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PLAGIARISM: A PLAGUE TO RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

In the 1st century, the use of the Latin word *plagiarius* (literally *kidnapper*), to denote someone stealing someone else's work, was pioneered by Roman poet Martial, who complained that another poet had "kidnapped his verses." This use of the word was introduced into English in 1601 by dramatist Ben Jonson, to describe as a *plagiary* someone guilty of literary theft. Plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of others (their ideas, concepts, images, sentences) and using them as if they were own, without crediting the author or citing the source. It is possible to plagiarize unintentionally, though by being careless or hurried, omitting quotation marks or slipping into the word or ideas of other.

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INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism

We all have the moral responsibility to uphold the scientific values and increase the respect of our great country in unquestionable scientific publishing. We hail from the land of Kanad, Aryabhat, Nagarjuna, Sushruta, Charaka and many other sage scientists who discovered mysteries of science and medicine much before the western civilization. Even if we cannot become the path breakers in all scientific fields, we can become honest researchers whose motto should be "Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara" which means speak the truth and lead a virtuous life (1).

Plagiarism is a vast term but in education it has always shown concerned for teachers and administrators, who want students' work to represent their own efforts and to reflect the outcomes of their learning, that also provide helpful suggestions and clarifications so that instructors, administrators, and students can work together more effectively in support of excellence in teaching and learning (<http://www.icmje.org>).

This statement responds to the growing educational concerns about plagiarism in four ways³:

- 1) By defining plagiarism
- 2) by suggesting some of the causes of plagiarism
- 3) by proposing a set of responsibilities (for students, teachers, and administrators) to address the problem of plagiarism
- 4) by recommending a set of practices for teaching and learning that can significantly reduce the likelihood of plagiarism

Exactly What Is Plagiarism?

- In the 1st century, Latin word PLAGIARIUS (literally kidnapper), use to denote someone stealing someone else's work, was pioneered by Roman poet Martial, who complained that another poet had "kidnapped his verses."
- This use of the word was introduced into English in 1601 by dramatist Ben Jonson, to describe as a plagiary someone guilty of literary theft.

Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own work. Plagiarism has been defined by the American Association of University Professors (September/October 1989) as "taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgement and

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with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver". Dr. Miguel Roig (3)

Types of Plagiarism³

1) Global plagiarism - It occurs when an author steals an entire paper word-for-word from another source and passes it off as his or her own.

Lucas calls this "the most blatant —and unforgivable — kind of plagiarism" and refers to it as "grossly unethical"

Dr. Ana M. Diaz-Arnold, Professor, University of Iowa College of Dentistry has complained to the president, SSV that the indian authors have plagiarized their entire paper in the article "Luting Agents: A Critical Analytic Appraisal" JIDA 2010 4(11):404-407; from their previous publication: Diaz-Arnold AM, Vargas MA, Haselton DR, "Current status of luting agents for fixed prosthodontics", J Prosthet. Dent. 1999; 81:135-41. Prof. Diaz-Arnold has asked for immediate retraction of the JIDA article.

Patchwork plagiarism - Author copies sections of a paper word-for-word from several sources and then fits them together so that they make sense, more or less. Lucas refers it as "essentially a cut-and-paste job of ideas and words that are not your own" example: Fig 1.

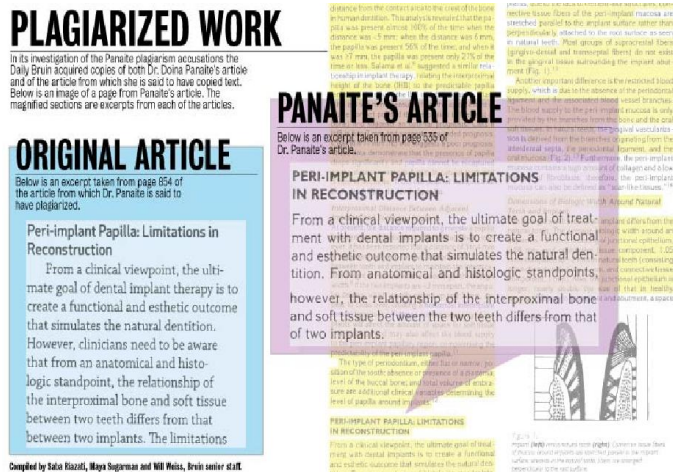


Fig. 1.

