

Prevalence of Plagiarism in Students Research Papers

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ABSTRACT

Plagiarism becomes an ever more serious problem in the academic community. It is like an infectious disease and can spread rapidly amongst students, if the environment is conducive. The first signs of infection are evident in seminars, where wonderfully prepared slides are displayed (PowerPoint is another great facilitator), without any citation of the source. Plagiarism is therefore the wrongful appropriation, stealing and publication of another Author's language, thoughts, ideas or expressions, and the representation of them as one's own original work. Little research has been done to quantify the prevalence of plagiarism particularly at the advanced graduate education level, Therefore this descriptive study will quantify the amount of plagiarism that existed among 100 doctoral dissertations that were published by institutions granting doctorate degrees through a primarily online format.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Academic, Publication and Stealing.

INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is the act of representing individuals or organization's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own [1]. Such as using information (a paraphrase or quotation, in whole or in part) from a source without attempting to give credit to the author of that source, using charts, illustrations, images, figures, equations, etc., without citing the source, using an academic paper (in whole or in part) purchased or copied from a ghostwriter or paper/essay mill, copyright infringement or piracy, including the use, alteration, or duplication of media, software, code, or information when expressly prohibited or where copyright exists or is implied. To ensure you are not plagiarizing, always cite (document) your sources when you refer to information you learned during your research or study [2]. Even if you've summarized the information or if you've rephrased it into your own words, you still need to cite the source of the information. Plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but like counterfeiting fraud can be punished in a court for prejudices caused by copyright infringement, violation of moral rights, or torts. In academia and industry, it is a

serious ethical offense [3]. Plagiarism and copyright infringement overlap to a considerable extent, but they are not equivalent concepts, and many types of plagiarism do not constitute copyright infringement, which is defined by copyright law and may be adjudicated by courts. Plagiarism might not be the same in all countries. Some countries like India and Poland consider plagiarism to be a crime, and there have been cases of people being imprisoned for plagiarizing. In other instances plagiarism might be the complete opposite of "academic dishonesty," in fact some counties find the act of plagiarizing a professional's work flattering [4]. Students who move to the United States from countries where plagiarism is not frowned upon often find the transition difficult.

Prevalence of plagiarism largely depends on the cultural characteristics of the academic setting and the degree to which plagiarism is implicitly allowed or explicitly accepted in the academic community and wider society. Different societies have different attitudes toward plagiarism. Plagiarism among students is generally considered a less serious form

of misconduct than cheating on exams [5]. Strict rules should exist not only to deter and prevent students and all members of the academic and scientific community from dishonest behaviour, but also to educate them and help them avoid it. Many cases of plagiarism are committed due to the lack of knowledge or lack of consequences for such behaviour. Therefore, the best approach to prevent plagiarism is to educate students and point out the importance of honesty in science and professional work [6]. Students should be acquainted with different forms of breach of scientific and academic integrity, including plagiarism, through examples from the history of science and their awareness should be raised regarding the unacceptability of such behaviour. In order to clearly formulate the rules against plagiarism and develop a system of education based on academic integrity, the prevalence of plagiarism among students and student attitudes toward breaches of academic and scientific integrity should be investigated. Studies on prevalence, causes and attitudes toward plagiarism have been conducted at several European universities and their results are of critical importance for improving education on academic honesty and establishing the proper academic environment [7]. Comparison of the results of these studies performed in different societies may provide a deeper insight into the level of academic integrity in the emerging multicultural European community, which needs to harmonize its standards of education.

Legal Consequences of Plagiarism

Although plagiarism in some contexts is considered theft or stealing, the concept does not exist in a legal sense, although the use of someone else's work in order to gain academic credit may meet some legal definitions of fraud [8]. "Plagiarism" specifically is not mentioned in any current statute, either criminal or civil [9]. Some cases may be treated as unfair competition or a violation of the doctrine of moral rights. In short, people are asked to use the guideline, "if you did not write it yourself, you must give credit" [10].

Plagiarism is not the same as copyright infringement. While both terms may apply to a particular act, they are different concepts, and false claims of authorship generally constitute plagiarism regardless of whether the material is protected by copyright. Copyright infringement is a violation of the rights of a copyright holder, when material whose use is restricted by copyright is used without consent. Plagiarism, in contrast, is concerned with the unearned increment to the plagiarizing author's reputation, or the obtaining of academic credit, that is achieved through false claims of authorship [11]. Thus, plagiarism is considered a moral offense against the plagiarist's audience (for example, a reader, listener, or teacher). Plagiarism is also considered a moral offense against anyone who has provided the plagiarist with a benefit in exchange for what is specifically supposed to be original content (for example, the plagiarist's publisher, employer, or teacher). In such cases, acts of plagiarism may sometimes also form part of a claim for breach of the plagiarist's contract, or, if done knowingly, for a civil wrong.

