Copyediting

From the journal editor's perspective

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Journal selection criteria – Scopus[1]

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
• ISSN • Journal title • Journal publisher • URL (online journals) • Content access • Presence of peer review policy • Contact details	• 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	• Editorial board composition • Validity of statements • Peer review • Content relevance • Grant support details • Adherence to community standards • Author distribution • Appropriate citations to the literature	• 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]

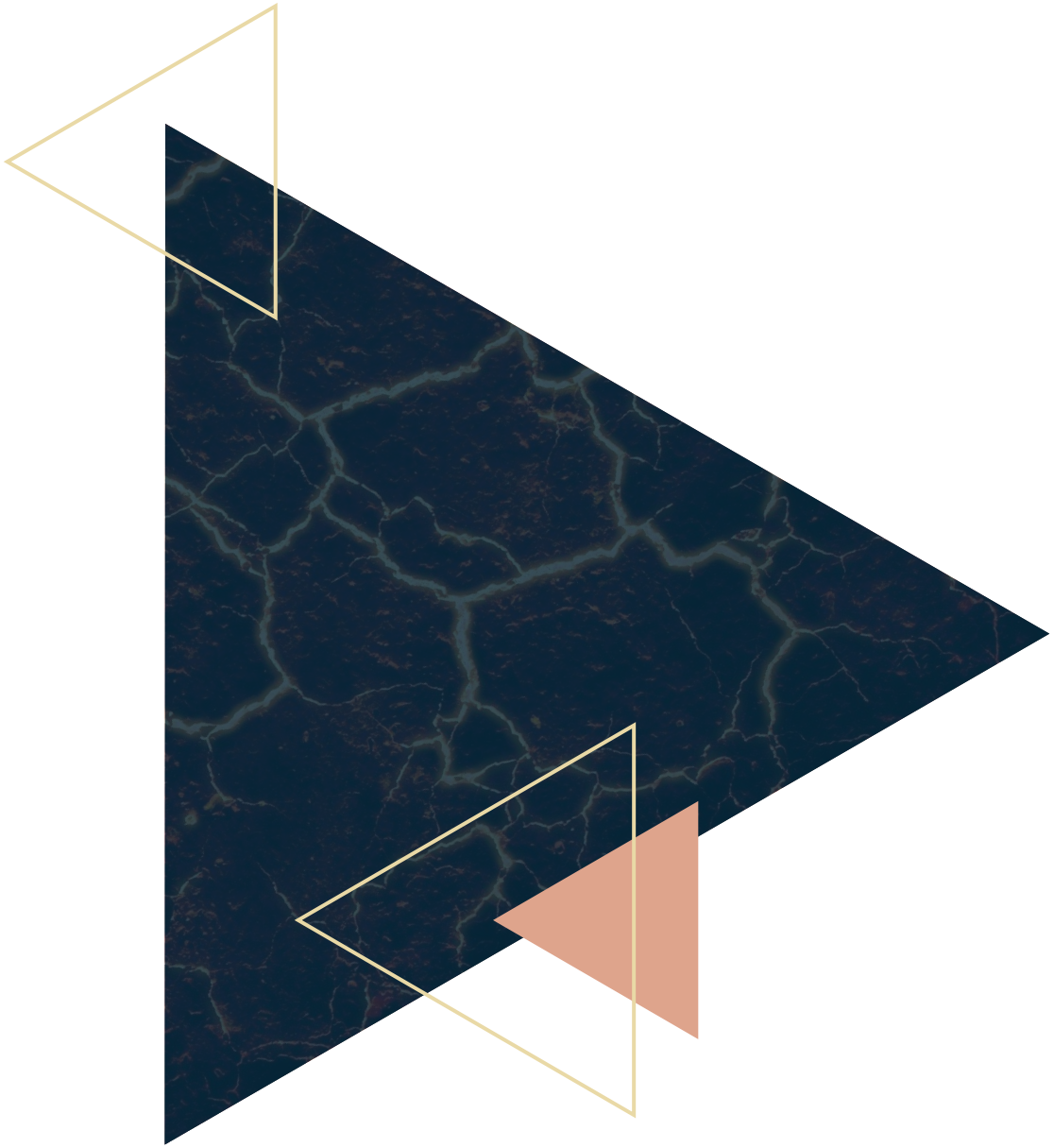
Language quality matters

- 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.

