

## Substantive Editing Example

*An extract from an MA Anthropology thesis written in British English.*

This chapter ~~will discuss~~ the theory ~~which that~~ will be used to ~~analyse~~ the data that I collected over three months of field research in Tongo and Bolgatanga in the ~~Upper East R~~region of Ghana. ~~Firstly~~, the concept of 'waste management' ~~will be~~ discussed. ~~Due to T~~the rampant amount of plastic waste ~~that is~~ scattered throughout the environment of ~~T~~tongo, ~~the inhabitants~~ ~~experience a nuisance as the pollution is seen as 'dirty' and it negatively~~ affects ~~their the~~ agriculture and livestock ~~of the inhabitants~~. Although there ~~is are~~ waste management companies present in Tongo, the desired effectiveness and villager participation ~~is are~~ not maintained. ~~With~~ ~~In this this conceptthesis~~, I ~~will~~ aim ~~at identifying to identify~~ some of the factors and limitations ~~which that can~~ influence the waste management of plastic in particular. ~~Inspired by~~ Ferguson's (1999) ~~his~~ conception of cultural styles, I ~~will~~ discuss the concept of "practical knowledge" as a different point of view through which other waste management strategies can be conceived, outside of institutional frameworks. Based on informant perceptions, there is a clear demand for a more practical approach towards the alleviation of plastics waste, as ~~also~~ this has ~~also~~ proven ~~an~~ effective ~~regarding solution for~~ other kinds of waste, ~~like such as~~ scrap metal. ~~Practical knowledge~~ represents a wide array of practical skills and acquired intelligence ~~in for~~ responding to a ~~constantly~~ changing natural and human environment, with emphasis on ~~having~~ the capability to adapt successfully to a constantly shifting situation and on the capacity to understand the situation (Scott, 1998). ~~Here~~, I would like to pose that ~~style isn't is~~ ~~not~~ necessarily a practical kind of 'knowing how' in the social sense, as put by Ferguson (1999; 98), but as a ~~style~~ of 'knowing how' regarding material and environmental practicality. Finally, I ~~will~~ take a closer look at the concept of collective action. ~~The pollution of plastic waste~~Plastic waste pollution is really widespread throughout the world, considering ~~the garbage patches in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the~~ plastic waste in the Upper East ~~Region and in~~ Africa as a ~~wholecontinent~~, ~~and also the infamous garbage patches in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans that~~ ~~Each~~ confronts us with our waste management ~~behaviour~~ as a species. Even when people are ~~well~~ aware and well-educated about the dangers of plastic and ~~the need to adhering to~~ waste management strategies, there ~~are~~ still ~~are~~ factors that diminish our ~~capabilities~~ ~~capability~~ ~~for to~~ acting collectively in order to achieve ~~+~~ greater effectiveness. This holds ~~true for on~~ levels ranging from the supranational to the local. Considering this, I discuss what factors limit collective action ~~at the local scale~~.

**Commented [PV1]: GR:** It would be better to use present tense here: "This chapter discusses...". In an introduction to a thesis it is fine to use the future tense, but as you are discussing the chapter content and your research, the future tense is not necessary. We have made the necessary changes throughout the rest of the paragraph.

**Commented [CR-J2]: SP:** I have changed this to British spelling, which uses "s" rather than "z".

**Commented [CR-J3]: TF:** The signposting needs correcting in this paragraph. You mention "firstly" and "finally" but do not mention "secondly".

**Commented [PV4]: GR:** Make sure you capitalise place names (proper nouns).

**Commented [PV5]: WC:** Perhaps you could use "Drawing inspiration from Ferguson's (1999) conception of..." "Ferguson his conception" is a Dutchism. You should use the possessive form instead: "Ferguson's".

**Commented [CR-J6]: CC:** Since you have used single quotation marks throughout the rest of your thesis, this should also be in single quotation marks. This is also generally preferred in British English.

**Commented [CR-J7]: PT:** The semi-colon was used incorrectly here, so I have replaced it with a comma.

**Commented [PV8]: PC:** There are a few reasons why this would be a good place to start a new paragraph:

1. You are introducing a new point.
2. This paragraph is also quite long, so it would be more digestible to read if it were split into two. (... [1])

**Commented [CR-J9R8]:** Following on from my previous comment regarding signposting, it would be better to re (... [2])

**Commented [CR-J10]: LR:** You have used "constantly" twice in this sentence. Perhaps you could use, for instan (... [3])

**Commented [CR-J11]: CC/ST:** "Here" is perhaps too ambiguous in the sentence and "I would like to pose..." (... [4])

**Commented [PV12]: CC:** Later on in this sentence, you only use italics and not bold when referring to "style". (... [5])

**Commented [PV13]: GR:** You should avoid using contractions in academic or formal writing.

**Commented [CR-J14]: CC:** Is "98" referring to a publication year or page number? Please check the citat (... [6])

**Commented [CR-J15]: WC:** This is a weak word to use in academic writing. You can better use "significantly".

**Commented [PV16]: GR:** As you mention two oceans, you need to use the plural form.

**Commented [CR-J17]: CSP:** I have changed this to British spelling, which uses "-our" as opposed to "-or".

**Commented [CR-J18]: Or:** "the necessity of adhering to..."

**Commented [CR-J19]: CC:** You mention "levels" in the previous sentence, so you should decide on which you (... [7])

**Abbreviations:** SP = Spelling, PT = Punctuation, GR = Grammar, WC = Word Choice (lexis), ST = Style & Tone, CC = Clarity & Consistency, LR = Language & Readability, TF = Transition & Flow, and PC = Paragraph Construction.

**Page 1: [1] Commented [PV8] Priya Visavadia 29/12/2020 11:03:00**

**PC:** There are a few reasons why this would be a good place to start a new paragraph:

1. You are introducing a new point.
2. This paragraph is also quite long, so it would be more digestible to read if it were split into two.
3. This sentence works well as a topic sentence.

**Page 1: [2] Commented [CR-J9R8] Charlie Robinson-Jones 29/12/2020 13:00:00**

Following on from my previous comment regarding signposting, it would be better to remove “firstly” and “finally” should you choose to split this into two paragraphs. Please get in touch if you have any questions about this.

**Page 1: [3] Commented [CR-J10] Charlie Robinson-Jones 29/12/2020 12:54:00**

**LR:** You have used "constantly" twice in this sentence. Perhaps you could use, for instance, "ever-changing" instead?

**Page 1: [4] Commented [CR-J11] Charlie Robinson-Jones 29/12/2020 12:55:00**

**CC/ST:** "Here" is perhaps too ambiguous in the sentence and "I would like to pose..." may be interpreted as quite a weak assertion. To improve this, I would consider changing it to, for example, "In the context of this thesis, style is not..."

**Page 1: [5] Commented [PV12] Priya Visavadia 29/12/2020 10:58:00**

**CC:** Later on in this sentence, you only use italics and not bold when referring to “style”. Try to be consistent. I would opt for italics only.

**Page 1: [6] Commented [CR-J14] Charlie Robinson-Jones 29/12/2020 12:55:00**

**CC:** Is “98” referring to a publication year or page number? Please check the citation style you are using to see if this is formatted correctly.

**Page 1: [7] Commented [CR-J19] Charlie Robinson-Jones 29/12/2020 12:55:00**

**CC:** You mention "levels" in the previous sentence, so you should decide on which you prefer to use to avoid any possible confusion. If you prefer to use "level", it should be written as "on the local level".