

Maintaining and Utilizing English in Finland

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... for good reasons →





Duke University, pre-medical BSc
qualified for Duke Medical School –\$
Research in biology/medicine, 3 years

As a writer → MA, MA, PhD in English
(on the physician in modern literature)
Teacher of writing, USA, 7 years

University of Helsinki, 32 years

Writing-course book & article on voice:
[www.helsinki.fi/kksc/language.services/](http://www.helsinki.fi/kksc/language.services/AcadWrit.pdf)
AcadWrit.pdf

http://www.ease.org.uk/pdfese/ESE_feb11.pdf

32 years here, many Finnish courses, but
poor Finnish **strong English**

Language of the home: English

No children

Little contact with Finnish-only speakers

!

Constant English input: radio, TV, smart phone

Yes, long-time residents here lose idiomatic English

. . . because

Finnish is logical.

English is illogical

. . . for good historical reasons

Oral: Deep puddle, syvä or syövä (vowel-length).

. . . **on** the end of the sentence. **At** the end of it all

. . . **at / in** the end of June

The figure is **in** the order of **On** the order of

General consideration**S**, association guideline**S**,
Equipments, advices, informations, researches?

Our study involved treatment **for / of / on / in** patients

Countries **like / as** Spain, Italy . . .

Such as

Worth of . . .

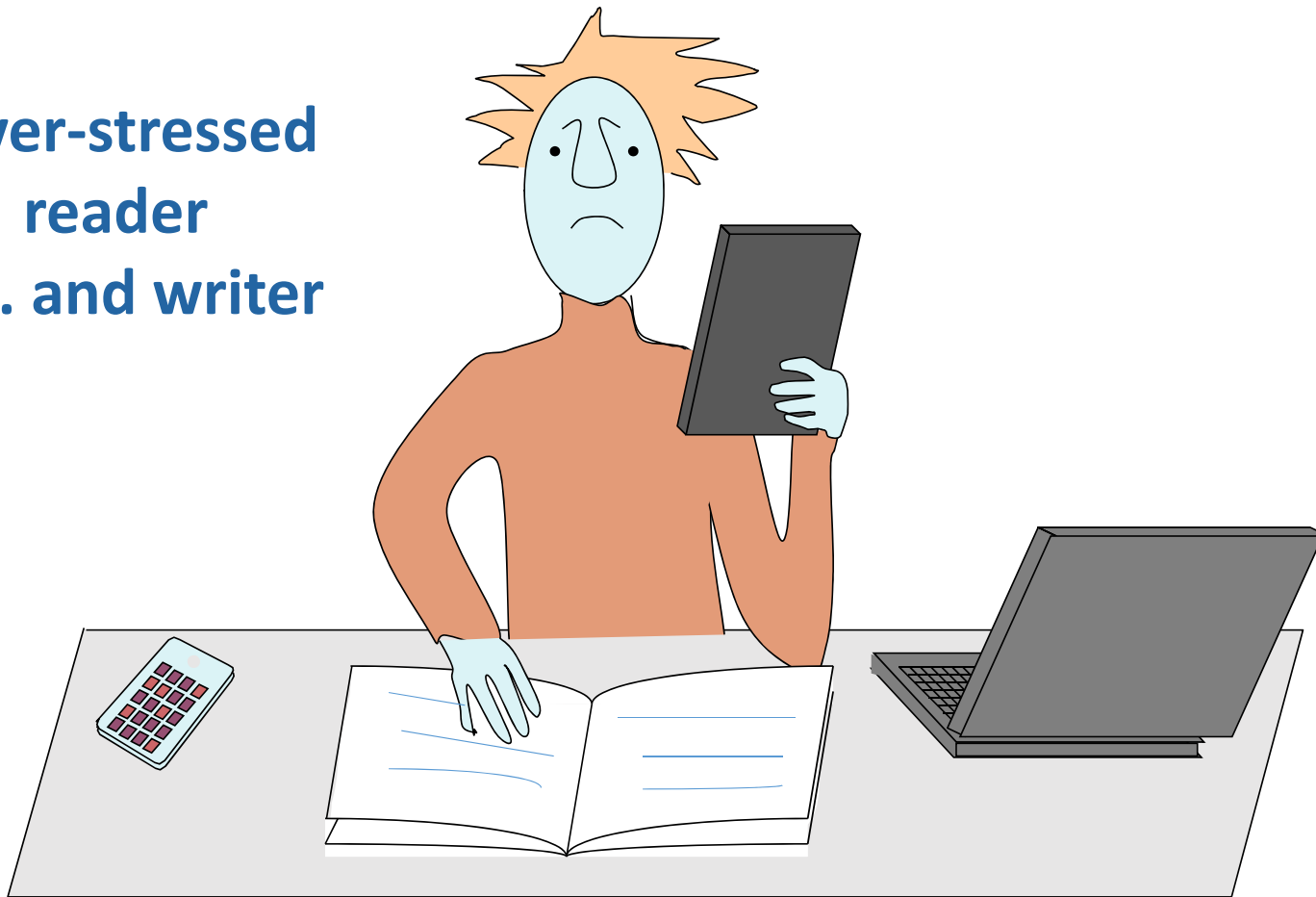
Worthy of (consideration) **mated with** worth doing

