

Copyediting

*From the journal editor's
perspective*

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28 July 2020



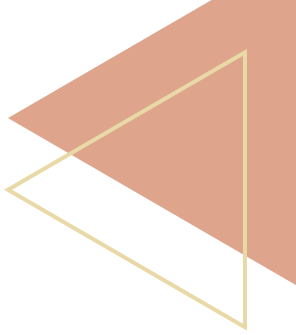
Journal selection criteria – Scopus¹

Category	Criteria
Journal policy	Convincing editorial policy Type of peer review Diversity of geographical distribution of editors Diversity of geographical distribution of authors
Content	Academic contribution to the field Clarity of abstracts Quality of and conformity to the stated aims and scope of the journal Readability of articles
Journal standing	Citedness of journal articles in Scopus Editor standing
Publishing regularity	No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule
Online availability	Full journal content available online English language journal home page available Quality of journal home page

Journal selection criteria – WoS²

1. Initial triage	2. Editorial triage	3. Editorial evaluation	
Quality criteria			Impact criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ISSN ▶ Journal title ▶ Journal publisher ▶ URL (online journals) ▶ Content access ▶ Presence of peer review policy ▶ Contact details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Scholarly content ▶ Article titles and article abstracts in English ▶ Bibliographic information in roman script ▶ Clarity of language ▶ Timeliness and/or publication volume ▶ Website functionality/journal format ▶ Presence of ethics statements ▶ Editorial affiliation details ▶ Author affiliation details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Editorial board composition ▶ Validity of statements ▶ Peer review ▶ Content relevance ▶ Grant support details ▶ Adherence to community standards ▶ Author distribution ▶ Appropriate citations to the literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Comparative citation analysis ▶ Author citation analysis ▶ EBM citation analysis ▶ Content significance

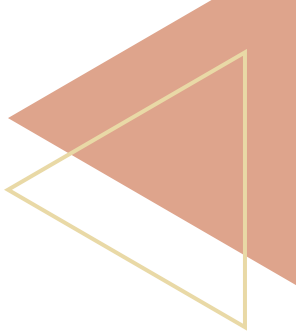
Journal selection criteria – WoS²



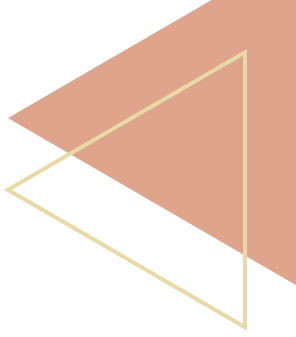
- ▶ Part of the editorial triage:
 - ▷ “**Clarity of Language:** For titles, abstracts, and all other published text presented in English, the language must be clear and comprehensible to a global audience.”

Language quality matters

- ▶ A number of Indonesian journals application to Scopus were rejected based on poor English.
- ▶ Poor language is one of the top causes of manuscript being rejected, even before peer review phase.^{3,4}

