

The Editor's Skill in Ensuring Text Perfection

Boyboboyev Hayotjon Abdujabborovich

Independent researcher at Fergana State University

Mo'minov Siddiqjon Mirsobirovich

Doctor of Philology, Professor

Abstract. As is known, editing text before printing is beneficial in all respects. This article describes the essence of text editing, the editor's activities and their role in improving the text, and the important aspects of these processes.

Key words: editing, editorial article, editor, text editing process, approach, manuscript.

In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, the term “editing” (tahrir) is explained as follows:

“Editing – to free; to correct, to act as an editor; to write, to compose a work.

1. Improving a written work or literary piece by making corrections.
2. Writing, creating.”

Additionally, the terms editorial office (tahririyat) and editor (tahrirchi) are also clarified:

- Editorial office (tahririyat) – A department within a publishing organization that manages publishing activities, processes manuscripts for publication, ensures the accuracy of printed texts, and oversees the publishing process. This term also refers to the employees of such a department.
- Editor (tahrirchi) – A person engaged in editing, performing editorial tasks; an editor or proofreader.

From this, it is clear that an editor (muharrir) is a professional who works with editing, directly dealing with texts. Without text, there is no editing.

Editing can be categorized into various types, such as scientific editing, literary editing, technical editing, and responsible editing. Generally, an editor is responsible for improving a text before publication by correcting unclear parts, refining the content, adding clarifications through footnotes, ensuring coherence of ideas, and enhancing grammatical and stylistic accuracy. However, editing does not merely involve correcting errors. An editor must approach each text individually, preserving the author's intended theme, message, and spirit without distorting them. Without fulfilling these requirements, achieving a polished and refined text is impossible.

When preparing any work (text or manuscript) for publication, the role of the editor is crucial. Their work ensures the quality of the publication in every aspect.

An editor:

1. Determines whether a manuscript is suitable for publication, critically evaluates all aspects of the work through discussions with the author, and helps the author eliminate existing deficiencies when necessary.
2. Coordinates, supervises, and assists all staff involved in the publication process while providing recommendations and insights.
3. Gathers, analyzes, and verifies information relevant to the work, ensuring the accuracy of facts that contribute to a well-rounded publication.

A critical approach to a manuscript is one of the most important aspects of editing. In other words, editing involves objectively correcting errors and inconsistencies, verifying factual accuracy, ensuring logical consistency, maintaining lexical and stylistic integrity, and eliminating any ambiguity or redundancy in the text to achieve a high-quality final product.

Thus, text editing is not just about making corrections, shortening passages, or removing content. It also involves supplementing necessary sections, adding clarifications, verifying facts and figures, and finding appropriate sources. Moreover, an editor must consider the target audience's perspective, worldview, intellectual level, and age, ensuring the text is suitable for readers. Therefore, an editor must not only understand linguistic and literary norms but also possess knowledge related to the subject of the text. Otherwise, errors and inconsistencies in the text will remain uncorrected, making the work less understandable and engaging for readers.

Overall, the editing process includes correcting lexical, morphological, syntactic, and stylistic errors, improving textual composition, verifying factual details (such as sources, dates, terminology, numbers, and citations), and refining the text's structure and coherence.

When a manuscript is submitted for publication—whether it is a literary, scientific, or journalistic work—it initially reflects the author's (or authors') worldview, intellectual capacity, and creative abilities. However, in the subsequent stages, professionals such as proofreaders, technical and literary editors, layout designers, and chief editors carefully review and refine the text. Their collective goal is to ensure that the work is published in a well-structured, error-free, and high-quality manner.

An editor must approach the manuscript with a clear objective and work accordingly. This objective varies depending on the genre and target audience. For instance, when editing a children's book, the primary focus is on making the text understandable and engaging for young readers while incorporating moral and educational elements. In contrast, editing a scientific or academic work requires ensuring factual accuracy, logical consistency, awareness of other related sources, and the work's significance for the academic community. Sometimes, it may even involve provoking intellectual debates.

In particular, in mass media—such as newspapers, magazines, and online platforms—the completeness of meaning and content, as well as stylistic and orthographic accuracy, largely depend on the editor's work. It is important to note that electronic publications have a unique advantage over print media: errors, shortcomings, and inaccuracies in published content can be corrected in real time using digital tools.

Let's examine a few examples:

On the news website Qalampir.uz, an article titled "How to Combat Cardiovascular Diseases?" contains several passages that require editing:

1. "Pain often appears in the chest area and extends to the shoulder blade and left arm." In this sentence, the word "extends" could be replaced with "spreads", or the sentence could be rephrased as "Pain is also felt in the shoulder blade and left arm."
2. The article includes the following complex sentence: "Diagnostic methods such as echocardiography, Holter monitoring, treadmill test, MRI, MSCT, endovascular coronary angiography and stenting, electrophysiological studies (EPS) for treating complex arrhythmias

through surgical methods, and aortic coronary bypass surgery are among the techniques used to examine the heart's function, muscle condition, and valves.”

This sentence contains numerous medical terms that only specialists might understand. However, Qalampir.uz is a general news platform intended for a wide audience. Therefore, terms like echocardiography, Holter, treadmill test, MRI, MSCT, endovascular, EPS, arrhythmia, and aortic coronary bypass surgery should be explained within the article or in footnotes.

In conclusion, the essence of text editing is to enhance the quality of a text, making it clear and comprehensible for readers. A well-edited text ensures the intended message reaches the audience effectively. Regardless of the writing style, every text must be refined and perfected before publication. The key tool in this process is literary editing, where the editor's expertise plays a crucial role in achieving textual excellence.

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