

Students' Perception on Plagiarism

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ABSTRACT:

This research is intended to find out how far college students' knowledge within act of plagiarism. Also, the issue of plagiarism was lifted to the surface because issues of plagiarism that have been revealed to the public is spread rapidly. One of the main reasons why plagiarism exists because teaching processing in classroom doesn't care on this issue. In this research, respondents were given a questionnaire that consists of 20 questions. Analysis of completed questionnaire showed student uncertainty about several aspects of plagiarism. Though, the media has given attention to plagiarism, students are not always aware of the limitation between plagiarism and proper academic writing. Perhaps, some information about penalties of plagiarizing should be told to students to make them more aware about this act of cheating.

Keywords: *Plagiarism, Questionnaire, Students, College, Penalty, Academic Writing*

INTRODUCTION

Generally, Plagiarism is the act of using the general idea to state other people's work without any notice to the crowded audience (Sungkar & Nurhayati, 2009). Plagiarism is an offense. Therefore, any form of violation of plagiarism must obtain lawful sanctions. Forms of plagiarism can occur in many aspects of life, such as works of art, technology, and scientific papers.

Plagiarism is derived from the Latin word "plagiarius" which means kidnapper. It is defined as "the passing off of another person's work as if it were one's own, by claiming credit for something that was actually done by someone else" (Wikipedia:Plagiarism). Plagiarism is not always intentional or stealing some things from someone else; it can be unintentional or accidental and may comprise of self stealing.

In the field of scientific, plagiarism occurs in the form of articles to scientific work. The forms that include plagiarism are taking people's idea as our own ideas, failing to put quotation or even copying so many words without

putting the source. There are many reasons behind doing plagiarism such as people want a short cut to get their work done as quickly as possible, difficulty obtaining the original idea, less knowledgeable in writing, and perhaps they delay their work until the last minute. The ignorance of writing that the person did has committed a plagiarism.

This paper will reveal the actual knowledge of student about plagiarism and to what extent the concepts of plagiarism. Research data will be taken from 27 correspondents whose status is still a student at fifth semester.

There are many definitions of what plagiarism and kind of plagiarism, and we will look at some of them in more detail below. However, according *Plagiarism.org*, the things that immediately come to mind as description of plagiarism are:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit

- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
 - giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
 - changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
 - copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
- (Plagiarism.org)**

When people do their work, especially in writing, they are trying to give the best and fully aware of what they write, but sometimes some writers forget to have a look to detail. Unconsciously, they have no intention to cheat or plagiarize, but lacks of detail bring them into a self error. I mean the lack of detail such as forget to put citation or forget to complete words of other ideas. Another category of plagiarism can be defined as follows:

- Accidental: due to lack of plagiarism knowledge, and understanding of
- Citation or referencing style being practiced at an institute
- Unintentional: the vastness of available information influences thoughts and
- The same ideas may come out via spoken or written expressions as one's own
- Intentional: a deliberate act of copying complete or part of someone else's
- Work without giving proper credit to original creator
- Self plagiarism: using self published work in some other form without referring to original one (Wikipedia:Plagiarism, Beasley 2006).

According to Maurer, Kappe, and Zaka, 2006: 1052 as cited in Wikipedia.org, There is a long list of plagiarism methods commonly in practice. Some of those methodologies include:

- Copy-paste: copying word to word textual contents.

- Idea plagiarism: using similar concept or opinion which is not common knowledge.
- Paraphrasing: changing grammar, similar meaning words, re-ordering
- Sentences in original work. Or restating same contents in different words.
- Artistic plagiarism: presenting someone else's work using different media, such as text, images, voice or video.
- Code plagiarism: using program code, algorithms, classes, or functions without permission or reference.
- Forgotten or expired links to resources: addition of quotations or reference marks but failing to provide information or up-to-date links to sources.
- No proper use of quotation marks: failing to identify exact parts of borrowed contents.
- Misinformation of references: adding references to incorrect or non existing original sources.
- Translated plagiarism: cross language content translation and use without reference to original work.

Media never missed any plagiarism cases; people all around the world have the same problem in writing. Based on my own experience difficulty to develop idea can be one of the main reasons behind people do plagiarism. Internet also could be taken as one of effect people doing plagiarism, the advance of internet and easy access support people who have difficulty in writing to search and find compatible idea and then mix it with their own few concepts. So, with this limitless, taking someone else's idea is not a worry issue.

Internet and media noted plagiarism case had happen since nineties, as I found in Wikipedia.org, James A. Mackay perhaps could be the first suspect of plagiarize. He plagiarized work of Abraham Bell. Another plagiarism case that found in international journalistic was a

fake report by Jason Blair, he was a staff reporter of New York Times and had covered numerous occasion, he was judge because of reported stories without being there. He just quoted some words form article which suits to the event.

“taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgement, and with intention that they be taken as a work of deceiver.”
American Association of University Professors.

Plagiarism doesn't only occur in international journalistic, Indonesia as a developing country also get trouble with some plagiarism cases. One of the cases that attract me is a case of title removal of professor in one of private University. Perhaps, this is the first case that appears in Indonesia science journal. Surprisingly, The Jakarta Globe on February 10, 2010 stated and claimed that the Professor has plagiarized an article by Carl Ungerer. Both in terms of ideas and in the phrases used, it is very evident this is not the original work of the writer. The article titled “Middle

Power' Concept in Australian Foreign Policy” by Carl Ungerer.

