



Supplementary Writing Methodology: Creative Writing Theory and Practice for Major-changing Graduate School Applicants in China

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ABSTRACT

Graduate School Application writing is a unique area of creative writing that combines various elements from the applicants' past experiences to make him stand out. The discipline of creative writing is charged "as the most untheorized, and in that respect, anachronistic area in the entire constellation of English studies. It not only supports, but welcomes intellectual analyses that may reveal new theories. Such theories have important teaching implications and insights into the ways creative writers read, write, and respond. The supplementary writing system that the researcher designed can greatly enhance the prospect of those students seeking to change majors in the graduate studies without putting them into disadvantage comparing to peers. Moreover, it can often to help them set up unique traits those major-consistent applicants might be lack of..

Keyword- Supplementary Writing System ,Major-Changing, Graduate School ,Applicant

1 Introduction

By June 2013, with the recession of the domestic employment market and the implementation of the tuition policy for graduate students, the majority of students who are looking forward to entering the autumn of 2014 are also preparing to study in the United States for master's degree and doctoral degree, in order to avoid the peak of employment and add chips to their future development. In the U.S. higher education system, major transferring embodies the flexibility of "people-oriented" ideology, which also provides a great opportunity for many Chinese students who failed to enter the ideal major at the undergraduate stage due to various reasons to change their direction again, which can be a great chance to compensate for the past pity. Theoretically, science and engineering have higher requirements for professional background, making the operation difficulty coefficient of interdisciplinary application relatively large. In general, liberal arts majors, arts majors and business majors have a certain degree of operability. In this paper, the researcher seeks to propose a new paradigm-supplementary writing method-to enhance the admission rate of this group of students that plan to change their majors in graduate studies.

2 Theoretical Foundation

Supplementary writing is a special area of creative writing arena. Creative writing alludes to what the reader already knows - without them knowing it. The greater the distance - the more creative it is; up to a point. Knowing where that "point" is - can be the difference between a talented writer and a good one (Schmitt, 2020). Literary theory and creative writing are interconnected on various levels. Theory asks creative writers to contemplate on how they themselves are socially, ideologically and culturally positioned as writers (and as readers) of literature, and how their activity is enmeshed in a broader process of personal and communal identity formation through language and literary representation (Kiosses, 2021).

3 Practical Considerations

Operability is one aspect, but how to operate well and improve the success rate of successful application is another. Moreover, the vast majority of the transferred majors have no clear and mature views on such fundamental issues as "why to transfer" and "how to transfer". As far as the background analysis of the students who have changed majors is concerned, part of them are "blindly following the crowd" type, yearning for such majors as

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finance, because they may provide better employment prospects and salary levels, "it's always right to follow everyone.". The other part of the model belongs to the "parental compliance type", because parents want to work certain occupations in the future. No matter what kind of situation, it provides higher requirements for the later on document writing-up. Because of the lack of forward-looking design for the whole four-year college learning plan and the lack of basic understanding of the major to be changed, these students suffer from the lack a of the basic data for professional background conversion in their document preparation, putting forward some thorny issues and requirements that need to be solved urgently. Based on the author's experience in document guidance and consultation, this paper summarizes the "supplementary method" system for students looking for professional background improvement in document creation, in order to enhance the level of application document preparation.

4 Definition of the Term

Supplement, which means to make up, refers to the phenomenon of lack of background knowledge in the intended major, which should be strengthened in the process of document creation, and described in the relevant conditions, so as to make up for the deficiency of professional background and enhance competitiveness. But it also emphasizes other characteristics of students, such as life and work experience. However, in the process of graduate enrollment in the United States, the depth of professional understanding and academic potential of applicants are often taken as the first measurement factors. Especially for the admission process of top universities, the professional background is among the most important factors. Therefore, the researcher argues for the comprehensive operation of the students' background, so that the admission officer does not think that the change of major is a weakness. On the contrary, he takes that it might be a very interesting case to invite the applicant "on board". It is an important strategy to ensure a smooth admission. However, this involves the re-emphasis and re-orientation of the relationship structure between the writing adviser and students.

5 Dynamics between writing adviser and students

The basic relationship between writing adviser and students is customer service relationship in traditional overseas consultation service industry in China, which creates a kind of logic :because the customer is "God", what writing advisers should do is to understand and explore the unique characteristics of the voice of "God". However, in the actual communication with students, the researcher strongly feels that this special customer group is looking forward to following teacher's professional design and guidance at the professional level. They relied on the advisers' expertise and experience to tell them what to do. The author believes that the adviser should give full play to their academic advantages and characteristics, jump out of the passive "reader mode" for existing materials, actively play the role of "producer", and provide students with a more positive and guiding role with dynamic interaction. From the current practice, the adviser-student union is more recognized by this service mode, so as to improve the service quality of document creation as a whole. Specifically, the author puts forward the following seven aspects as the key breakthrough point to form the basic operation level of the "supplementary Writing System", and make a new personalized packaging for aspiring students.

