

Conference Paper

Exploring Plagiarism Behavior in Higher Education

Amsal*, Hadi Supratikta, Djoko Sulistyono, Purwadi, and Catur Wibowo Budi Santoso

National Research and Innovation Agency (Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional), Indonesia

Abstract.

This study aims to explore plagiarism behavior in higher education. This study employed a qualitative method with a case study design using the reflective notes technique to collect data from the participants. The data were collected through online submission. The authors, at this moment, employed a qualitative method by assigning the participants to write reflective notes to obtain the true responses to various questions. The approach used in this study is a case study approach to understand the object studied. Ten students of Universitas Negeri Makassar were invited to participate in this study, but only six met the valid reflective notes. The study found that students have different views on plagiarism behavior. Some problems highlighted in this study related to plagiarism behavior, such as lack of training in proper writing techniques, academic dishonesty, lack of access to library resources, lack of admiration for fellow writers, and little or no consequence for plagiarism cases.

Corresponding Author: Amsal;
email: amsalamsal31@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

Experts have widely discussed the plagiarism term. Plagiarism is the act or behavior of using bad means to achieve the legitimate goal of getting academic success to avoid academic failure [1]–[5]. One of the plagiarism cases in the academic world, especially in lectures, is the phenomenon of plagiarism of scientific works. Indeed, not all students commit to plagiarism consciously and intentionally [6]. Some students do not realize that what they do is an act of plagiarism that can be sanctioned. They might be conscious that they can obtain a high academic achievement, pride, or self-esteem by plagiarism.

The phenomenon of plagiarism is widespread among academicians, including students. Plagiarism is a deliberate act in obtaining value for scientific work, citing some or all of the work of others and recognized as scientific work without stating the source of reference appropriately and adequately [7]. In the academic world, students are required to have the competence to write scientific works. One of the highest writing

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values is originality or authenticity [8]. Scientific work should have a value of quality in authenticity, objectivity, and honesty. Original is not all ideas conveyed by a person in her/his writing comes from herself/himself, but honesty in expressing the work. If the words or sentences appeared in someone's writing belong to another source, the citation is required as a part of publication ethics.

However, an urgent problem that occurs in Indonesian Higher Education is the high number of plagiarism cases of scientific works [9]. The high number of plagiarism in the academic sphere today proves that academicians no longer uphold the principles of honesty and ethics in producing scientific work. Academicians should have an honest nature in every activity both on and off-campus. Lecturers are required to get published along with teaching and conducting community service as Tri Darma roles. In comparison, students are also required to get published as a study accomplishment requirement. An academician is identical to writing a scientific paper. The phenomenon is often found that lecturers fulfill duties with limited time. Students feel it easy to plagiarize the writing of others through book media or internet media. One of them is the action of students instantly completing academic tasks.

Some factors might often be the cause of plagiarism behavior. Students may lack knowledge about writing scientific papers and plagiarism problems [10] [11], [12]. Laziness and desire to find shortcuts to achieve high achievements in desperate times may also lead to plagiarism. Besides, a lack of confidence among students that they can complete the task well may also be a temptation to commit to plagiarism. Almost all universities in Indonesia have cases of plagiarism that are still very difficult to overcome, including in Universitas Negeri Makassar [7]. Academicians have been committing to plagiarism both intentionally and unintentionally for various reasons. Therefore, this research aims to explore plagiarism behavior in Higher Education. Hence, two items were identified in this study as follows:

1. Plagiarism behavior among academicians
2. Plagiarism behavior among students

2. Method

This research was conducted in Universitas Negeri Makassar during August in 2021. The data was collected through online submission. The authors, at this moment, employed a qualitative method by assigning the participants to write reflective notes to obtain the truth responses to various questions [13]. The approach used in this study is a case

study approach to understand the object studied [14]. Ten students of Universitas Negeri Makassar were invited to participate in this study, but only six met the valid reflective notes. The participants were asked to submit their reflective notes on their views on plagiarism among academicians and students. In this case, this study aims to obtain objective information from the students about their view of plagiarism.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Plagiarism behavior among academicians

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty behavior in an academic context that violates ethics [15]. These violations hurt copyrights. Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit or value for scientific work by citing some or all of the work and scientific work of another party recognized as its scientific work without adequately stating the source. Plagiarism is a universal phenomenon that still occurs in the world of academics. Since the 19th century, plagiarism has become a serious problem [16].

According to participants in this study, plagiarism behavior among academicians happens due to some factors as follows:

1. Lack of training about good writing procedures
2. Disobey the academic honesty principles.
3. It is about access to library resources.
4. Lack of appreciation or respect for fellow writers.
5. Low or no sanction for a plagiarism case.