Incremental plagiarism - occurs when the author fails to give credit for specific parts or "increments" of the paper that were borrowed from other sources. Most of college students falls into this category. Example: Fig. 2.

Does That Mean You Should Include a Citation for Every Single Fact in Your Paper?

No, it doesn't. Citation is not required for information that is considered common knowledge. Common knowledge has been defined as "facts, dates, events, information, and concepts that belong generally to an educated public. No individual owns the facts about history, physics, social behavior, geography, current events, popular culture, and so on". Eg. John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States in 1960- general knowledge. According the American Family Leave Coalition's new book, Family Issues and Congress, President Bush's relationship with Congress has hindered family leave legislation -it is not fact, it is opinion (The Scott Foresman handbook for writers, 3rd ed. New York, NY: HarperCollins College Publishers)³

Incidence of plagiarism (http:// www.scientificvalues.org/cases.html)

In 1984, a history professor of Cornell University surveyed 425 college students and found that 25% believed that plagiarism was acceptable, and another 38% knew plagiarism was wrong but would plagiarize nonetheless. The sum of these two groups shows that 63% of college student will admit to engaging in plagiarism, a result that is truly astounding.

Another example,

Comparison of retraction of papers of various countries:

- There was retraction of research papers submitted by the prestigious Indian institute of technology to biotechnology advances in 2010.
- At the meeting, , professor of materials engineering at the Indian institute of science, Bangalore, presented data, which shows that the average retraction rate was 68 per 100,000 papers by Indian authors between 2001 and 2010.
- For comparison, he cited American research through Pubmed, showing the retraction rates which were as follows:

INTERNATIONAL BIOMEDICAL RETRACTION	1-2010
INDIA	
CHINA	
JAPAN	
UNITED STATES	
UNITED KINGDOM	

Abhinandansaid that most of the cases of misconduct in India are due to plagiarism, the retracted papers are often first published in lower profile journals

Shamim T. Serious thoughts about plagiarism from India. Saudi J. Anaesth 2012; 6:191

Original	NST article*
Sports remain a great metaphor for life's most difficult lessons. It was through athletics that many of us came to understand that fear can be tamed; that on a team the whole is more than the sum of its parts; and that the ability to be heroic lies within. - Susan Casey, former managing editor of Sports Illustrated Women.	SPORT remains a great metaphor for life's most difficult lessons. It is through football that many of us came to understand that fear can be tamed; that for a team the whole is more than the sum of its parts; and that the ability to be heroic lies within.
Whatever it takes: In pursuit of the Perfect 10, CNN.com, April 10, 2006	
But it is in the very nature of soccer to be unpredictable. If it were not the case that underdogs can sometimes defeat the predicted winners, soccer would be uninteresting.	It is in the very nature of soccer to be unpredictable. If it were not the case that underdogs can sometimes defeat the predicted winners, soccer would be uninteresting. The same goes for life.
ANGOLA - Greater Goal: Healing a War-Torn Land, by Henning Mankell for National Geographic, June 2006	

*Life played out on a football pitch, by Brendan Pereira (NST, July 2, 2006)

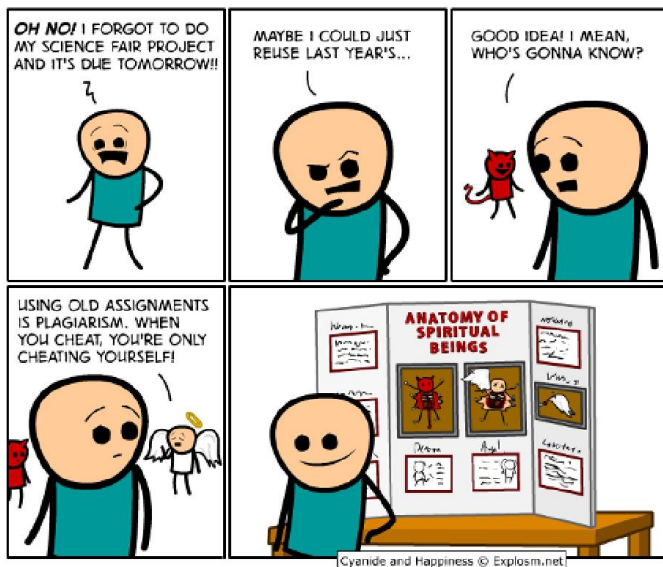
Fig. 2.