The pieces are falling **in line / falling into place?**

. . . Get **in** line? We waited **on** line?

In / On the course?

**Over-stressed
reader
... and writer**

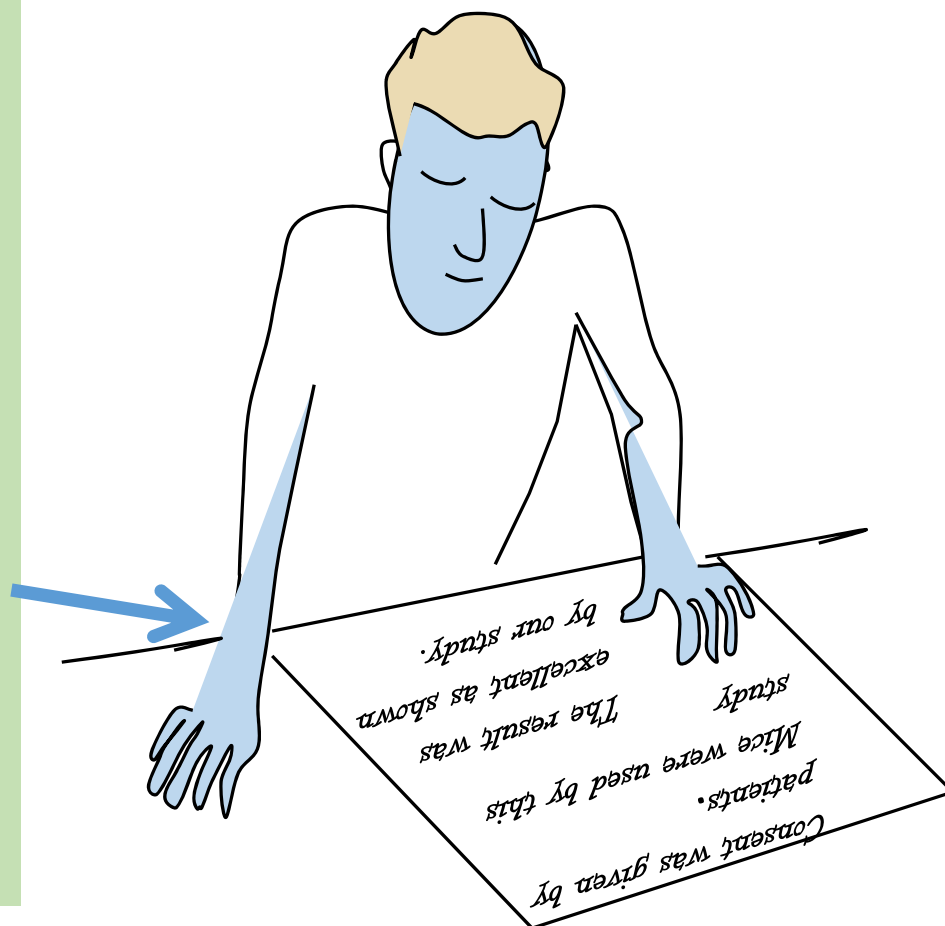


Aiding readers by solving writers' problems

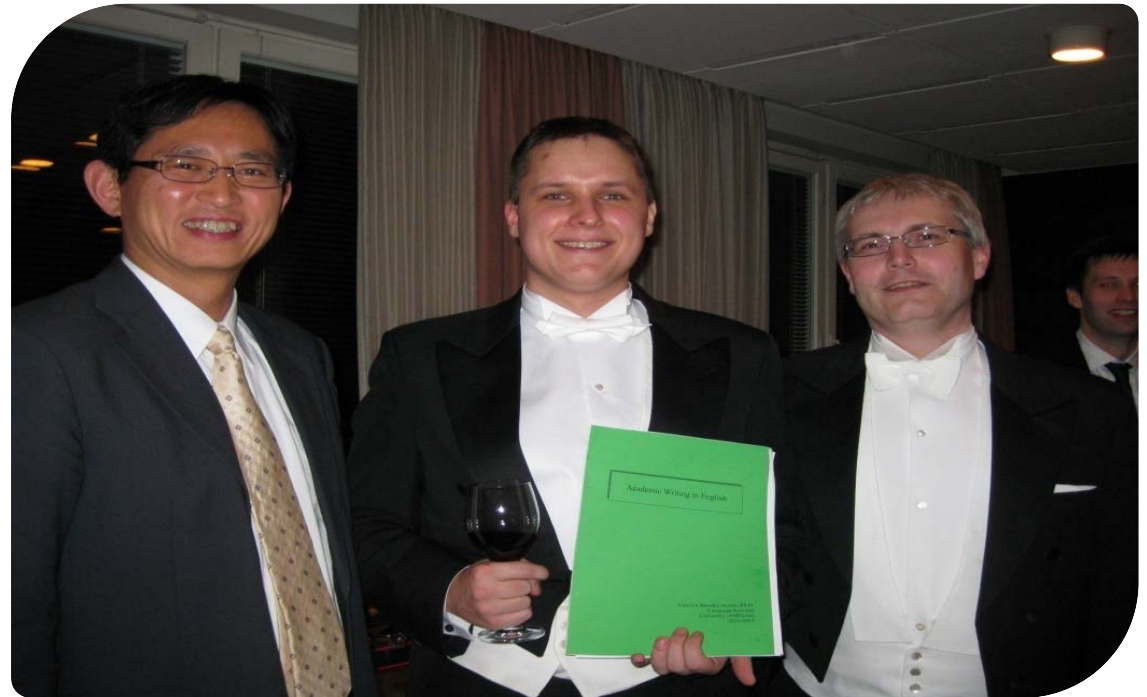
No translating
As if speaking,
not writing,
trust your ear . . .

rapidly

...THROW words down
on paper
Your OWN words only!



From first words on paper. . . to journal publications & a PhD



**Opponent Dr. Ken Suzuki, London
Antti Siltanen, PhD, 2011 (with course-book)
Thesis director Esko Kankuri, MD, PhD, U. Helsinki**

Chief problems for all writers

Poor
organization

Plagiarism:
Intentional?
Accidental?

