



Plagiarism in research – Curbing the innovation and creativity among the budding scientist

Dr. Khan Zeenat

Assistant Professor, Marathwada College of Education Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

Abstract

Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and a breach of journalistic ethics. It is subject to sanctions such as penalties, suspension, and even expulsion from school or work. Recently, cases of "extreme plagiarism" have been identified in academia. This plagiarism is proving a bane in the field of invention and creation curbing the creativity and originality of work. The most educated and knowledgeable person nowadays found to be involved in this unethical means in order to improve his/her API (Academic Performance Indicator) score for promotion. This paper would highlight the increase in plagiarism in recent years and the free online tools available to curb this unethical practice of plagiarism.

Keywords: plagiarism, innovation, creativity, budding scientist

Introduction

Plagiarism is derived from two Latin words – '*plagiarius*' which means an abductor, and '*plagiare*' which means to steal. According to Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary, it 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.

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. Plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but can constitute copyright infringement. (Stephanie J. Bird 2002) argues that self-plagiarism is a misnomer, since by definition plagiarism concerns the use of others' material in academia and industry, it is a serious ethical offense. 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 is not defined or punished by law, but rather by institutions (including professional associations, educational institutions, and commercial entities, such as publishing companies). (Pamela Samuelson 1994) identified several factors she says excuse reuse of one's previously published work, that make it not self-plagiarism

Why people plagiarize

Lack of original content in any piece of written work is

considered as plagiarism. Plagiarism is a phenomenon that takes place everywhere around us. Some people plagiarize unknowingly because they do not know what may amount to it. Others plagiarize willingly as they are simply ignorant or lazy. Students are the greatest culprits of plagiarism, when it comes to doing their school/college projects. As (David B. Resnik clarifies 1998) "Self-plagiarism involves dishonesty but not intellectual theft." The reasons why students plagiarize in large numbers are many. Some of them are:

- Less time
- Procrastination
- Ambition of achieving higher grades
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of patience
- No trust in one's own ability
- Sheer lethargy
- Ignorance about the consequences of plagiarism

Types of plagiarism

Academic and journalistic plagiarism is an age-old practice. However, Internet plagiarism is now prevalent in a big way. Moreover, plagiarism has taken many new forms. Now, it is just about cut, copy and paste, or a little rephrasing.

- **Full Plagiarism:** This is also known as 'complete plagiarism'. Whenever a writer copies the content from another source as it is, it is called full plagiarism. In such a kind of plagiarism, the writer changes nothing from the original source, and there is an absolute lack of original research. The language, the flow, and even the punctuation

is copied to such an extent, that one cannot cite even a minor difference in the two contents. Full plagiarism, then refers to copying somebody else's original content, word by word, and presenting it as one's own. Many academicians believe that it is generally the work of people who are incompetent in the particular subject, or are just plain lazy to make an effort. This kind of plagiarism may lead to serious consequences, ranging from suspension to termination.

- **Partial Plagiarism:** When a person combines data from two or three different sources in his work, it amounts to partial plagiarism. This kind of plagiarism pertains to copying someone else's work, not fully, but partly. A person plagiarizing content in this way, makes rampant use of paraphrasing, which means that he presents the same idea in a different form, by manipulating the language of the original content, but the flow remains the same. This, he does in most cases by making use of synonymous vocabulary or changing sentences from active to passive voice and vice versa. In this way, the author does try to be original, but again the work does not contain any first-hand research.
- **Minimalistic Plagiarism:** Minimalistic plagiarism is done when a person paraphrases the same content but in a different flow. In this kind, the plagiarist attempts to copy ideas, opinions, thoughts and concepts of another author, in such a way that his work does not seem like it has been plagiarized. What he does is that he not only changes the sentence construction and makes use of synonymous vocabulary, but he also changes the order in which the thoughts have been presented in the original work. It is this change in the flow that makes the work seem original, though it is not. This kind of plagiarism again lacks first-hand research, though such write-ups almost seem to be original.
- **Mosaic Plagiarism:** This kind is most common among students. Instances of mosaic plagiarism occur mostly due to lack of knowledge or ignorance about plagiarism, and the ways to avoid it. When a person changes the construction of the sentence but does not bother to change the original wording, it amounts to mosaic plagiarism. The result then, is that the sentences change, the flow changes, but the words remain the same. This act amounts to plagiarism, because no due credit is given to the author of the original work, which becomes absolutely necessary in such cases.
- **Source Plagiarism:** Sometimes, the author one is referring to may have quoted some other author in his work. Plagiarism in such cases, takes place when due credit is not given to the author one is gathering matter from. Citing primary reference is very important in such a case. For a person, the author he is referring to is a primary source, and not the author who was referred to by the author who is being referred. This has to be kept in mind and accordingly worked upon.
- **Source Citation:** When the complete source information with quotes is provided, it does not amount to plagiarism. However, the definition of a complete source citation varies in various contexts. Some writers quote the name of the source, but provide no other accessible information,