6 Supplementary Writing System

The supplementary writing system consists of 7 aspects as follows:

A. Undergraduate academic papers

From the academic point of view, at present, the topic scope of undergraduate professional paper publication is relatively wide in China, which also provides a favorable environment for applicants to design professional papers as a means to "supplement" the students' professional background, and even to design interdisciplinary research.

Case 1

FWJ's undergraduate major was Chinese, which was quite different from her intended master's major of human resources. In the process of brainstorming with FWJ, the researcher boldly put forward opinions for his graduation thesis, and obtained the approval of his tutor, finally achieved good results, and was admitted by a famous university. The following is the relevant paragraph that the researcher suggested.

Example 1

My Bachelor degree thesis focused on the comparison between the new words and their development in both Chinese and English contexts. By applying the methodologies of pragmatics and semiotics, I highlighted the deviation models of derivatives and their implications for communication from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Towards the end, I came up with my conclusion of approaches in bridging the gaps for possible information

distortion and communication barrels as results of such linguistic trends in post-modern Chinese society, especially in the scenarios of business environments and organizational functionality shifts. In recommendation section I specified how human resource executives should deal with such kind of negative aspects within the framework of organizational communication and information flow chain, which would drastically beef up the communication efficiency and accuracy that would have profound impact on the hierarchical stratification of the system of the corporate structure in the context of the global modernistic entrepreneurship and modern human resource practice. The dissertation manuscript was critically acclaimed by the defense panel as "one of the most impressive Bachelor's thesis of the year."

Case 2

YH was a top student of environmental engineering in Tongji University, but he was determined to apply for the master of financial engineering. In view of his unique background of Science Engineering, the author proposed the design of the thesis as follows, and refined his draft direction of master's research, so as to "supplement" the deficiency of his applied professional background with professional characteristics. The following were the relevant paragraphs.

*My passion of the combination of Environmental concerns and Financial technique in working out innovative models for sustainable eco-tourism system led me to choose **Environmental Science** as the undergraduate program with a focus on **Environmental Economics** with a GPA of 4.45 on the scale of 5.*

My vision of career development locates at providing professional sustainable solutions of eco-tourism system and investments to the mankind through a solid command of financial techniques and environmental concerns & knowledge. The objective of my graduate research will be working towards a new time-series model in eco-tourism via mathematic modeling and computer programming.

B. Family Background

Although family background is not an inevitable aspect in the eyes of admission officer, a persuasive family background related to the major to be applied for will certainly provide a convincing "self-evident" reason for the intention to change the major, and also lay the tone for the smooth writing of the full text. XYC is a major-transferring student for master of finance. His background was management. The following is the passage to improve his professional background through the description of his family background.

Example 3

My family background has been of no short of financial expertise and environment. My mother has been engaged in various financial investments and projects with a leadership role as financial director for a well known company. My father operates several financial enterprises in greater China, especially in real estate projects. Since a very young age in primary school, I have been witnessing the entire process how my parents became established in their respective business areas. All along the way, I became more and more interested in the discipline of finance, which made me choose International Finance as one of the extracurricular courses for my middle school education, as well as take the responsibility of the vice-chairman of Junior Financial Club that met on a weekly basis discussing all kinds of intriguing financial issues up to the date.

C. Extracurricular activities, scientific research design, and competition experience

For graduate students in the United States, extracurricular activities and scientific research experience related to their major application will be very convincing data to prove their professional ability. Especially for students who transfer their major, if they can highlight their scientific research and award-winning experience with relevant recognition of their major, it will play a positive role in "successful transformation". For example, one statement reads:

I won quite a number of Piano Competition Awards, including Chopin International Piano Competition and Franz Liszt Piano Competition. I plan to apply for master's degree in piano performance at your graduate school due to its international reputation in music.

If you are a reader, after the description of the major awards in the next paragraph, the image of a pianist who has become a big player in piano performance has already appeared on the paper. Will you say "no" because of his professional background is non-music?

Here is the complete case.

Case 4

Thanks to my parents' early investment on my music education, I have obtained various music awards and honors even since as early as my middle school. I acquired Excellence Awards in piano competition in Jiangsu Province and East Coastal district during Chinese Young People Art Festival in March, 2003; in August, 2006, I got a Silver Medal in TV Selection for Chinese Young People in Art Performance (Junior Group); in January, 2008, I got Excellence Award in a selective trial for talented children for "2008 Langlang Piano Concert in Xuzhou and the opportunity to play with Langlang, an eminent young Chinese Pianist; the same year in February, I won the first prize in the third National Display of Young People Art

Education in March and the fourth in 2009; in July, 2008, I won Excellence Award in Piano in the seventh Worldwide Music Competition for Future Star in Jiangsu arena and Bronze Prize in Group F, Asian arena.

