

# Plagiarism Research Paper

## 1. Introduction

I spent my undergraduate study in one of the state universities in Indonesia. During that time, I was feeling of being in a quite good academic practice. The students were taught about moral value in the community as well as in academic like respecting others, noble value of honesty, where cheating is not a laudable act, and so on. Actually, we had been taught about moral value of honesty since in elementary school, but maybe the application was not very strict and firm. Though, I admit it that it was rarely stressed out by the faculty members. I was thinking most of the students have known enough about how we should uphold honest work in academic life. However, as I continued my study in the university here in the US, I have just realized that such concept is upheld on the different level here, much more explicit, clearly defined and firm, a concept that known as academic integrity.

## 2. Academic Integrity

Since the first class in every subject, we were constantly warned about the importance of adhering to university's academic integrity. It was stated in the syllabus on the every first day of classes in each particular subject, the faculties always reminds the students about academic integrity to uphold and to avoid plagiarism. Academic integrity is another term of the academic honesty, a set of ethical codes that refer to the act of honest work that created by one's own idea and effort. If in any condition he/she has to cite another person's work, he/she has to give credit to him or her with certain applicable rule.

### **3. Intellectual Property**

As in western education, critical thinking and creative work has been encouraged to all of the academic community. Including in creating a writing such as research paper, article, thesis, and other writing assignment. They appreciate the hard work and every effort of the author as his/ her intellectual property. I totally agree that the rights of the authors of literary works are should be rewarded and protected. This practice shows how Western academic value and appreciate intellectual property.

### **4. Plagiarism**

Especially in the English class, we were taught about norm of English academic writing and adhere to it or else we can be considered cheating or plagiarizing. “Plagiarism refers to violation of academic integrity codes concerning the misuse of misinterpretation of other people’s language and “intellectual property” [1].

My own past experience as an undergraduate student, is when I wrote papers I did not usually make the in-text citation. Though, I put the full references to the end of the writings, but they might not in the uniform and standard format. While here in the Western education, there are a lot of rule or style on citing references, such as APA, AMA, MLA, IEEE and many other style. Here are also the rules in using words or ideas of others, as stated in [3] that according to the writing manual, it still constitutes plagiarism by giving only minor modifications, superficial structural changes, or both to the original text. This is why we need to know what is how text must be modified to be classified as correctly paraphrased.

Each region has its own way to disagree to the act of plagiarism. I would rather to see cheating as a personal decision which is depend on one's own personality trait. I glad to find that here we can sufficiently and explicitly learn about making citation and referencing in academic writing, or else, as [2] argued that it would be unfair if the university just explicit about the penalties against plagiarism, which range from the instruction to re-write the work to the get expelled from the University.

### **5. Strategies for Doing Honest Work**

After knowing the concept of the academic integrity, intellectual property, and plagiarism. I suggest a few things that can be done to avoid plagiarism. First, we need to have a good time and plan management, because lack of time is the most major factor that can lead student's decision to cheat. Second, we can talk to the lecturer if we have problems with the course material or time pressure, it is worth to try to ask for extension if we have a legitimate reason. Third, make use the lesson about academic integrity thoroughly and we can also get tutoring from writing center at the university. Forth, convince ourselves to be a positive person and always remember it is not worth the risk by doing plagiarism.

Time management, understanding value of academic culture are several strategies to avoid plagiarism and there might be many other strategies that we can do, as an obedience to university's academic integrity and as a means of protecting and rewards one's intellectual property.

## References

- [1] K. Hjortshoj, “Research papers,” in *The Transition to College Writing*, Boston, MA: Bedford/St, 2009, pp.164-192.
- [2] H. Phan Le, “Plagiarism and overseas students: Stereotypes again?,” *ELT Journal*, vol. 60, Jan 2006, pp. 76.
- [3] M. Roig, “Plagiarism and paraphrasing criteria of college and university professors,” *Ethics and Behavior*, vol. 11, 2001, pp. 307-323.

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