

RUMINATIONS ON PLAGIARISM

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Abstract

In this research paper, we plan to discuss what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, as well as the possible penalties of plagiarism? Plagiarism is one of the major issues in modern time and it is rising very speedily in almost all fields of life like education, research, science, arts and literature. But for understanding the plagiarism the understanding of the terminologies is very necessary. In most of all the cases people complain and therefore, they do not know the types of plagiarism and therefore, they cannot distinguish the difference between the plagiarism and the research. This paper mainly discusses about plagiarism, and types of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a very dangerous word in contemporary time. Its results may be very harmful and horrible for anyone. So, we should avoid it.

In this research paper, we plan to discuss what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, as well as the possible penalties of plagiarism? The word plagiarism, in the sense we use it at present time, first appeared in English in the various battles among Shakespeare and his peers. The mighty and majestic *Oxford English Dictionary* credits Ben Johnson with being the first to use it in print. The form they used was plagiary, which is Latin term for a type of kidnapper or illegitimate slaver. The word plagiarism derives from two Latin words; plagiarus, an abductor, and plagiare to steal. Plagiarism is a very primeval art. Shakespeare stole most of his historical plots directly from Holinshed. Laurence Sterns and Samuel Taylor Coleridge were both accused of plagiarism.

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It is an issue of great concern amongst the academicians. It is a moral, ethical, and legal issue. Plagiarism has been around for centuries, but the internet and the subsequent proliferation of information have made the problem more serious. Plagiarism is taking someone else's work

and passing it off as one's own. Many people consider of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But term like 'Copying' and 'Borrowing' can disguise the seriousness of the offense. Plagiarism means literary theft. In the other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

As we know that there are various forms of corruption and one of them is the plagiarism, which is getting very common with the passage of time. According to Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary, plagiarism is defined as, "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work". It is also considered as violation of scholarly ethics and intellectual property by many academicians. On the other hand, plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of other (their ideas, concepts, image, sentences, and so forth) and using them as if they were your own, without crediting the author or citing the source.

Everyone knows that plagiarism is something to be avoided, but not everyone is sure precisely what it is. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which is almost wholly found in respect of course assignments completed by students. Plagiarism includes, The University of Greenwich has a definition of plagiarism (Gre):

- 1- Using published work without referencing.
- 2- Copying course work essays.
- 3- Collaborating with any other person when the work is supposed to be individual.
- 4- Taking another person's computer file / program.
- 5- Submitting another person's work as one's own.
- 6- The use of unacknowledged material published on the web.
- 7- Purchase of models assignments from whatever sources.
- 8- Copying other student's results.
- 9- Falsifying results.
- 10- The use of unacknowledged material published on the web

It is sometimes also referred to as academic dishonesty, using work that is not yours for credit in modules. Under the University Regulation plagiarism is classed as:

Plagiarism is the passing off of another person's thoughts, ideas, writings or images as one's own. A student commits plagiarism when she/he incorporates in her/his own work substantial unacknowledged portions of another person's material, or attempts to pass off such work as original through its inclusion. (Lincoln, iii)

The UVSC Student rights and responsibilities dates, "Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and avoid dishonesty in all its forms, including but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism." (UVSC 4- 29)

Richard A. Posner explains plagiarism is a tricky concept to nail down. It is different from copyright infringement, and the resulting harm is often not of the straightforward economic sort. Indeed, Posner argues strongly that plagiarism should be neither crime nor tort. Jonathan Kirsch said:

It is a brief but provocative and illuminating meditation on the current craze for searching out, denouncing and punishing authors who appears to have barrowed the work of others and passed it off as their own. Such distinctions, however, are ultimately less interesting to Posner than the notion that the current obsession with plagiarism stands at the precise

intersection of the cult of celebrity and what he calls “the cult of originality. (Kirsch 8)

On the other hand, Charles McGrath states, “It is a useful and remarkable concise overview of the subject, and is in almost every respect a typically posnerian production: smart, lucid, a little self satisfied and tilting toward the economic analysis end of legal theory.” (McGrath 4)

The term plagiarism differs from theft in a more profound way. Taking an object that has been abandoned or given away is not considered stealing. But copying the ideas of an anonymous author, or claiming credit for an idea given to you by a friend who does not wish to claim authorship, is considered plagiarism.