D. Professional knowledge and future prospects

For the transferring students, highlighting their unique understanding of the major in their personal statement will greatly strengthen their positive image. Some personal feelings are often powerful "sugar coated bullets" to move the enrollment officials. The following example is from the personal statement of Chinese-major background student FWF who applied for human resource management .

Case 5

Human Resource Management is of significant importance to a company, but in China it is frustrating: the overall performance of employees is not good enough. Even if in recent years the HRM program has been taught in some universities, the quality of such professional education can not be at par with international standard, which means that talents of international standard are still scarce. The status quo of the shortage of qualified practitioners leaves much to be desired.

From my past working experience, I personally identified the seemingly uncompromising conflicts between HRO and HR-in-house in their working approaches and standpoints. For example, HRO solution underscores how to boost up the organization 's working efficiency and coming up with an optimization of resources available without accurate projection and estimation of the possible resistance from the inner system of the clients that HR-in-house might face up to during execution. In that case, I would like to focus my research topic of masteral study on the investigation and problematization of the issues that HR-in-house need to face and solve as well as the role and function it plays for the whole corporate in terms of organizational and structural supports. Based on such hypothesis and systematic analysis of data, I would like to conclude with the approaches that HRO can take to provide services to HR-in-house in a more efficient and effective manner through completely understanding and avoiding the possible problems and difficulties that the later may encounter in such type of reciprocal collaboration.

E. Work practice

For the transfer of major, rich relevant work experience will often make up for the lack of professional background. As a matter of fact, the enrollment of famous universities tends to be non "dead study" applicants with outstanding practical ability. The following is the description of FWJ's work practice, who was a Chinese-major seeking business course.

Case 6

My internship with a Hong Kong based human resource outsourcing company opened up my horizon and ignited my passion to make a career in HR industry. My work scope then included resume searching and selection, initial communication with the candidates. The clients I handled then were from the industries of luxuries and cosmetics in majority, such as Chanel and Estelander who highly praised my work outputs.

I am currently working for one of the leading global headhunters -Futurestep (Korn/Ferry) as a Talent Sourcing Specialist. My short-term goal is to be a HR manager while my long-term one is to lead a team to handle HRO projects on the global scale. My vision of career development locates at providing professional HR solutions to the corporations of different backgrounds through a solid command of HR sourcing techniques in respect of the various natures of industries in the context of HRO.

F. Design of opening paragraph

For the operation of applying for some top-tier graduate schools, the use of more literary language to shape the image of a high-end student will often create a deep "preconceived" impression for the enrollment officials, and also provide powerful "psychological tactics" for their professional transformation. The following example is the beginning of the personal statement by an applicant transferring from computer science to finance.

Case 7

Late night Shanghai was more frozen out during that Christmas time in 2010 than ever before. The cold air in a small classroom of Shanghai Jiaotong University whose blackboard was crammed with dozens of mathematical derivations seemed to be stifling a lonely and only torso in the building. It was me, a first-year student in computer science of this institute and this scenario has been pretty much usual as a daily routine ever since then. Even though myself still being a Freshman cadet, my interest and hobby had already been pegged at sitting on the classroom podium, accompanying by the afternoon sun streaming into the oblique classroom blackboard camouflaged by the chalk dust which faded out into crickets' symphonic time of late nights gradually and unnoticeably, with a whisper of the moment of silence- the music of silence. All in all, for me, throwing oneself into the kind of taken-for-granted things by the many of my same age like a luring romance of casual on-campus encountering, out of campus pocket money making or hanging out in the late night pubs can never compare to the joy of an instant comprehension of a first-time-met theorem or a never-imagined workout

on the most tricky task in computer science or mathematics.

G.Letter of recommendation

To confirm and echo the content of the major-transferring students' personal statement in the letter of recommendation is undoubtedly a powerful supplement to their lack of professional background. The following are the related design examples of FWJ in her recommendation letter to verify the description of human professional working ability and innovation consciousness from her professor.

Case 8

Ms. Fang designed a client-candidate-matching model and corresponding workflow which greatly enhanced the efficiency of the project team that she was leading; the project was able to fast track the database search and identify the best candidates quickly. The result was that over 400 undergraduates had been identified as good fits. We received praises from the clients on the results. Feedback from the clients one year later regarding the turn-over rate among this batch of campus recruits was below 5%, which was an excellent result by all standards, thereby demonstrating the good methodology executed by Ms Fang.

7 Conclusion

Graduate School Application writing is a unique area of creative writing that combines various elements from the applicants' past experiences to make him stand out. The discipline of creative writing is charged "as the most untheorized, and in that respect, anachronistic area in the entire constellation of English studies. It not only supports, but welcomes intellectual analyses that may reveal new theories. Such theories have important teaching implications and insights into the ways creative writers read, write, and respond. (Donnelly, 2011) The supplementary writing system can greatly enhance the prospect of those students seeking to change majors in the graduate studies without putting them into disadvantage comparing to peers. Moreover, it can often help them set up unique traits those major-consistent applicants might be lack of.

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