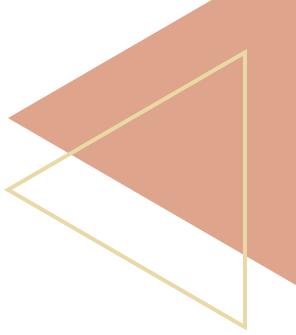


Language quality matters



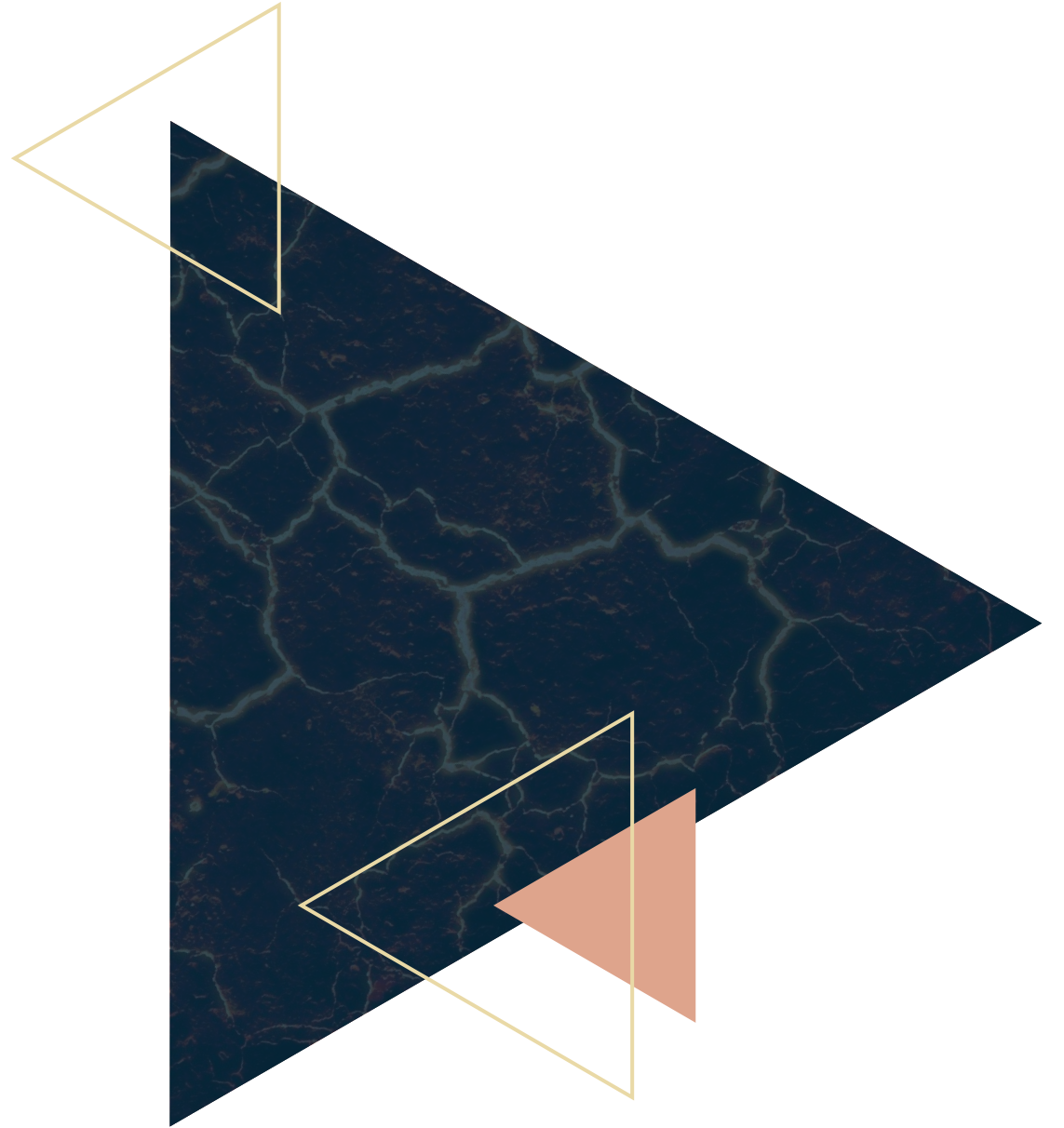
- ▶ Readability is one of the requirements.
 - ▷ Readability means how easy for an article to understand = language + presentation.
- ▶ Poor readability indicates poor editorial process.

Pitfalls in Indonesian writing



- ▶ **Indonenglish.**
- ▶ Sprawling sentences (i.e. sentences that never end or contain too many clauses).
- ▶ Either over-confidence or lack thereof.
- ▶ Masking bad writing with big words.
- ▶ Sloppy use of terminology.
- ▶ Basic errors (using the wrong noun/verb/adjective; mistranslating).

Common problems



“The English is good enough;
an editor is not necessary.”

Truth:

- ▶ Complacency.
- ▶ Lack of self-awareness.

“A grammar checker is sufficient
to perfect the English.”


Truth:

- ▶ Correct grammar and spelling does not guarantee correct meaning.

“I’ll just use Google Translate.