Another university that claimed three of their lecturers who did plagiarism is A State University in Bandung. The announcement was published on March 2012. Those lectures have apologized to all parties through virtual media *inilah.com* on March 5, 2012. One of the lecturer stated that his mistake was forgotten to put footnote in the journal.

According to the violation, the university has given a proper punishment, the faculty senate decided to degrade the degree of the lectures based on PERMENDIKNAS NOMOR 17 THN 2010. Directly, case and the impact of plagiarism have opened several universities to pay attention due to plagiarism act. Nowadays, university in Indonesia has just promote program anti plagiarism. As a college student, I believe those programs will be good enough to prevent other cases arise.

Lecturers and students are demanded to run this program. For student, this program is a well apply program, their knowledge about

writing will develop step by step unconsciously.

However, public also take responsibility on this case meaning public have to pay attention more on cases that includes plagiarism, as a college citizen, we must convince public that plagiarism is not a good deed for any substantial party. The lack of information of public perception of academic dishonesty is a serious problem.

The most common indication of plagiarism happens when someone writes something that contains clearly different styles, such as a student essay with grammatically incorrect opening and closing paragraphs enclosing a body of text containing near perfect text. In practice, many plagiarists doing mistake by copying mistakes that found in the wrong source.

In fact, there is also author who misquotes the source which is also quoted improperly. In these and similar cases plagiarism can be proven because the author's text contains printing and other mistakes found in an earlier source.

Another indication that can be used as plagiarism prejudice is when the later author uses identical arguments, including the repetition of the same words, as the earlier author then plagiarism is clearly proven.

The aim of this study is to find out how deep students' knowledge about plagiarism, do they know the aspects of plagiarism, clearly or they just learn it, basically.

METHOD

This study is conducted to reveal the students' perception on plagiarism. Hopefully the result of the study can classify information of students' knowledge in defining plagiarism which can be used for students or others as a reflection of their learning.

This study is intended to know about plagiarism that depends on students' opinion. The purpose of the study is to measure students' knowledge about plagiarism. This research also aims to protect students from doing plagiarism in writing, later in the future. In this research, the writer applied qualitative design

which is intended to identify how far student perception on plagiarism. In this research, the writer developed a questionnaire which had designed by Gordon, Simmons, and Wynn on 2004. The participants in this research are 27 college students of fifth semester from English Education Department, Indonesia University of Education.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Questionnaire was distributed to gain information from students. The following are findings and discussion. Questionnaire was distributed to 27 college students; a questionnaire consists of twenty questions that categorized into three sub parts. The first sub part was talked general discussion about plagiarism. This sub parts was distributed into seven questions.

Question	Setuju (S)	Tidak Setuju (TS)	Percentage	
1	19	8	70.37 %	29.63 %
2	6	21	22.22 %	77.77 %
3	16	11	59.26 %	40.74 %
4	20	7	74.07 %	25.93 %
5	11	13	40.74 %	48.15 %
6	18	9	66.67 %	33.33 %
7	10	17	37.03 %	62.70 %

The table above shows the percentage's of students' answer toward the questionnaire related to their perception on definition and general discussion of plagiarism.

Question number one is designed to check whether they have an understanding or not on plagiarism general definition. From the general calculation on question number one, the data showed that

70.37 % of students had the right answer. In the next following questions, these questions were tried to define meaning of plagiarism more specifically in order to check students' knowledge on plagiarism. In questions number 2 and 5 the right answer should be Setuju (S), but then students went into wrong choice (TS), as well in question number six the right answer was (TS) but then students chosen (S).

Based on the data gained from questionnaire, it was revealed that students wrong in 3 basic

questions. It indicates that students' concept of plagiarism still vary, this fact shows an accurate information of plagiarism is needed to fill in the few blank concept of plagiarism on students' mind.

Questions number 8 to number 15 are second sub part of questionnaire that describes students' activity reflection. From the table below, the data shows that only 3 from 8 questions that answered correctly, we can also conclude that students have minimum knowledge of plagiarism, generally.

Question	Correct Answer	Wrong Answer	Percentage	
8	17	10	62.7 %	37.3 %
9	12	15	44.4 %	55.6 %
10	15	12	55.6 %	44.4 %
11	-	-	-	-
12	13	14	48.15 %	51.85%
13	12	15	55.6 %	55.6 %
14	19	8	70.37 %	29.63 %
15	11	16	40.7 %	59.23 %

The last sub part of questionnaires is designed to measure students' ability in differentiate among paraphrase, summary, quotation. As we know summary and paraphrase are important for academic writing and it

is one of the ways to avoid plagiarism in academic writing. So the writer designed three simple texts to differentiate, and the result can be seen as below:

Question	Correct Answer	Percentage
16	11 students (Quotation)	40.7 %
17	9 students (Summary)	33.33 %
18	7 students (Paraphrase)	26 %

The percentage of right answer for each three questions is less than 50 %, it means that students' ability in differentiate paraphrase, summary or quotation is under question.

CONCLUSION

From the gained data, it can be concluded that students'

knowledge on plagiarism still have problem in defining plagiarism. The uncertainty of students' knowledge of plagiarism need give more attention to be handled. So, teaching learning process especially in the classroom about paraphrase or quotation must been marked as an important learning. Thus, student can write the acceptable academic writing without any penalties given.

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