



Proofreading (English language) Doctoral Dissertations

Lauri Christopher Gardner
University of Oulu, Language Centre

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Field of education 2007, 2008 Doctorates

2007								
Humanities	Education	Health Sciences	Economics	Natural Sciences	Engineering	Medicine	Dentistry	Total
11	8	7	5	33	26	38	2	130

2008								
Humanities	Education	Health Sciences	Economics	Natural Sciences	Engineering	Medicine	Dentistry	Total
11	6	6	6	36	26	29	3	123

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





The doctoral dissertation process



•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Proofreading Process

- Should be sent to the proofreader after the thesis-advisor has accepted the final version of the thesis
- Can be subjected to the preliminary reading, but not necessary
- Accept that proofreading will take time.
 - SKTL recommends proofreading at 10.5 pages a day
- Proofreading usually costs 11€ per page
- Translation usually costs 33€ per page

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





Submitted text

- The submitted text should be sent as a word file, not as a PDF or LaTeX file.
 - This helps the speed and notational ability of proofreading
- The main body of the text should be sent
- Abstracts and Acknowledgements can be proofread/translated later.

•nimi ja pvm

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



The character of the proofreader

- There has to be a level of trust between the proofreader and the doctoral student
- Proofreaders should be under obligation for non-disclosure of the thesis material whole or in part
- The proofreader often is not an expert in that field, but will be checking it for general readability and understandability

Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





Responsibilities of the proofreader to the doctoral student

- The proofreader is not an editing service, nor should a proofreader be an underwriter
- Honest time assessment, close contact with the doctoral student are to be expected
- The proofreader may have to go through the text several times

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Overarching principles of the proofreader

- The proofreader has to retain the integrity of the text.
- The proofreader does not change the scientific context of the text.
- The text should retain the voice of the original writer so that the writer may stand behind his/her work.
- The proofreader should make sure the text is clear and understandable for future readers

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





The character of a doctoral student

- Well-versed with written production
- Research oriented, critical way of thinking
- Understands and has an expertise in the terminology of his/her field

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Responsibilities of the doctoral student to the proofreader

- Make sure the text is in a final form before submission
- Do not push the proofreader past the 10.5 pages a day
- Understand that when it comes back with changes that they are suggestions from the proofreader about the doctoral dissertation and not a personal affront

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





Macrospheric issues

- Over-reliance on NetMOT and other translation dictionaries
 - Should learn to utilize English dictionaries and field specific dictionaries
- In line with disciplinary conventions
 - Style guides
- Consistency
 - American English vs British English
 - Numbers
- Should consider using a fellow doctoral student to read through and comment on legibility and logicity

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Microspheric issues

- Punctuation
- Semantic functions of words and phrases
- Grammar
- Spelling

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





In Conclusion

The role and responsibility of the proofreader is to make sure the text is clear in structure, has a clarity in its purpose, and retains the voice of the writer.

This can be accomplished through the focus on the grammatical issues of the text.

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Questions



•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO





Funding for proofreading

- Personally
 - Tax deductible (situational – slim chances)
- Work
- Foundations
- University
- Faculty/Department

- Range: 0-100%

•nimi ja pvm

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



Contact details

- University of Oulu, Language Centre,
Language Services
 - Sandra Grötsch, kielipalvelut@oulu.fi

- University of Oulu, Language Centre,
proofreader/translator
 - Lauri Gardner, lauri.gardner@oulu.fi
 - » chrysalis70@gmail.com

•Lauri Gardner 23.04.09

UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO