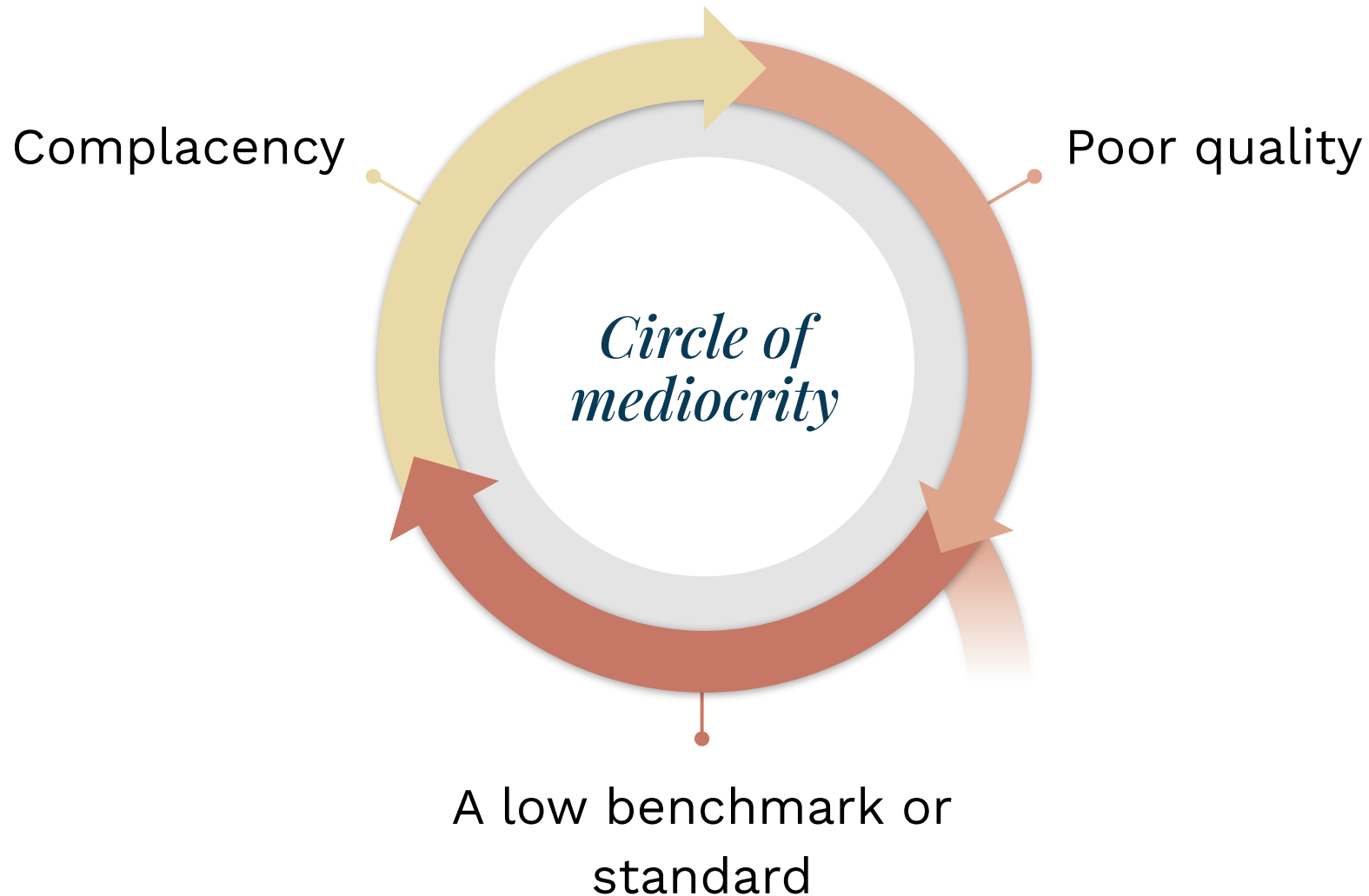
Truth:

- ▶ This only works if you already write well in Indonesian.
- ▶ You have to trust that the program won’t make a mistake.