while some others very conveniently provide false references. Some just merge their information with the original piece of writing. Instances of plagiarism take place not only when the sources are not cited at all, but also when the sources are improperly cited. Instances when the sources are not cited occur in following cases:

- **Ghost Writer,** where a person feels free to copy other person's work, word by word, and to reproduce it as his own.
- **Poor Disguise,** where the essence of the original work remains the same, but only the keywords are changed.
- **Photocopy,** where large parts of the content are copied from a given text, without making any changes.
- **Potluck Paper,** wherein the writer attempts to hide his act of plagiarism by skillfully combining contents from different resources, and putting them together in a way that they seem to be original.
- **Self-plagiarism:** This type is perhaps the most contested one, as there is a mixed opinion about this being a form of plagiarism. Using one's own work, fully or partially, or even the same thoughts and reproducing it in some form or the other, has been termed as self-plagiarism by many. Publishing the same material through different media without referencing it correctly is a very common habit among numerous writers. The contents on many websites are perfect examples of this. According to Professor Paul Brian's opinion posted on the Internet Humanist Forum, "Self-plagiarism, or the recycling of an old work in a new guise is also a theft, since the author leads the book-buyer to think that there is a new book of his in the market. The author is misleading his/her readers. Self-plagiarism is fraud, if not outright theft."

Plagiarism statistics in schools

Alarming Statistics: 36% of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material, says (Psychological Record 1997) study.

- 4 out of 5 high achievers surveyed in 1998 admitted to cheating on school work according to publishers of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.
- More than half of those students said such cheating was no big deal, and practically none got caught.

Plagiarism statistics in universities

Alarming Statistics: 66% of 16,000 students from 31 prestigious U.S. universities have cheated at least once, says (Rutgers University study 1991).

- 12% of those reported themselves as regular cheaters. This means nearly seven out of ten students cheat, and at least one of those cheats all the time!
- Cheating on campus increased an estimated 74% from 1993 to 1997, says University of (California-Berkley 1990) officials.

Global plagiarism statistics

- A study by the Centre for Academic Integrity found 80% of college students admit of cheating at least once.
- A National survey published in Education week found that 54% students admitted plagiarism from internet
- 74% students admitted that at least once during past school

year have engaged in cheating.

Plagiarism detection tools

1. Dupli Checker
2. Copy leaks
3. Paper Rater
4. Plagiarisma
5. Plagiarism Checker
6. Plagium
7. Plag Scan
8. Plag Tracker 6 Languages Supported
9. Que text
10. Viper

Reference

1. Plagiarism tool for professionals, Retrieved from <https://elearningindustry.com/top-10-free-plagiarism-detection-tools-for-teachers> on 7/11/2018.
2. Plagiarism, Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism> 7/11/2018.
3. Different types of Plagiarism, Retrieved from <https://penlighten.com/different-types-of-plagiarism> on 8/11/2018.
4. Retrieved from <https://www.checkforplagiarism.net/cyber-plagiarism> on 8/11/2018.