Writer's
Block

Choppiness

Grammar
Punctuation
Spelling

Wordiness
↓
overlength



- 1 As yet, this conclusion is completely devoid of evidence.**
- 2 No evidence supports this conclusion yet/as yet.**
- 3 No previous evidence supports this conclusion.**
- 4 No evidence has yet supported this conclusion.**
- 5 Research has thus far failed to find any evidence for this conclusion.**
- 6 Research has found no evidence yet to support this conclusion.**
- 7 This conclusion remains as yet unsupported/unconfirmed.**
- 8 This conclusion has not yet been supported by any evidence.***
- 9 This conclusion is still unsupported by any evidence. ***
- 10 This conclusion still lacks support by any evidence.**

- 11 This conclusion still lacks any supporting evidence.**
- 12 This conclusion has not yet received support from any evidence.***
- 13 This conclusion still is/remains unsupported/unconfirmed.**
- 14 This conclusion has as yet no evidence to support it.**
- 15 This conclusion has never been supported. ***
- 16 Thus far, no evidence supports this conclusion.**
- 17 Thus far, this conclusion has no supporting evidence.**

- 18 To support this conclusion, no evidence (as) yet exists.**
- 19 We have found no evidence to support this conclusion.**
- 20 We cannot yet support this conclusion by any evidence.**

My collection of slips by Finns

- 1. The other surgeon was delayed, but the other arrived.**
- 2. Paragraph-section-chapter**
- 3. Golden standard, ethical committee**
- 4. We controlled the patients for six months.**
- 5. Every sixth patient underwent curative surgery.**
- 6. 56 %, 3.000 euros, P = 0,02**
- 7. We plan to participate your conference.**
- 8. John Smith and her group authored this.**
- 9. I will describe shortly our procedures. . . .**
- 10. A book on their so-called system is in print.**

1. **One** surgeon was late, but the other arrived.
(“Other” always means one of TWO items.)
2. Paragraph on a **page**, section of an **article**, **book** chapter
3. Gold (**economics term**) standard, ethics (**no angels**) committee
4. Control (**force, handcuff**) vs monitor, follow up
5. One woman **in six / one-sixth** of the women; **17%**
6. 6 % → **6%**, 3.000 → **3,000 /3 000** euros, P = 0,02 → **0.02**
7. We plan to **participate IN** your conference.
8. John [surely male] Smith and **HIS** group authored this.
9. I will describe **BRIEFLY**-- “Shortly” = **after a short time/after**.
10. A report on their ~~so-called~~ [**insulting**] system is **IN PRESS** = forthcoming; “in print” = **being sold**; not out of print.

Reviser or editor?

Is length an issue?

Publisher states maximum or preferred length?

The **8, 8, 16** mantra

Goals: conciseness . . . and also **elegance**?

Journal / book / document reputation
associated with **high-quality** writing?

Process Writing produces

Publishable-quality text by gradual stages:

FIRST DRAFT: “*Talk*” the text to yourself (Trust your **EAR!**)

“**Write long**” in many words

(deletion is easy; addition is hard)

Much **repetition**

Short, speech-like sentences

“There is / are / was / were”

Simple verbs “be, have, see, get, find out”

Choice of final (end-focus) word (the “pearl”)

- The “who,” “when,” “where” --→ vital “what”
- “What” depends on choice of link to what follows.

Results may be extraordinary, as shown by our study.

Hidden “pearl” ↑ & ↑ weak passive ending

→ As shown by our study, results may be extraordinary.

Then, ↓ with inanimate agent & pearl ↓ as end-focus

Our study shows that results may be extraordinary. One benefit will be economic.

Another hidden pearl & final dull passive (10 words):

There were not any subjects with TB who were included.

No subjects (included) had TB. This disease is lethal.

LATER DRAFTS: *Polish* the text

Join sentences or **embed** short sentences

(Short sentences for important information)

Eliminate **EVERY** *excess, wasted word*

“For the purpose of finding out” → “*to discover*”

Specific verbs

“find out” → “*learn, identify, explore*”

Use **ACTIVE inanimate agent (non-thinking actor)**

“as shown by this study” → “as this *study showed*”

Spoken → written language

“There were 60 persons present in the group” →

“The group comprised sixty/60 individuals.”

“*Those comprising* the group numbered 60.”