Getting trapped in the
circle of mediocrity

The circle of mediocrity



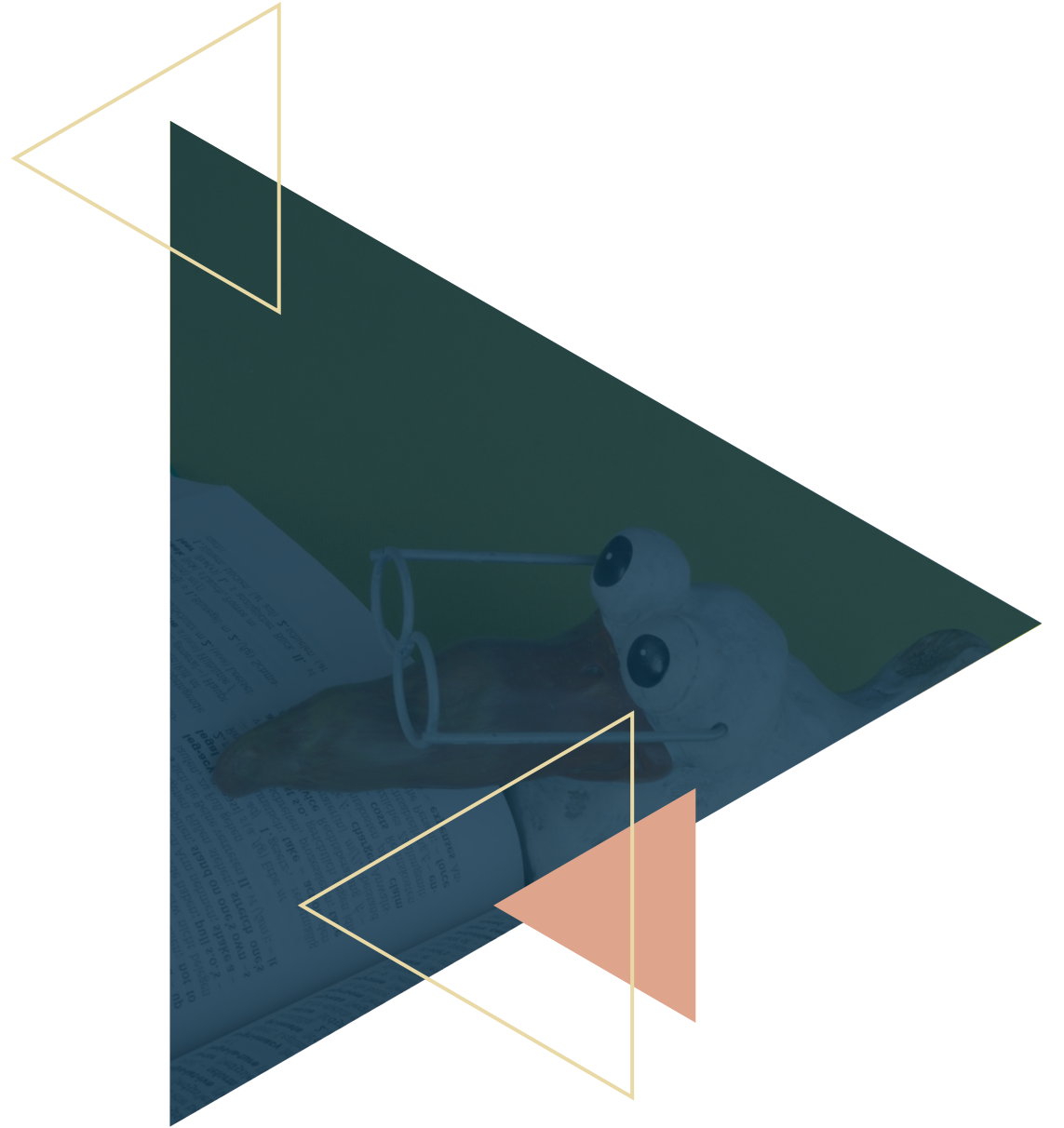


But...



