

УДК 378.147.88

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COMBATING PLAGIARISM IN WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

The development of technology as well as information explosion has opened the unprecedented opportunities for easy and quick access to information- copy-pasting, recombination, redrawing, etc. And although the plagiarism is not new in scientific research and academic writing, now the temptation to pass somebody's ideas as your own seems has much worsened, from egregious cases of plagiarism to unintentional. At the same time technological advent has made it possible to prevent some types of scientific fraud, so today most publications are checked with aim to discover most serious cases of offense. Though such software does not guarantee accurate results, and human crosschecking is still needed and topical.

Our task is to deter students from plagiarizing as the acts of academic dishonesty. The students should be fully aware of what plagiarism is, what its types are and how to avoid it. According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, to "plagiarize" means: 1) to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; 2) to use (another's production) without crediting the source; 3) to commit literary theft; 4) to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source. In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both

stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward. Bela Gipp stresses that 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."

In terms of the severity the plagiarism is ranked from complete plagiarism, the most serious offence, to paraphrasing, which is most common. A complete plagiarism occurs when a plagiarist takes the whole of somebody's manuscript or study and presents it under his or her name. It is tantamount to intellectual theft.

Source-based plagiarism takes place when a researcher refers to incorrect or non-existent source. Sometimes researcher cites the primary source but actually uses a secondary source of data or information thus increasing the number of sources and citation number of references.

Falsification, fabrication or making up data, results, findings, citations is also a type of plagiarism which may cause grave consequences, particularly when it relates to human safety and health. Inaccurate authorship may also be attributed to this type.

Direct plagiarism is observed when the author copies the other authors' texts word by word without referencing. It is similar to complete plagiarism, the only difference is that it refers not to the whole text but to some portions.

Self-plagiarism, or auto-plagiarism is a result of reusing big portions of previously published works without indicating them. It concerns scientists that have already their works, rather than students. Nevertheless the latter should be aware of such violation of integrity.

Paraphrasing plagiarism involves different wording of somebody else's writing, while the ideas and concepts are stolen from certain original source. Distortion of the original study content may mislead the reader and even cause danger to human safety and health.

Accidental plagiarism, both intended and unintended, may occur by mistake, unintentional paraphrasing, in distinguish ability of what material is subject to citation and what common knowledge is. Since students are likely to practice both paraphrasing and accidental plagiarism, so teachers should focus their attention on these plagiarism forms so as to reduce the risks.

A spread of contract cheating is being observed lately at the universities. The practice of paying someone who create so called "course work and diploma mills", when students and researchers pay for the work done for them is an extreme form of plagiarism.

There is one more form of plagiarism, which may be called translation plagiarism. When translated from one language into the other the text changes dramatically, and software fails to detect intellectual stealing and fraud. Cheaters try to be ahead of the software diagnostics of the text originality, so the attention should be paid to the development of cross language checking linguistic tools.

To avoid both accidental and intentional plagiarism students should follow a number of advices. First of all it is necessary not to copy sentences from a source unless for citation that will be put in quotation marks. Proper note-taking will save young authors from inaccurate authorship and falsification. Including "reference" section in the scientific writing of any kind may be a very useful practice to prevent potential plagiarism. When citing an on-line sources it is a strongly advised to include the date and URL in the reference list. To be sure that there is no distortion in paraphrasing students are recommended to read the original source several times until they become sure that they understand and explain it correctly.