Fake issue: passive vs "we" & "I"

In 2015, a Toronto, Canada, journal-clarity study
(*in European Science Editing*) offered us TWO choices:

"Data were analyzed" vs "We analyzed data"
the only two choices? ALL data → analysis!

Third option, inanimate agent:

"Analysis of the data showed / indicated / revealed
/ suggested"

Active voice = more information coming faster

...suggested that adults who were only children would be permitted to have two kids—but of the 11 million eligible citizens, only 1.5 million have applied to do so. A poll by China's family-planning commission in 2008 found that just 19% of the people surveyed wanted more than one child.

The reality is that modern China is no different from Japan or South Korea or Germany or Italy—all aging developed countries where the fertility rate is well below the 2.1 births per woman needed to keep a population stable. It's an almost universal phenomenon—as women grow richer, more educated and more urbanized, they choose to have fewer children. Global aging is now a bigger worry than global overpopulation, which is why countries that once pursued population control are now implementing policies meant to increase their birthrates. But it's harder to coerce women into having more children than it is to prevent them—something Chinese officials are about to find out. □

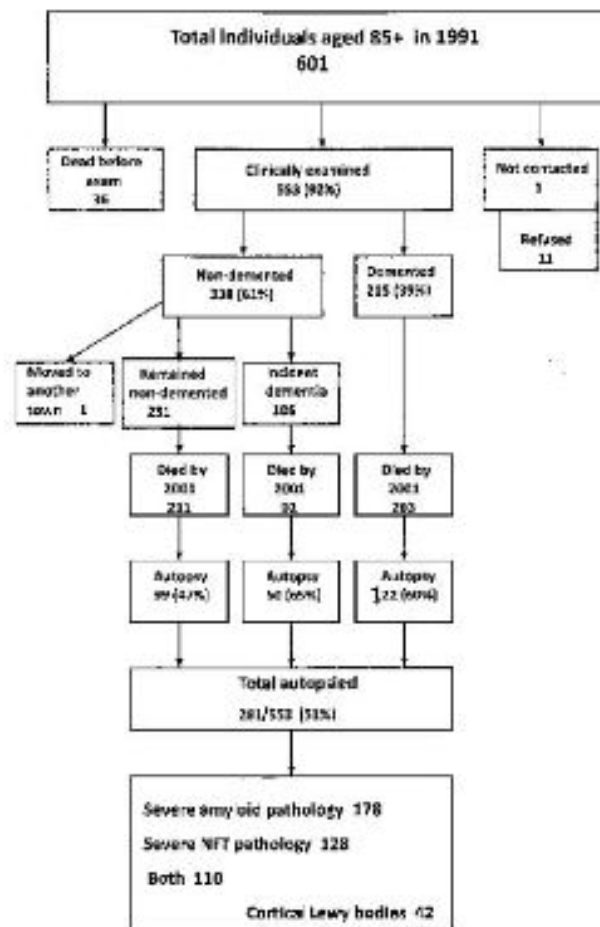
CHARTOON

Grammatical voice

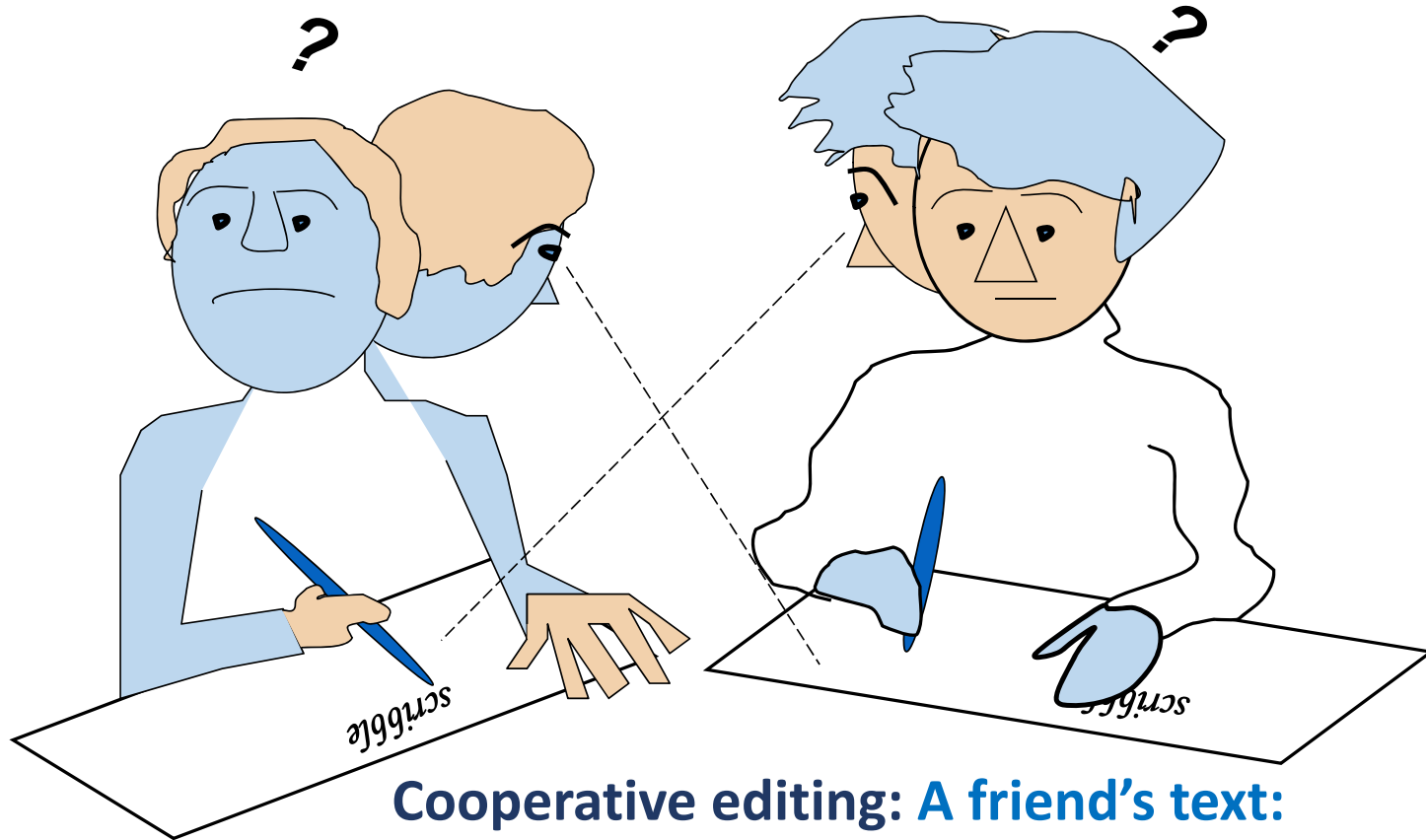


JOHN ATKINSON, WRONG HANDS

To study these Vantaa residents over age 85 in 1991, we recruited 601 individuals. Examinations were clinical and covered 92% of them, of whom 61% were non-demented. Before being examined, 36 died. Those refusing the examination numbered 11, with one not contacted. The demented and non-demented became two groups. Of the 203 demented individuals who died by 2001, 60% had an autopsy. Of the non-demented 61%, one moved away. Of the other 337, 231 remained non-demented. The others showed incident dementia. Of the former, 211 died by 2001, and of the latter, 92. Autopsies numbered 99 (47%) and 60 (65%), respectively. The overall total of autopsies for the 506 who died by 2001 was 281 (51%). Results from the autopsies were the following: cortical Lewy bodies in 42, severe amyloid pathology in 178, severe NFT pathology in 128, and both of the latter in 110.



**MAKE IT
VISIBLE?**



**Cooperative editing: A friend's text:
easier to (help) edit than your own? YES!**



Thank you