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“3 years for a PhD? Here's how to do it right?” recalls the old days when I was pursuing my Ph.D. I wish I would read this book during that time; my Ph.D. life might be easier and smoother. Even my role has changed from a Ph.D. candidate to a Ph.D. supervisor. This book reminds me of how difficult the Ph.D. life is and how to supervise my supervisees. David Yoong, the author, got his Ph.D. in linguistics from La Trobe University, Australia in 2010. He was a deputy dean of research and development, Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya. Currently, he is a director of DYLiberated Learning Resources. As his understanding of Ph.D. life and theses supervision, he wrote what every Ph.D. candidate (and supervisors) know but almost forget while doing the research.

The book contains five chapters from the most inner factors and motivations for succeeding in thesis writing to outer factors and motivations. The first chapter, Yoong talks about feelings, access, competence, threats, and support which are the most fundamental and important for all candidates in developing their thesis. The second chapter is about how to deal with what Yoong mentioned in the first chapter. In the third chapter, the author emphasizes more on “thesis”. Key factors in thesis writing are discussed in this chapter. Yoong reminds the basic but essential key point with 3 WH-questions to keep thesis writing still on the right track. The fourth chapter is about organizing the thesis and the last chapter is about the formatting of the thesis. My most impressive chapters fall into Chapters 1, 2, and 3 because these are the most crucially common things that every candidate facing or obstructing in doing the thesis.

“FACTS” in Chapter 1, for example, the author uses this abbreviation in referring to Feelings, Access, Competence, Threats, and Supports. These are the key points that allow candidates succeed in their research writing. Feelings, competence, and threats are things that impact directly to the thesis. Even the research outcome results or methodologies are well planned, but lack of controlling these three keys, the thesis might not be done properly or not completed. Access allows candidates to get through data availability, without getting access to data, their research must be impossible. Yoong shared his supervising experiences how inaccessible data suffer his supervisee. The last point, Support, seems to be less important but it helps Ph.D. research achieve.

In Chapter 1, Yoong gives the most critical points for succeeding in conducting Ph.D. research. However, these points are clarified and solutions are provided in Chapter 2 and 3. As a thesis supervisor, I really appreciate what Yoong shared in his book. He mentioned everything that important for making Ph.D. research achieve. This book is not only for Ph.D. candidates but also for those who are conducting a postgraduate thesis. I am sure that readers will get lots of benefit from Yoong’s book. Things that helps all postgraduate students surviving their thesis. Things that every thesis supervisor needs to tell and warn his/her supervisees but forget to do. Things that like a solution for some questions that all candidates afraid to ask their supervisors. These will be found in “3 years for a PhD? Here’s how to do it right?” by David Yoong.