

Johannes A. Smit

women's voices breathing dying freedom
subvert the voice of reason
to be more than the tittle-tattle at tea
gestures but no body-rubbing thank you

soul-tremors as I intone the string of words
stone no more
but bread on the water
you in me and I in you
with the phantom child silent calling
and the dark man from your loins
[let the dead die
lie between the lines]
in the soul of your words
taut and tenuous thank god you write the
goddess weaving the ancient song
in the valley of the hills

Academic Writing

A Guide to Academic Writing
by C.B. Peter
Eldoret, Kenya. Zapf Chancery, 1994, pp 273.
Zapf Chancery, P O Box 4988, Eldoret, Kenya

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Where the improvement of research and academic writing as well as the development of distinct stylistic skills are of the utmost importance in academia, the Rev. C.B. Peter has provided an excellent resource. Not only does this book contain a wealth of information, progressively covering areas such as a discussion on what academic writing is, how to plan one's research, how to formulate and use research theory and methodology, the forms of discourse (exposition and argumentation) in terms of which one

may cast one's writing, the actual writing and formulating of research and finally to publish one's material. Central is also a discussion on the developing of a distinct academic style. Here, important elements such as consciousness about readership, context, originality, readability, value and clarity are discussed. One of the strengths of the book is its thorough discussion of the older note/bibliography system and the more recent and less cumbersome parenthetical reference/reference list system which may be used for academic writing. Even though the exposition of these two systems are cast in a right/wrong conventional form, the author does emphasise that the most important element of academic writing is to be consistent in the format used.

Since the book thoroughly covers all areas important for enskilling students and prospective researchers in the know-how of all the facets of academic writing, it is highly recommended. It is a must for libraries and will be extremely helpful to students preparing research papers and theses. The readability of the publication adds to its value.