Truth:

- Complacency
- Lack of self-awareness

“Using a grammar checker can fix all mistakes.

Truth:

- Correct grammar and spelling does not guarantee correct meaning.

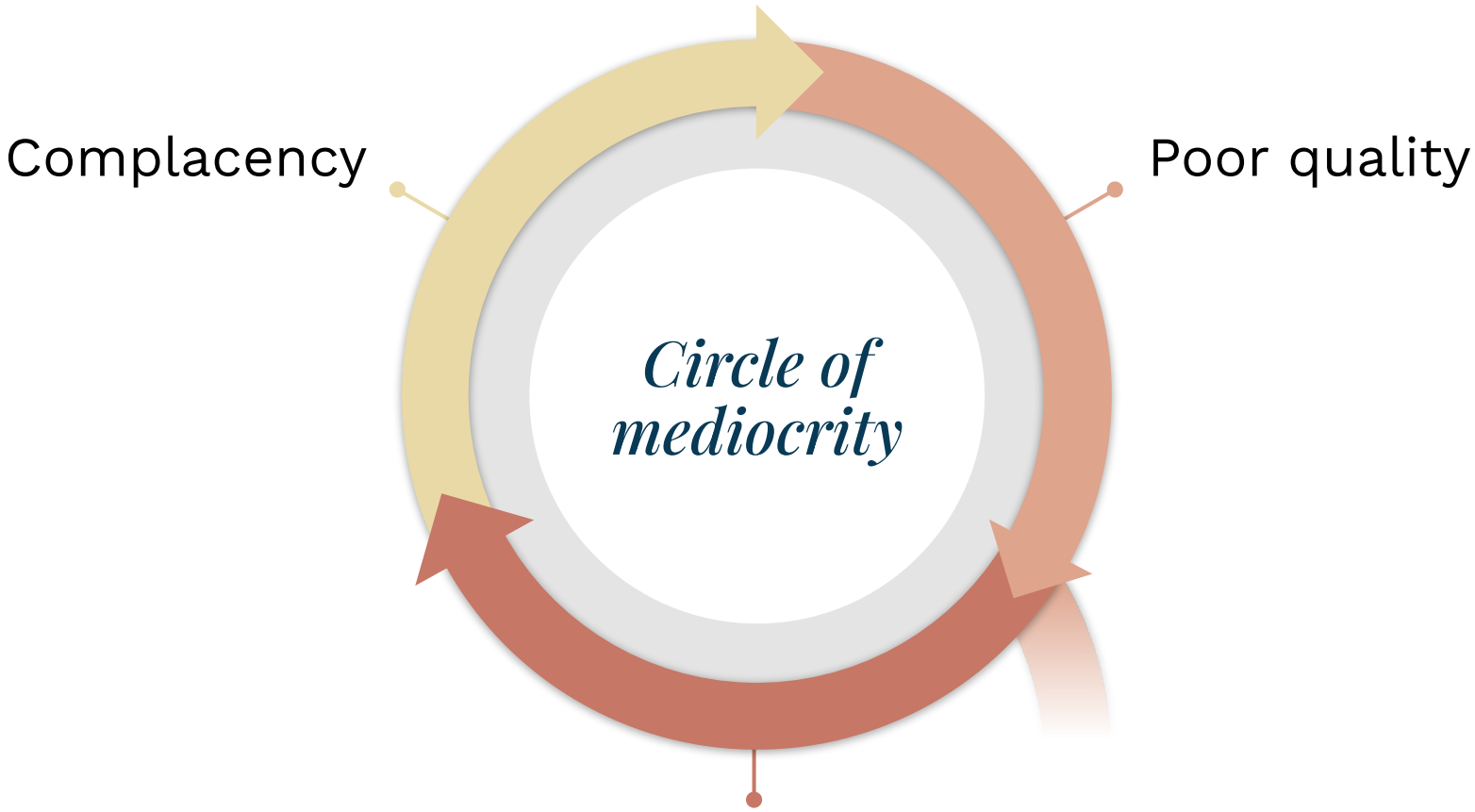
“Google Translate is as good as an editor/proofreader.