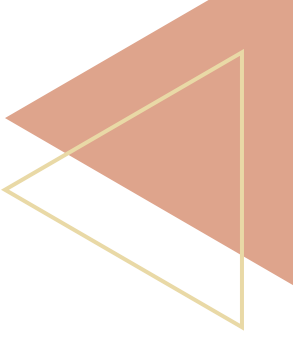
What happens to being a
WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY!?

Myths in language editing



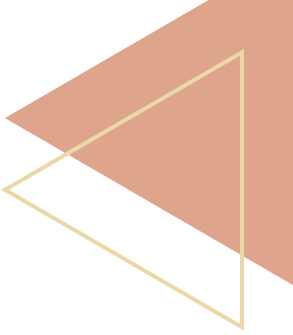
Myth #1

- ▶ Any native speaker can be a good writer or editor.
- ▶ **Fact:**
 - ▶ Being a native speaker does not mean you've mastered a language.



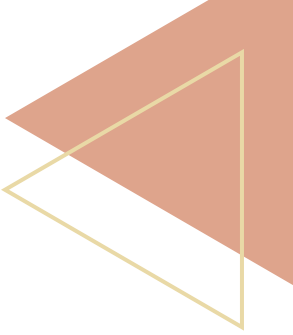
Myth #2

- ▶ Anyone who edits your manuscript must also have a degree in your field.
- ▶ **Facts:**
 - ▷ It's a luxury, not a requirement.
 - ▷ Great scientist \neq great writer \neq great editor.
 - ▷ Scientific accuracy of your paper should be your own (and co-authors') responsibility.



Myth #3

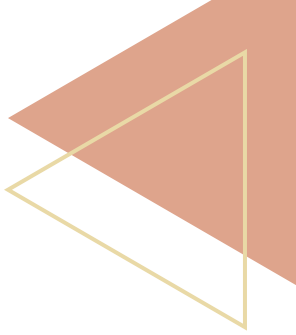
- ▶ Shortcomings in writing can be easily fixed using grammar checker software (e.g. Grammarly, ProWritingAid).
- ▶ **Facts:**
 - ▷ These programs suggest changes and rely on the user to decide if the change is appropriate.
 - ▷ If you don't understand why a change is necessary, you can end up approving mistakes.





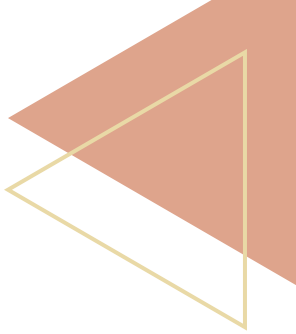
This is why copyediting
needs a skillful editor!

The reality of editing



- ▶ A good language editor is someone who:
 - ▷ Has mastered their language.
 - ▷ (Regardless of whether they are a native speaker or not.)
 - ▷ Is good at writing, but also able to analyze someone else's writing.
 - ▷ Doesn't only fix grammatical errors, but helps you refine your voice as an author.

