

Ethical Issues in Research, Writing and Publication

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INTRODUCTION :

Ethics govern every facet of human life. Even in academics, ethical norms are set to avoid plagiarism which is considered as a legal offence. Plagiarism means copying, either intentionally or unintentionally, other people's work. It is a form of cheating and if you do it you will be committing an academic offence. Even if you change a few words or the order of words, this is still plagiarism.

PLAGIARISM:

□ MEANING OF PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is the wrongful appropriation and stealing and publication of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions and the representation of them as one's own original work.

□ According to Bela Gipp, "Academic plagiarism encompasses the use of ideas, concepts, words, or structures without appropriately acknowledging the source to benefit in a setting where originality is expected."

□ According to Stanford, "Plagiarism is the use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form."

□ ETYMOLOGY:

In the 1st century, the use of the Latin word *plagiarius* (literally "kidnapper") to denote stealing someone else's work was pioneered by the Roman poet Martial, who complained that another poet had "kidnapped his verses". Plagiarist, a derivative of *plagiarius*, was introduced into English in 1601 by dramatist Ben Jonson during the Jacobean Era to describe someone guilty of literary theft. The

derived form plagiarism was introduced into English around 1620. The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic Movement.

□ CHARACTERISTICS OF PLAGIARISM:

- Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty.
- In academia and industry, it is a serious ethical offense.
- Plagiarism is not defined or punished by law, but rather by institutions including professional associations, educational institutions, and commercial entities, such as publishing companies.

□ COMMON FORMS OF PLAGIARISM:

- Submitting someone's work as their own.
- Taking passages from their own previous work without adding citations.
- Re-writing someone's work without properly citing sources.
- Using quotations, but not citing the source.
- Interweaving various sources together in the work without citing.
- Citing some, but not all passages that should be cited.
- Melding together cited and uncited sections of the piece.

- Providing proper citations, but fails to change the structure and wording of the borrowed ideas enough.
- Inaccurately citing the source.
- Relying too heavily on other people's work. Fails to bring original thought into the text.

□ **TYPES OF PLAGIARISM:**

• **Complete Plagiarism**

This is the most obvious case: a student or researcher submits, as his or her own work that has been written by someone else. Usually the original source is a published journal article or book chapter. In such cases, plagiarism cannot be avoided by paraphrasing the original or acknowledging its use in footnotes. The work is the property of another author and should not be used.

• **Near-complete Plagiarism**

A student or researcher may also lift portions of another text and use them in his or her own work. For example, he/she might add her or his own conclusions or introduction to an essay or might scatter his or her own comments through a text taken substantially from another source. These practices are unacceptable. Even with some attribution, the bulk of the work has been done by another.

• **Patchwork Plagiarism**

In many cases, a student or researcher will lift ideas, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from a variety of sources and "stitch" them together into an essay. These situations often seem difficult to assess. Most essays, after all, are attempts to bring together a range of sources and arguments. But the line between plagiarism and original work is not difficult to draw.

• **Lazy Plagiarism**

Lazy plagiarism crops up in many student essays and researcher's work, and is usually the result of sloppy note-taking or research shortcuts. Examples include:

- Inadvertent use of another's language, usually when the student or researcher fails to distinguish between direct quotes and general observations when taking notes. In such cases, the presence of a footnote does not excuse the use of another's language without quotation marks.
- Use of footnotes or material quoted in other sources as if they were the results of your research.
- Sloppy or inadequate footnoting which leaves out sources or page references.

• **Self-Plagiarism**

The use of an essay written for one course to satisfy the requirements of another course is plagiarism. Students or researcher should not use, adapt, or update an essay written for another purpose.

□ **Actions taken against plagiarism:**

- Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud, and offenders are subject to academic censure including expulsion.
- In journalism, plagiarism is considered a breach of journalistic ethics, and reporters caught plagiarizing typically face disciplinary measures ranging from suspension to termination of employment.
- For professors and researchers, plagiarism is punished by sanctions ranging from suspension to termination, along with the loss of credibility and perceived integrity.
- Plagiarism by students is usually considered a very serious offense that can result in punishments such as a failing

grade on the particular assignment, the entire course, or even being expelled from the institution.

Ways to stop plagiarism:

- Many institutions use plagiarism detection software to uncover potential plagiarism and to deter students from plagiarizing.
- Most universities address the issue of academic integrity by providing students with thorough orientations, required writing courses, and clearly articulated honour codes.
- Given the seriousness of plagiarism accusations for a student and researcher's future, the pedagogy of plagiarism education may need to be considered ahead of the pedagogy of the discipline being studied.
- If a student or researcher wants to use a previously completed essay as a starting point for new research, you should receive the instructor or guide's approval and provide her or him with a copy of the original essay.
- If a student or researcher wants to use substantially similar essays to satisfy the requirements of two related courses, you should get approval from all the instructors or guides concerned.
- Students should avoid any hint of dishonesty by maintaining good research habits and paying attention to a few basic rules of writing and documentation discussed below:

Research

- Most written assignments begin with the collection of research notes -- a combination of ideas or quotes from other sources, and the student's own ideas. Whether you keep notes on index cards, in a loose-leaf binder, or on old envelopes in a desk drawer, it is important to record and organize them in such a way that vital information is not lost.

- Keep careful and complete track of sources. Accurately copy the author, title, and other information about the source publication, including the number(s) of the page(s) from which notes or quotes were taken.
- Distinguish carefully between your ideas and the ideas of others. This is a simple question of intellectual honesty. If you use another's conclusions, acknowledge them. If you come to the same conclusions as another on your own, you should still acknowledge the agreement.

- Distinguish carefully between your own words and those of others. If necessary, highlight or use coloured index cards for directly quoted material.

Writing

As you begin to tie your ideas together in written form, consider the following:

- Begin by organizing your essay in an original manner. Avoid mimicking the pattern or order of argument used by others. Remember: this is your humble contribution to a debate or a body of research; it is not (in most case) an attempt to summarize or paraphrase the work of others.
- As you weave the ideas and language of others into your work, make clear choices about the use of quoted material. In other words, either quote directly, or state the idea(s) in your own language. Do not mess around with close paraphrases or purely cosmetic changes.
- Read the first draft carefully. Is the distinction between your work and the work of others clear and unambiguous? You might even take an early draft and highlight all those passages that summarize, paraphrase, or quote other sources. Is there enough of your own work left in the essay?

Footnoting

- Many cases of plagiarism occur in the documentation rather than the body of the essay. You should have a clear idea of the variety of purposes a footnote (or endnote) may serve, and many different ways you can acknowledge the work of others. For specific cases See Example #5. Also note the following:
- Always record your source of the information; never use or rely on another author's footnotes. The footnote should allow the reader to find or check the material being cited. Provide exact page numbers for direct quotes, and a range of page numbers for more general points.
- If you included more than one source or reference in a footnote, the relevance or order of the various sources should be clear to the reader.

□ **Editing**

Once your essay is complete, consider each portion that is drawn from another source, and ask yourself the following:

- Is the idea or argument expressed entirely my own? Is the general language or choice of words (including even phrases or rough paraphrases) my own?
- If either answer is "no," the work must be credited to the original author. And if the answer to the second question is "no," the passage should either be quoted directly or rewritten in the student's own words and credited directly.

CONCLUSION:

Avoiding plagiarism is important. Therefore, the punishment for someone who gets caught for plagiarism should be severe. Hence, it is very vital for students to understand what plagiarism means and the consequences of plagiarizing. This is the main aim of this short tutorial.

Reference

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