This research found that students still carry out some acts of plagiarism in writing scientific papers, articles, and thesis. This happens because of several factors that cause students to plagiarize, including because students who perform plagiarism actions are still less detectable, the lack of understanding of student science, student reading culture is still very lacking. Some lecturers and students still do not understand aspects related to the behavior of plagiarism of scientific works [2].

The majority of Universitas Negeri Makassar students interpret plagiarism as an academic fraud that copies the work of others both from books and the internet without listing clear and complete sources. Plagiarism has various definitions, but in essence, that is to use or take the work of others without proper citation. There is no knowledge

development with plagiarism by plagiarizing; the author will only repeat ideas belonging to others. Plagiarism turns off creativity and mindset in scientific writing. Scientific works should present truths and facts accompanied by empirical evidence.

This study highlights some plagiarism behavior among academicians based on the student's perspective:

1. Fully plagiarism without attribution [17] is the act of plagiarism committed by an author by plagiarizing or stealing the work of others entirely.
2. Partially plagiarism without attribution [17] is the act of plagiarism carried out by an author by plagiarizing some of the work of others.
3. Self-plagiarism [18] is plagiarism that an author restates her/his own work without providing the citation or duplicating her/his work.
4. Retranslation plagiarism [19]; it is plagiarism committed by an author by translating a foreign-language work into Indonesian.
5. Plagiarism of ideas [20]. This type of plagiarism is relatively difficult to prove because the idea or idea is abstract and likely has similarities with other ideas. Therefore, it needs sufficient evidence to ensure plagiarism.
6. Word for word plagiarism comprises taking the work of others word for word without mentioning the source [1].

Various forms of plagiarism above should enable students to understand the problem of plagiarism. After all, it is considered dangerous and detrimental to the development of science because it should be produced through a true and honest process. However, science is now being produced in an unethical way. Academicians should be aware of the publication ethics or academic honesty. Inevitably, many academicians only look for shortcuts to get a position through plagiarism of scientific work.

Knowledge advancement is not instantly obtained but through various stages of research conducted by many people from generation to generation. Therefore, scientists need to respect other efforts producing works. Plagiarism includes senior lecturers' behavior that depreciates the efforts of fellow researchers or writers whose knowledge has become part of the wealth of research. Therefore, understanding the plagiarism definition properly is vitally important for plagiarism prevention in higher education.

3.2. Phenomenon of student plagiarism behavior

Plagiarism is a universal phenomenon that still occurs, including in the Higher Education setting. Some cases still often occur, namely plagiarism carried out for personal advantage; one example is for doctorate or professorship requirement. Plagiarism in writing scientific works is indeed in the spotlight and is still a severe problem. In general, participants in the study noted that some of the plagiarism phenomena among students have many factors, including:

1. Lecturers and students do not understand what plagiarism is and what is included in the criteria of plagiarism [21]. Students think that technology development facilitates them to access information online that enables them to commit plagiarism.
2. Lecturers do not fully promote the issue of plagiarism [22]. Therefore, the competence of lecturers in scientific writing is required to prevent plagiarism practices in higher education.
3. Some students have understood and are familiar with plagiarism that it is detrimental, and some rules prohibit it [23]. However, most students still do it and consider it as natural conduct. However, some students have been accustomed to anti-plagiarism behavior by minimizing the similarity index as much as possible in the writing of scientific papers. This happens because lecturers give various advice and motivations to encourage students to have confidence in their writing ability.
4. Each institution has a different orientation, but plagiarism behavior remains a severe problem.

Considering the participant notes by some students indicate that plagiarism behavior is in various perspectives. In plagiarism cases, including in Universitas Negeri Makassar, many students still committed to plagiarism actions in the writing of scientific papers. However, the plagiarism cases carried out by students in Universitas Negeri Makassar are still less detectable due to various factors. If the student does not understand what plagiarism is, the institution is responsible for providing seminars or academic writing events to promote academic honesty for both students and lecturers.

4. Conclusion

Plagiarism is common among academics for a variety of reasons. Lack of training in proper writing techniques, academic dishonesty, lack of access to library resources,

lack of admiration for fellow writers, and little or no consequence for plagiarism cases are some of the variables discovered in this study. Students who took part in this study also stated that both professors and students misunderstand what plagiarism is and what constitutes plagiarism criterion. Students believe that technological advancements make it easier to acquire knowledge online, allowing them to plagiarize. Professors do not promote plagiarism. As a result, lecturers' scientific writing skills are essential to combat plagiarism in higher education. Some kids understand and are aware that plagiarism is harmful and that some rules ban it. Most pupils, however, continue to do so and regard it as a natural behavior. However, some students have been acclimated to anti-plagiarism in producing scientific articles by decreasing the similarity index as much as feasible. This occurs due to professors providing numerous tips and motives to inspire pupils to believe in their writing abilities.

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