



# A Survey on the Absence of Chinese University - English Majors' Critical Thinking Skills

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## **Abstract**

In 1998, the Chinese scholar Huang Yuanshen wrote an article named *The Absence of Critical Thinking Skills*, in which he said that Chinese university English majors easily catch the disease of the absence of critical thinking skills, which is just like a stone throwing into the water, making a splash and drawing the attention of a large number of experts in education, foreign language teaching and learning, psychology, sociology and so on. Since then, a flood of articles have come out, and meanwhile a debate on whether Chinese university English majors lack critical thinking skills arises. Then a question emerges. Is Huang Yuanshen's statement true? If it is true, there should not be a doubt on the absence of critical thinking skills of Chinese university English majors. However, when we read Huang Yuanshen's article, we discover that Huang Yuanshen made such a statement based upon his experiences and observations, which sounds unscientific and irrational. So in this study, first, a null hypothesis (namely Chinese university English majors do not lack critical thinking skills) is proposed, and then based upon the methods of questionnaire and quantitative analysis, we attempt to prove whether the proposition that Chinese university English majors are lack of critical thinking skills conforms to the fact, and simultaneously to investigate to what degree the absence of critical thinking skills reaches.

## **References**

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