

Multi-Lingual Writers

As multilingual writers, writing is a journey to realize our authentic voice. Sometimes the journey is intimidating, humbling, and confusing. Sometimes it is thrilling, amusing, and full of victories. Whatever you are experiencing, you are not alone.

Core Characteristics of American Academic Writing

These are some of the basic components you need to develop good academic writing in the American style:

- A clear purpose or intention
- Evidence that illustrates and supports the main ideas
- A logical, coherent organization
- Simple, clear language
- Polished grammar and style

Encouragement from Multilingual Writers

From an interview with **Ha Jin** published in Switching Languages: Translingual Writers Reflect on Their Craft

Steven G. Kellman: In your fiction, do you consciously try to create an English style that simulates the Chinese spoken by your characters?

Ha Jin: Yes. I want to make the language sound authentic and purposely avoid standard English. Also, this is an opportunity to see how much English can absorb the distortion. In this respect, English is pliantly robust. I believe that to put something new into a language, however tiny the new elements may be, is a way to express one's love for the language, because English has always gotten its vitality from alien sources.