
This Kibbitzer is based on an extract from an article for publication by a Chinese-speaking postgraduate student of Social Science.

Original	Revision
<p>It is clear that the probability of caring for frail elderly parents by young British-born Chinese may be uncertain. In a crucial sense, it is incorrect to assume that informal networks of support will always satisfy the needs of the elderly. The false assumption of a commitment to caring among Chinese families should be re-examined</p>	<p>It appears from this research that the prospects of care for frail elderly parents by young British-born Chinese are uncertain. and that informal networks of support may not in future satisfy the needs of the elderly. In short, the assumption of a continuing commitment to caring among Chinese families should be re-examined.</p>

The original text shows three instances (marked in bold) of what the consultant considered to be premature evaluations: the suggested revisions show his attempts to avoid this very common problem. The main points to notice are:

1. The evaluation of certainty in the first sentence **It is clear that ...** sits uncomfortably with the 'hedging' of **may** in **may be uncertain** in the conclusion of the same sentence. The suggested solution embeds both the first and second sentence in a 'hedging' matrix **It appears from this research that ...**
2. For obvious reasons, I discourage my clients from referring to **incorrect assumptions, conclusions** etc.
3. The most striking example of premature evaluation occurs in the third sentence of the original: if we already know that an assumption is **false**, we hardly need to **re-examine** it!