Academic Writing: From a paragraph to an extended essay

Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed, Ph.D.
Email:ribut@bsi.uin-malang.ac.id
Disampaikan pada Orientasi Mahasiswa Baru
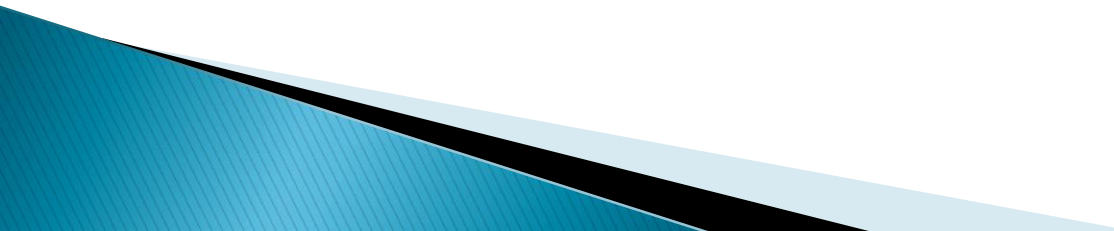Pascasarjana UIN Maliki Malang, 26/11/2018

A paragraph:

- A topic sentence and a controlling idea
- It is a complete sentence
- It has a subject, a verb and (usually) complement
- Supporting sentences
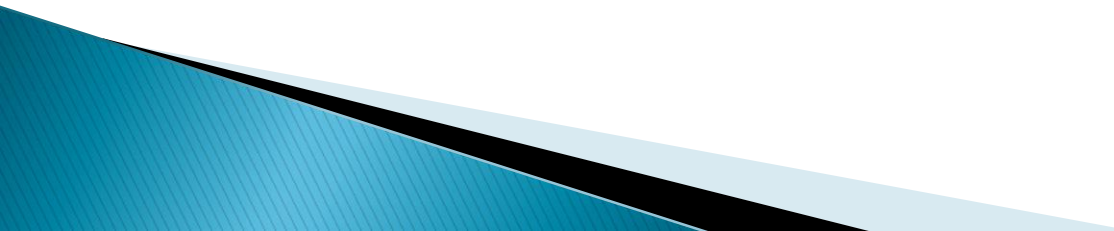- Unity and Coherence

(Source: Oshima & Hogue, 1981).

Example:

- Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. For example, a Macedonian remain as untarnished today as it was minted twenty centuries ago. Another important of characteristic of gold is its utility in industry and science. The most recent application of gold is in astronauts' suits. In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also its utility. (Oshima & Hogue, 1981, pp: 1-2).

A simple essay

- An essay has three main parts:
  - (a) An introductory paragraph
  - (b) A body (two or more) paragraphs
  - (c) A concluding paragraph (Hoge & Oshima, 1983, p.77).

An extended essay

- Assignment e.g. 3500 – 5000 words
- Mini Thesis e.g. Approx. 30.000 words (see Shafira, 2017)
- Thesis = an extended argument (see Kamler & Thomson, 2014).
- PhD thesis e.g. 100.000 words
- All of which have their own specific criteria:

Structure of thesis for Masters

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Findings and discussions
- Conclusions and Recommendations
        (Safira, 2017; see also Blasig, 2017)

References

- Blasig, S. B. (2017). *Does the banking system affect banks' performance? Islamic vs. conventional banking*. University of Twente: Unpublished Thesis.
- Kamler, B. & Thomson, P. (2014). *Helping doctoral students write*. London: Routlege.
- Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. (1981). *Writing Academic Writing*. London/California: Addison Wesley Publishing Company.
- Safira, A. (2017). *Perceptions of Islamic Advertising Held by Indonesian Muslim*. Victoria University of Wellington: Unpublished Thesis.