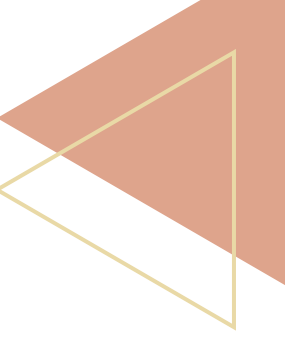
Excuses for not hiring an editor

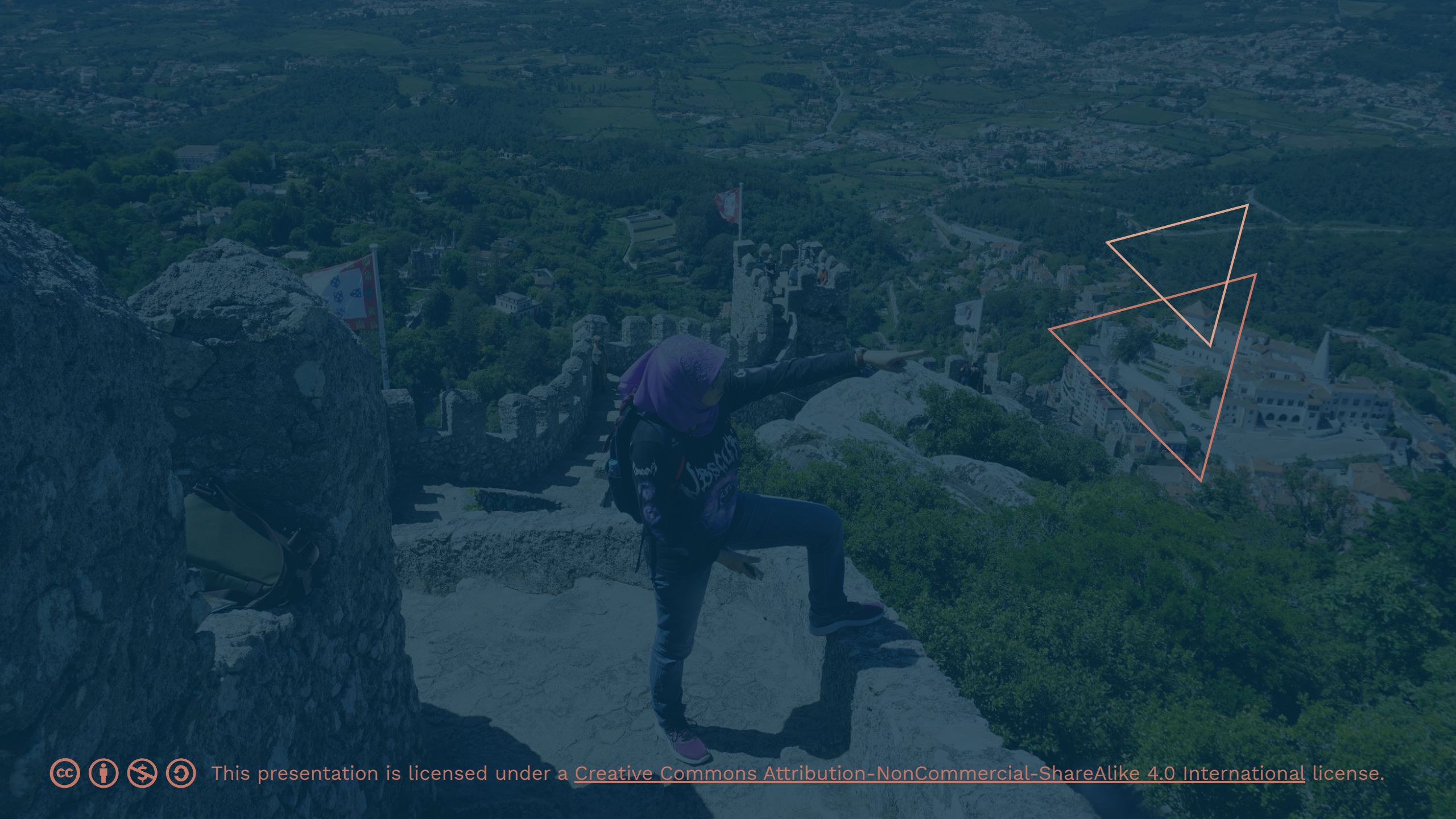


- ▶ These are valid reasons for not hiring an editor:
 - ▷ Limited funding.
 - ▷ Limited manpower.
 - ▷ Limited connections (no good editor is available).
- ▶ These are **not** valid reasons:
 - ▷ Limited time.
 - ▷ “The English is good enough.”

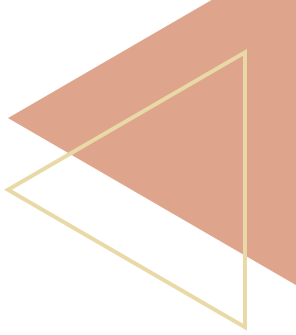
Solutions?

- ▶ See part two of this workshop!



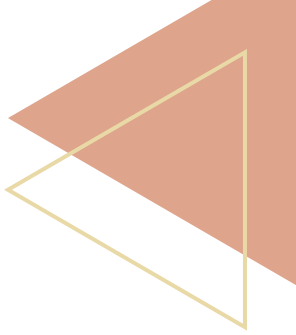


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