Truth:

- It 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

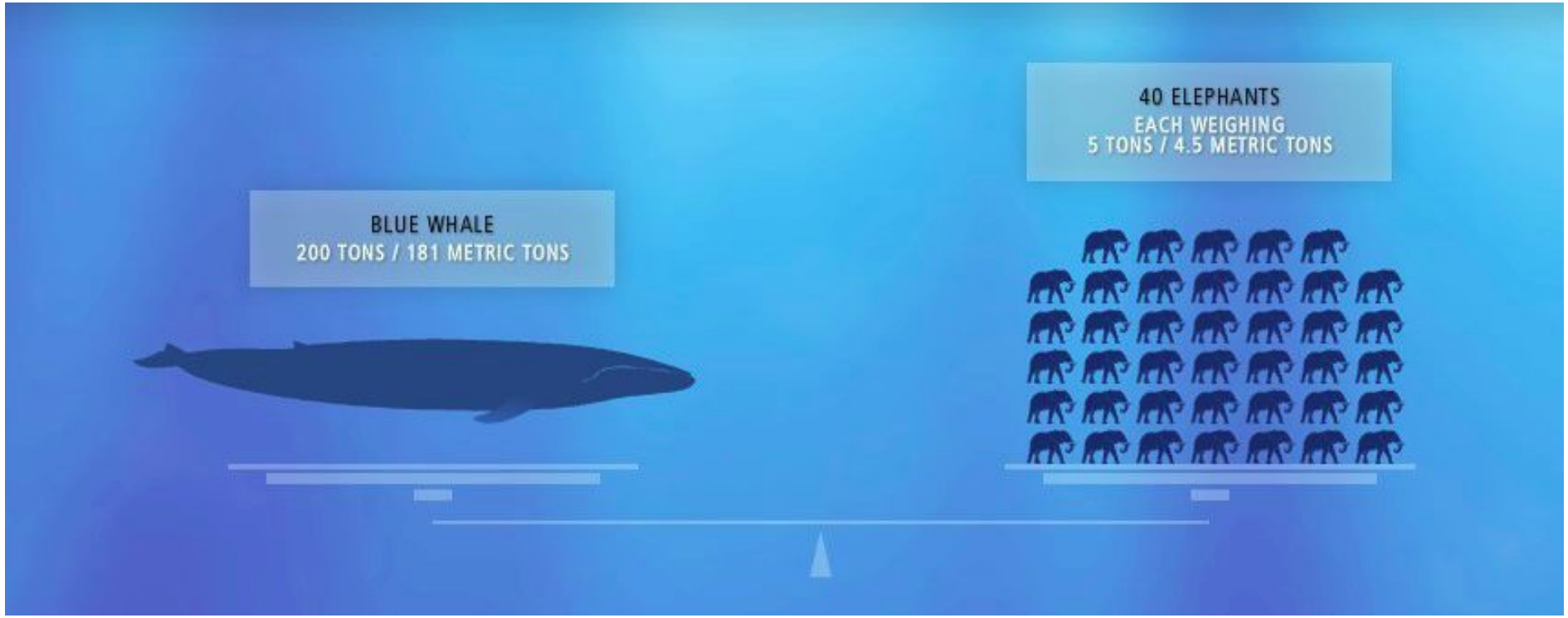
The circle of mediocrity



But...

