

Plagiarism: A Critical Issue in Writing Research Report

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Abstract: *Whenever a text is written then before its writing a lot of reading is required for the inspiration to write it so that with proper support of thoughts and words one can express his/her views, ideas and arguments. It is found that even many international level writers borrow the native words for expression of ideas in English. Personal, social and cultural aspects are directly related with the text plagiarism. Hence for a while to know the reason for happening of plagiarism, it must be kept to know that to which culture or society the student belongs, what is his/her education and what is his understanding and level in a language which is used to write the text. While writing a script or a research report, one should come up with original ideas and at the same time reference should be given of those who have done already some work related to that issue.*

Keywords: Plagiarism , Report writing , Research

INTRODUCTION

Etymologically the term plagiarism is taken from the latin word “Plagiarus” which means “Kidnapping” or “plunderer”, and it can be defined as the act of using someone else ideas and text stating them as one’s own authorship without giving the acknowledgement to the source. So the practice of using others work, idea etc.-without mentioning the original author who deserves the credit for it – for own benefit is known as plagiarism. Writing a text is not only keeping the words together but it is more than that. Text writing consist of using the proper use of grammar of language as well as understanding of written text. Effective text writing involves practical experiences of sentence formation with proper understanding, grammar, spelling, punctuation, structure and syntax. There is a difference between speaking and writing of a language and it must be known to both teachers and students. When ever a text is written then before its writing a lot of reading is required for the inspiration to write it so that with proper support of thoughts and words one can express his/her views, ideas and arguments.

It’s a challenge in itself to learn that how to present the ideas thoughts using words and it becomes a difficult task if it has to be done in a language other than mother tongue, due to many reasons as limited vocabulary in that language and grammar difference as compared to mother tongue. It is found that even many international level writers borrow the native words for

expression of ideas in English. For example a group of Indian students takes the words from Hindi speaking people and then tries to convert them in English. Thus personal, social and cultural aspects are directly related with the text plagiarism. Hence for a while to know the reason for happening of plagiarism, it must be kept to know that to which culture or society the student belongs, what is his/her education and what is his understanding and level in a language which is used to write the text.

FORMS OF PLAGIARISM BY STUDENTS

Usually plagiarism is followed by students in mainly four ways:

1. The act of stealing the material of another person from a source and presenting it off as their own, e.g.
 - (a) To buy a research article from a research agency or research service, term paper mill or essay bank which are either already written or asked to write specially.
 - (b) To copy a complete paper from a text source without acknowledgement of original author.
 - (c) To submit other person's work without his/her knowledge and consent. For example taking the text or copying the text from a computer hard disk.
2. Submission of a paper which was written by any other person (e.g. by a relative or any peer etc.) and presenting it off as own paper.
3. Copying or making theft of any section or many sections of text mater from a single or many text resources or writing/copying whole document including full reference but not mentioning the quotation mark, hence trying to give such indication that this matter was paraphrased rather than quoting it.
4. Paraphrasing of material from a single or many text sources without giving the proper documentation.

PLAGIARISM PREVENTION

While writing a script, one should come up with original ideas and at the same time reference should be given of those who have done already some work related to that issue. But a question arises that how can you knew that where others idea ends and your idea begins ? How the sources can be integrated in a script ? If any other author says something and if you change in that, then should still that author be cited ? Confusion about answers to these question leads to

plagiarism. For similar question and concerns about plagiarism prevention following recommendations can be helpful:-

1. **Consultation with the Supervisor:** - Research investigator should talk with her/his supervisor or guide about plagiarism. Doubts and question related to plagiarism must be asked. Guide will not only feel happy but she/he would like most to give answers to the questions. For the citation of sources, guidelines should be checked and followed properly. If researcher follows the guidelines then it helps in prevention of plagiarism.
2. **Planning the Research work / dissertation / thesis:-** To prevent the plagiarism, most important is the step of planning. If you will plan well, your inclusion of sources in work will be better and thus you can make a better balance between the ideas you have taken from other sources and your own, original ideas.
3. **Preparation of notes:-** While preparing a thesis or any research work, researcher must prepare the notes related to the sources and concepts, it will help a lot if notes are prepared before beginning of writing. But on other side if notes taking is poor then it may lead to many problems also. Like improper citations, misquotations, as these are the forms of plagiarism. Sources of other's ideas must be carefully differentiated from your own ideas while preparing the notes. A researcher must get into the habit of writing page numbers and make sure that each page related sources must be written properly so that later these can be recognized and registered accordingly.
4. **During Doubts, cite the Sources:** - If there is a confusion between your ideas and others similar ideas that whether it is your original idea or other's then in this case or researcher should always cite the source.
5. **Always make it clear that who said what? :-** If any one said something and you are going to include her/his saying in your work then don't use or start your sentence by saying that he/she said this but rather than this start with the name of original author or speaker.
6. **Paraphrasing must be known:-** When you writes someone else's ideas or words in your own words then this type of restatement is called paraphrasing. In paraphrasing

researcher can change the words and sentence structure without changing the content. For paraphrased passage citations must be proper and essentials. A good paraphrasing involves the proper and relevant ideas which fit the present work and eliminates the unrelated information.

7. **Sources must be evaluated:-** Credibility and authenticity of a source must be identified before inclusion in your study. Quality of writing, accuracy and authenticity of ideas must be well checked before its use.

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