Consequences of Plagiarism

The consequences of plagiarism can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal. With plagiarism detection software so readily available and in use, plagiarists are being caught at an alarming rate. Once accused of plagiarism, a person will most likely always be regarded with suspicion. Ignorance is not an excuse [12]. Plagiarists include academics, professionals, students, journalists, authors, and others.

Destroyed Student Reputation

Plagiarism allegations can cause a student to be suspended or expelled. Their academic record can reflect the ethics offense, possibly causing the student to be barred from entering college from high school or another college. Schools, colleges, and universities take plagiarism very seriously [13]. Most educational institutions have academic integrity committees who police students. Many schools suspend students for their first violation. Students are usually expelled for further offences.

Destroyed Professional Reputation

A professional business person, politician, or public figure may find that the damage from plagiarism follows them for their entire career. Not only will they likely be fired or asked to step down from their present position, but they will surely find it difficult to obtain another respectable job [14]. Depending on the offense and the plagiarist's public stature, his or her name may become ruined, making any kind of meaningful career impossible.

Destroyed Academic Reputation

The consequences of plagiarism have been widely reported in the world of academia. Once scarred with plagiarism allegations, an academic's career can be ruined [15]. Publishing is an integral part of a prestigious academic career. To lose the ability to publish most likely means the end of an academic position and a destroyed reputation.

Legal Repercussions

The legal repercussions of plagiarism can be quite serious. Copyright laws are absolute. One cannot use another person's material without citation and reference. An author has the right to sue a plagiarist. Some plagiarism may also be deemed a criminal offense, possibly leading to a prison sentence. Those who write for a living, such as journalists or authors, are particularly susceptible to plagiarism issues [16]. Those who write frequently must be ever-vigilant not to err. Writers are well-aware of copyright laws and ways to avoid plagiarism. As a professional writer, to plagiarize is a serious ethical and perhaps legal issue.

Monetary Repercussions

Many recent news reports and articles have exposed plagiarism by journalists, authors, public figures, and researchers [17]. In the case where an author sues a plagiarist, the author may be granted monetary restitution. In the case where a journalist works for a magazine, newspaper or other publisher, or even if a student is found plagiarizing in school, the offending plagiarist could have to pay monetary penalties.

Plagiarized Research

Plagiarized research is an especially egregious form of plagiarism. If the research is medical in nature, the consequences of plagiarism could mean the loss of peoples' lives [18]. This kind of plagiarism is particularly heinous.

The consequences of plagiarism are far-reaching and no one is immune. Neither ignorance nor stature excuses a person from the ethical and legal ramifications of committing plagiarism [19]. Before attempting any writing project, learn about plagiarism. Find out what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. The rules are easy to understand and follow. If there is any question about missing attribution, try using an online plagiarism checker or plagiarism detection software to check your writing for plagiarism before turning it in. Laziness or dishonesty can lead to a ruined reputation, the loss of a career, and legal problems.

Analysis of Essays Using Plagiarism Detection Software

After submitting the essays, the total number of words in the body text will be counted for each essay (the title and student's data is excluded). In order to use plagiarism detection software WCopyfind version 2.1 [20], characters were converted to match the international characters in both students' essays and source articles. If they were present, tables and figures will be excluded from the documents due to the incapability of the software to analyze them. Program parameters were adjusted according to the author's recommendations and available published data [20]. The shortest phrase to match will be set to six words, meaning that the program would ignore matching phrases with only five or fewer words. "Most imperfections to allow" parameter will be set to "2" meaning that the program would bridge between two non-matching words and connect the pieces of a perfectly matched phrase [21]. Punctuation, non-words (non-textual items, filenames, URLs, etc.), and numbers will also be ignored. After comparing the documents, the program provided an absolute number of matching

words. Plagiarism rate will be expressed as the percentage of the plagiarized text and calculated as a ratio of the number of matching words and total number of words in the essay. Some advance and

CONCLUSION

Critics of science make a lot of mileage out of the manifest discrepancies between the private and public actions of scientists. They also fasten on examples of scientific behaviour that obviously deviate from the norms fraud, plagiarism, partisan disputes over priority, and so on. These are serious matters of concern, but

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verified website like
www.mostinside.com,
www.dotcombeginner.com can also be
used to verify plagiarism works [21].

they are not so wide-spread and prevalent that they completely corrupt the whole enterprise. Indeed, the fact that such episodes are regarded as both deviant and scandalous is a tribute to the continuing moral authority of the ethos that they flout.

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