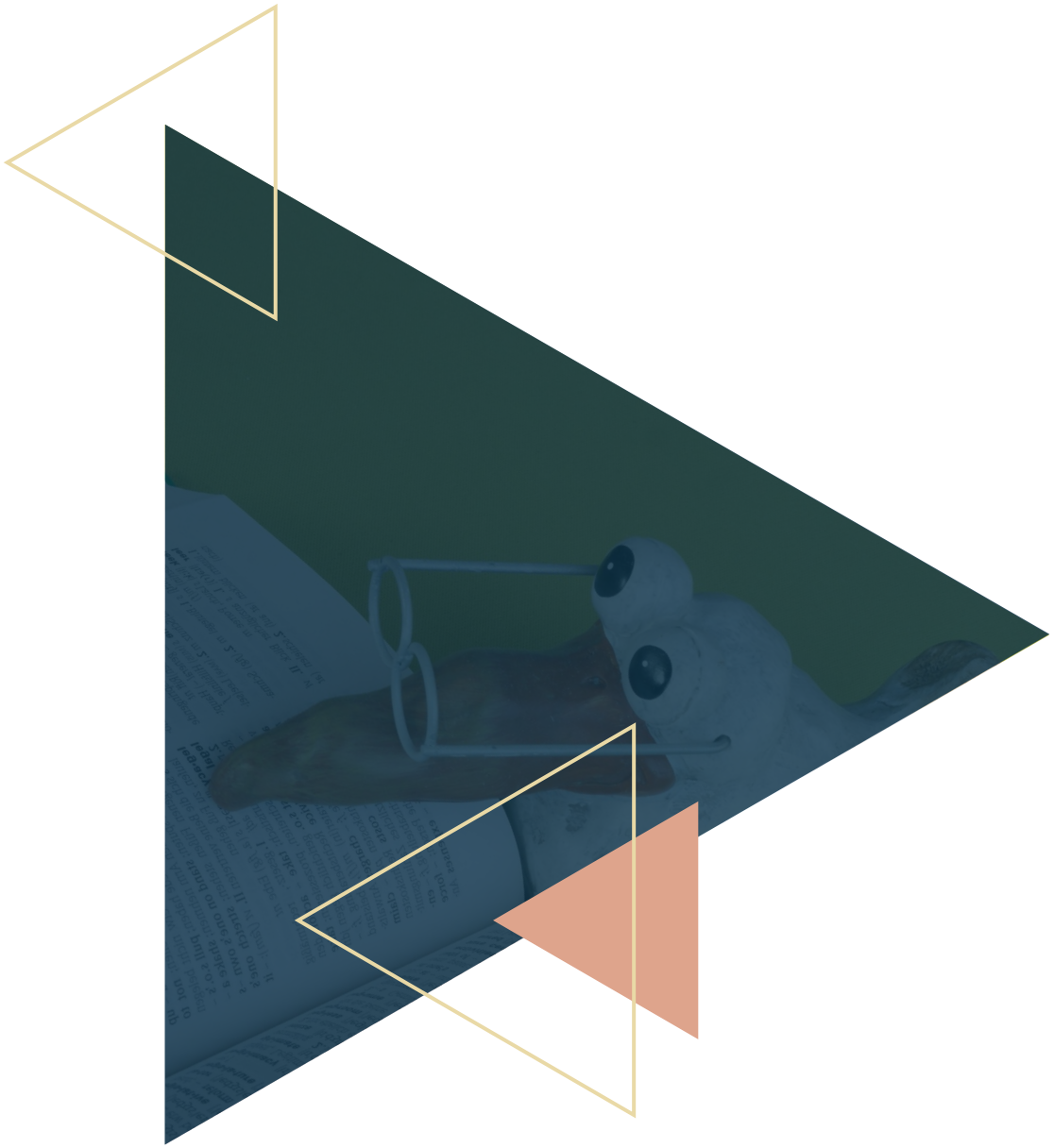
What happens to being a WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY!?

The importance of setting a standard



- Identify the highest standard in the field; strategize, aiming for incremental improvement.

Myths in language editing



Myth #1

- As long as someone is a native speaker, they can be a language editor.

- **Fact:**
  - Being a native speaker does not mean you've mastered a language.

Myth #2

- A language editor for a manuscript HAS TO HAVE A DEGREE in the related field.

- **Facts:**
  - Great scientist =/= great writer =/= great editor.
  - Scientific accuracy of your paper should be your own (and co-authors') responsibility.