If words and ideas were merely property, and plagiarism merely a form of theft, then there would be nothing wrong with buying the rights to authorship; as in the case of commercial services. The original authors sell their claim to authorship for money. The plagiarist who uses these services is not stealing the credit from another person another because the original author does not want the credit. But credit for authorship is not something that can be sold or given away. Credit for authorship is so undetachable that even the reverse of stealing, falsely attributing one’s own work to another, is also wrong; it constitutes forgery:

Plagiarism also undermines the whole notion of academic integrity on which the academic world is grounded. The U.S. satirist Tom Lehrer, in disclosing a secret of academic advancement, argued that plagiarism was as old as the hills, “In one word he told me secret of success plagiarize! plagiarize, let no one else’s work evade your eyes remember why the good Lord made your eyes so don’t shade your eyes but plagiarize, plagiarize, plagiarize Only be sure always to call it, please, research. (Lehrer 29)

Ethically speaking, plagiarism is a criminal act and you are restricted by rules, either you are aware of them or you are not aware of them. Even if you are not aware of the rules of plagiarism awareness should be enhanced in the society and plagiarism tutorials should be promoted. In the society, most of the crimes are free because of the exceptions of age limit, unawareness with the rules and many other things. On the other hand, plagiarism is not age bounded or quantity bounded, and an act is considered plagiarism either it is a copy of a paragraph or a line, or even an idea. You are the culprit if you are accused of plagiarism either in the case of a student or in the case of a professional.

In modern times, we can find several examples of plagiarism in literature. In the present scenario, plagiarism is not limited to lazy and dishonest students. Martin Luther King plagiarised part of a chapter of his doctoral thesis. Princess Michael was accused of plagiarism over her book on royal brides. Jayson Blair, then a reporter for the *New York Times*, plagiarism many articles and faked quotes. Originality has mattered a great deal in the last 200 years, though the importance we attach to it may be declining. T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* was critical. To read *The Waste Land* is also to read Shakespeare, Chaucer, Webster and many others. According to one critic, Eliot practises a ‘verbal kleptomania’. In that sense, all culture is plagiarism.

The increasing rate of plagiarism is directly contributed because of the increasing access to knowledge and competition in the society in all of the major and the small fields. But the issue is that if this practice continues then it is great threat towards the insecurity of the innovations. Therefore, preventing plagiarism is the need of the hour and it is possible at all levels and in the entire field.

Especially, in the educational sector the plagiarism is very important because students are the most common enhancers of plagiarism. Instead of doing their assignments by themselves like research papers, case studies and the other casual work, the students prefer to save their time and go for the copied work on the Internet. The plagiarism is becoming the issue in all fields because of the low time consumption, little hard work, and more appreciation. Therefore, for preventing plagiarism the first thing is to make the people aware of its reasons and the types.

In this competitive world, many students feel pressured to attain the highest of academic achievements. Unfortunately, some students try to reach their goal through plagiarism, stealing work from other sources and failing to give credit where it is due. There are many types of plagiarism exist here like fraud or replication. It is a one type of plagiarism where a student takes large passages from an article or in some cases; entire pieces and passes it off as his own work. This type of plagiarism also is called the ghost writer or photocopy.

Now, we will discuss about various type of plagiarism like Full plagiarism, Partial plagiarism and Minimalistic plagiarism. Content that has been presented, without any changes made to the language, thoughts, flow, and even punctuation is known as full plagiarism. When the presented content is a combination of two to three different sources, where the use of rephrasing and synonyms is rampant, then it is known as partial plagiarism. Here, the plagiarist authors someone else concept, ideas, thought, or opinion in their own words and in a different flow. Although many do not regard this is as plagiarism, it is considered as stealing someone's study or thoughts. Minimalistic plagiarism involves a lot of paraphrasing.

Another plagiarism is called Lethargy, involves students looking for shortcuts when writing a research paper. Plagiarism is fraud if not outright theft. It is a personal ethical issue. Some papers may contain citations for all information included, making it seem like a well written work. Unfortunately, overuse of citations and sources simply results in a paper that includes no original thoughts. It is also known as Resourceful or Ingenious citing, the overused type of plagiarism can sometimes be hard to recognize because it appears that the student worked hard to research numerous sources.

