholars and included the information in her article. Thus, it is an APA citation style instead of MLA citation style. In APA citation style, information is forwarded from one scholar's research by the use of reporting words such as claims that, suggests that, argues that, etc. The author makes use of the reporting word 'claim' rather than the other reporting words to stress that the forwarded information from other scholars is proven. The forwarded information is considered a valid research and can be used as a basis for future research. The researchers can use this information. In this way, the researchers can utilize this information as the basis of their research.