

Editorials

PLAGIARISM (ACADEMIC DISHONESTY)

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work. Within the academia, researcher is considered academic dishonest or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure. Unlike cases of forgery, in which the authenticity of the document is in question, plagiarism is concerned with the issue of false attribution [1].

Some individuals, plagiarizing in academic or journalistic contexts claim that they plagiarized unintentionally, by failing to include quotations or give the appropriate citation. Others believe that they are creating or inventing something new, such as a story, poem, artwork, or a joke, but is actually recalling a similar or identical work which he or she has previously encountered. This is known as cryptomnesia, a theoretical phenomenon involving suppressed or forgotten memories.

Similarly some researchers commit "Self - Plagiarism" This is the re-use of significant, identical, or near identical portions of one's own work without citing the original work. This is also known as "Recycling Fraud" as one author recycles the old work by rephrasing and republishing their own work, tailoring it for different academic journals.

Worst form of plagiarism is to steal the whole article from some journal and publish it under own's name in another journal.

Plagiarism has a centuries - old history. The word plagiarism is derived from purloiner - a petty thief, a pilferer.

This practice can be a very profitable business that can lead to employment, promotion and regular salary increases.

In judging that an author plagiarizes, great care must be taken to ensure that careless mistakes, printing errors, inexperience and even editorial changes made by a press are not used as accusations against an innocent person [2].

The internet has made it easier to plagiarize, by copying the electronic text and using them as original work, but simultaneously it has also made it possible for reviewers and editors to detect plagiarism. Search engines can be used by searching for keywords or key sentences from the suspected text, hoping to find similar texts on the internet. This method may be useful when the author copied a whole article, but it can become usually ineffective when the plagiarist used only parts of articles or mixed different articles. Moreover, this method is quite time-consuming. Now softwares are available which can detect plagiarism by comparing the two documents [3].

It is the moral duty of all academia to discourage plagiarism at all levels.

REFERENCES

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/plagiarism/>.
2. Academic plagiarism defined. Hexham I. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/hexham/>
3. <http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html>

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