Further, we will talk about Camouflage and Organization plagiarism. Some students are willing to make minor tweaks to other works in order to disguise the paper's true origin. This type of plagiarism is known as Camouflage. Camouflaging one's work also is called the Poor disguise. When you follow a source article sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph, it is plagiarism, even though none of your sentences are exactly like those in the source article or even in the same order.

Plagiarism is a growing problem in the academic field and also in many work places, which can produce some grave consequences. Plagiarism is not only about copying the words of another person, which can be avoided by paraphrasing the sentences, but also the use of words, ideas, data, organization and original thoughts of another person without giving credit to that individual. Such activities can give rise to serious consequence. The greatest consequence of plagiarism in the academic field may be the harm that students do to themselves.

Plagiarism in journalism is a very old phenomenon. Plagiarism by journalists can have serious consequences, not only for the individual journalist, but for the concerned newspaper or television news show. It can damage their reputation, credibility and public trust and confidence. It is also considered a violation of journalistic ethics and can result in severe penalties like suspension or termination from the job. So considering the severe consequences of plagiarism, it is advisable to take some appropriate measures to avoid this offense.

There are the various brilliant minds and the intelligent personalities in the world. Fortunately, our Lord has given all of us the talented mind to think and discover. But, there are many people who do not believe on this fact. These kinds of people always try to get the support of others to move in the society and fulfilling their responsibilities. Such people show carelessness and never work hard and find other easy ways around. One of the short and most common forms of the corrupted way is plagiarism. Some people are habitual of plagiarism because they are ignorant of the laws and regulations against plagiarism.

Next, we would like to discuss the best way to avoid plagiarism, which is proper citation of your sources. There are many ways to avoid plagiarism. The good way to avoid plagiarism is to paraphrase the information, but still give credit to the author of the work. If we want to avoid plagiarism, then all students must document sources properly using a footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references, and must write a bibliography, references, or works cited page and place it at the end of the research paper to list the sources used.

Paraphrasing is the restatement of information and ideas in one's own words and style. However, it is vital to the nature of paraphrasing to retain the original idea of the paraphrased material. Additionally, the source of the information must be fully credited. When this technique is used property, it serves as a powerful tool to guard against plagiarism, and expound on ideas and arguments. However, changing only a few words or phrases in a sentences or revising sentence structure is not considered paraphrasing. In paraphrasing, the words and phrases used must be different from those of the original. Paraphrasing must be done properly in order to become an effective tool plagiarism.

Using of the quotations are more important to avoid plagiarism. Remember that if you use the exact words in your source these should appear in quotation marks and be referenced by the book or article and the page on which the quote appear. We should never use direct quotation from any sources unless quotation marks are used and full references are given.

Another important thing is summary and note making by which we can avoid plagiarism. A summary provides overview if a obtained and expressed in the writer's own words therefore, we should be left out unimportant details and examples, resulting in a considered material just like paraphrasing, it is important to mention the original sources of the summarised ideas. Now we will talk about note making which is very helpful to avoid plagiarism. During note taking it is possible subconsciously to use the language of your source. When you come to write your assignment it can then be different to remember which notes are in your own words and which have been copied directly from your sources. One way to avoid plagiarism, read the text first, considers what the author has said and then summarise the work in your own words. If you do this you will tent to copy less of the text and also test your understanding of the work.

To sum up, plagiarism remains a key issue that school administrators, researchers, and students need to address. However, with an increasing awareness and innovative tools designed to detect plagiarism. Plagiarism is a capital crime in an academic setting. Students should make a conscious effort to properly acknowledge the source of their ideas. As Sir Isaac Newton said, "if I have seen further (than certain other men), it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants (Newton49)." You want to avoid plagiarism you should cite all the sources you have used. So we can avoid plagiarism through paraphrasing, making notes, use of quotation and summarising. The major consequence of plagiarism is that people who engage in it hurt themselves. Good research and writing involve a host of skills: for a start, evaluating sources, taking careful notes, selecting appropriate quotations, paraphrasing, and giving credit to others for their ideas and

words. Students who plagiarize may never learn these skills, and life in college and beyond can be difficult without them.

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