

## **Editorial Hazards at the PhD level**

PhD, also known as Doctorate, is the highest degree awarded to an individual who holds a Masters degree, and has presented a thesis based on original research. The length of a good thesis can range anywhere between 125 to 200 pages (A4 size paper). Hence, after the completion of the research and before its presentation to the board of professors for approval, students are often faced with the challenge of getting it edited.

The first challenge is to find a professional editor with the required level of experience, knowledge and competence; the absence of which can lead to an output of poor quality. The students can either refer to the list of editors recommended by the university or look for institutions that offer editorial services. In either case, the editor needs to be qualified; someone who has passed an examination and has been certified as an editor to meet industry standards.

However, before hiring an editor, the student is expected to get an approval from his academic supervisor. Both must be clear about what they would like the editor to achieve. It is here that the student, the supervisor, and the editor need to acquaint themselves with the guidelines laid down by the university. These guidelines give us an idea about the range of editorial services that we can accept. Please note that the editor's service is restricted to proofreading and copyediting. Any change to the subject matter needs to be discussed with the supervisor.

Also, the student, the supervisor, and the editor must be aware of their individual roles and know what to expect from each other given the time and budget constraints. The editor needs to understand the audience, how big the project is, and the timelines involved. Accordingly he charges a fee that will cover his services and miscellaneous expenses like courier, postage, stationery etc.

Students can choose to get their thesis edited either in hard or soft copy. In the latter, the editor needs to highlight and save the changes in a pdf format before sending it to the student. Thereafter, the student can agree to or decline the changes, as the ultimate responsibility of the thesis lies with him. A thesis, however, is best edited on a hard copy to avoid the risk of a possible virus attack

or sending the wrong file to the recipient, which holds true for a soft copy. In either situation, it is wise to keep a back up to avoid duplication of work.

As acknowledgement, the editor's role needs to be mentioned in the research paper as one who has provided proofreading and copyediting services as per the guidelines laid down by the university.