The reality of editing

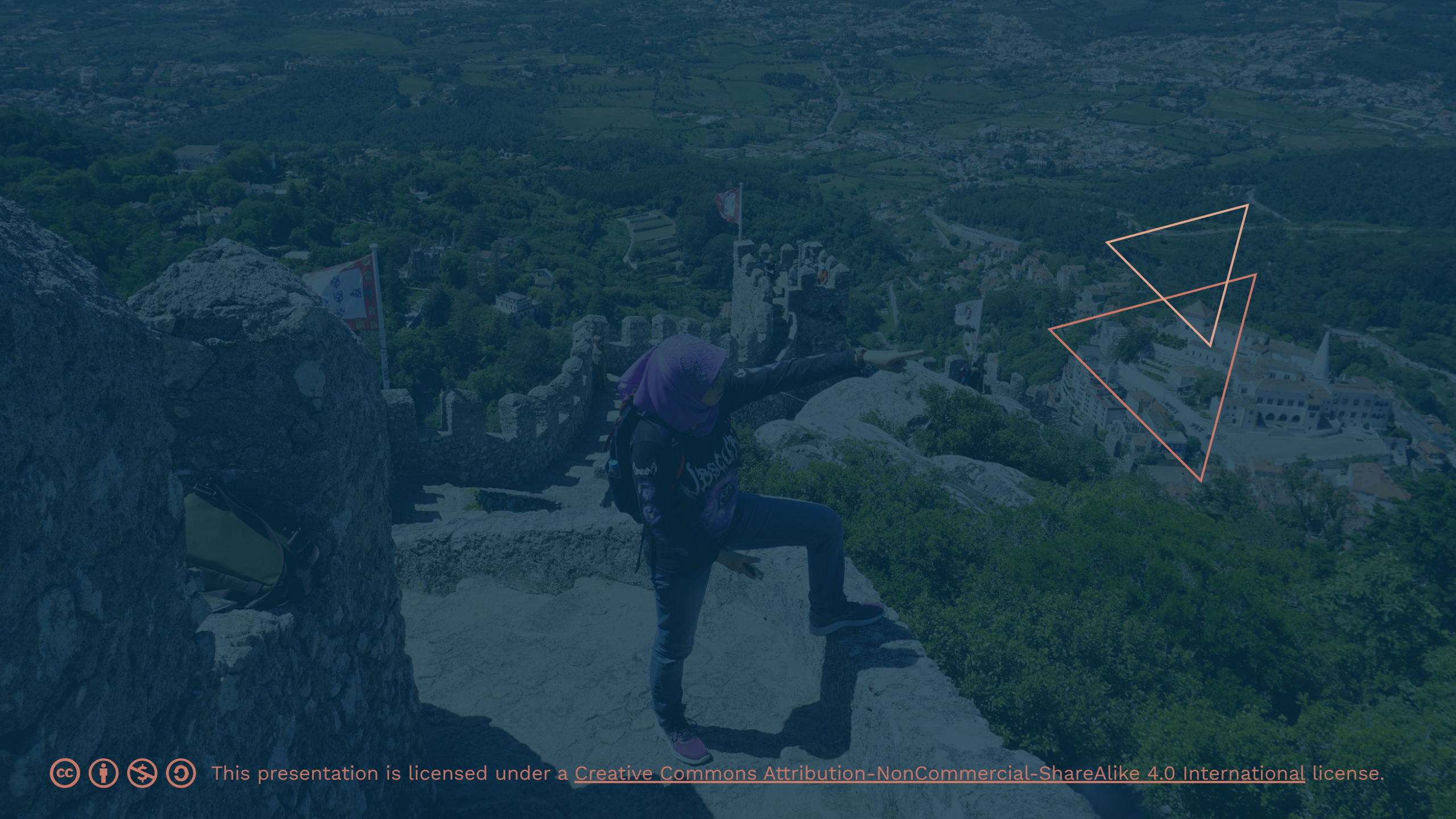
- A good language editor is someone who:
  - Has mastered their language.
    - (Regardless of whether they are a native speaker or not.)
  - Is good at writing, but also able to analyze someone else's writing.
  - Doesn't only fix grammatical errors, but helps you refine your voice as an author.

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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