I published a case report in the Saudi Dental Journal (Shamim et al., 2007). The same article was plagiarized by other authors and published as a case report for a pediatric patient in a journal published in India. The authors copied the entire text (introduction, case report, discussion, conclusion, Oralpempfigusvulgaris in a pediatricpatient photomicrograph Figure 4 and direct immunofluorescence photograph) from the original article. They also changed the department and presented the case as if it occurred in pediatric patient. I informed the Editor-in-Chief of the Indian journal regarding this glaring case of plagiarism. The Editor-in-Chief of the Saudi Dental Journal also wrote to the Editor concerned to rectify the matter. The editor of that journal decided to retract the above article (<http://www.icmje.org>).

Why people Plagiarized? (Devoss et al., 2002)

People in general plagiarize others work because of:

1. Laziness
2. Lack of time / planning
3. Fear of failure
4. Competition (parental & colleague pressure)
5. Lack of knowledge
6. Lack of enforcement
7. Pressures to publish (for career advancement)
8. Desire for getting recognition
9. To influence others



Plagiarism is not only in the field of education, it is seen in day to day life like music, films, technologies, software, construction projects, fashion world, gadgets etc. Here are some of the examples:

Plagiarism in the field of music and Bollywood industries

I think there are worse heartbreakers –. They never got tagged as “lifters” but lifted some of the biggest hits in the Indian film industry

A List of Other Such Bollywood movies copied from Hollywood

Tezaab 1988 | Streets of fire 1984
Agneepath 1990 | Scarface 1983

Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar 1992 | Breaking Away 1979
Rangeela- | Win a Date with Tadf Hamilton
Daraar 1996 | Sleeping with the Enemy 1991
Agni Sakshi 1996 | Sleeping with the Enemy 1999
Pyar To Hona Hi Tha | 1998 French Kiss 1995
Dushman 1998 | Eye for an Eye 1996
Mohabbatein 2000 | Dead Poets Society 1989
u me aur hum(2008) | The Notebook + A Moment To Remember
God Tussi Great Ho 2008 | Bruce Almighty 2003

Music plagiarism

Madonna has been accused of plagiarism by record label Vallejo Music Group (VMG).VMG claims Madonna stole samples from the 1977 single "Ooh I Love It (Love Break)" by Salsoul Orchestra, for her 1990 charting song "Vogue". In the lawsuit, VMG allege that horns and strings were taken from the earlier track and used in "Vogue" without permission. The lawsuit was filed in July 2012 with the company seeking.

- R.D. Burman (one of my most favored music directors)
 - Aao Twist Karein (Bhoot bangla) – Shameless copy – Let’s twist again
 - Mehbooba (Sholay) – Listen to Say you love me
 - Tumse Milke (Parinda) – Listen to When I need you
- Laxmikant Pyarelal
 - Om shanti Om (Karz) – Real heartbreaker – Shantiom
- Anand Milind
 - Akele Hain (Qayamay Se Qayamat Tak) – Crying shame – Return to the alamo

Legal foundations of plagiarism (Madray, 2008)

Plagiarism is not defined in law. In practice, it is seen as a breach of moral and ethical codes of conduct. In law, plagiarism derives its existence primarily from copyright law. Copyright is the legally enforceable right of a person — the creator — to claim ownership of a literary, dramatic, musical, or artistic work.

Copyright infringement occurs when someone violates the creator’s copyright.

Plagiarism is a form of literary copyright infringement.

A second legal basis for plagiarism is fraud. Wikipedia defines fraud as “an intentional deception made for personal gain or to damage another individual.”

What are Punishments or the Penalties? (<http://www.scientificvalues.org/cases.html>)

- Serious sanctions, including public disclosure, loss of research funding, loss of professional stature and termination of employment may result in legal action
- Depending on the extent of the plagiarism, a student may receive a reduced grade on an assignment, fail the assignment, fail the course, be placed on academic probation or be suspended from the College.

Some notable examples are

- University in Nigeria suspends their Dean (<http://allafrica.com/stories/200801240190.html>)

- Punjab University in Pakistan suspended their Director (<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/>)

Tips for avoiding plagiarism (Henderickson, 1957)

1. Attribute references
2. Describe all sources of information
3. Give acknowledgments
4. Use quotation marks wherever required
5. Paraphrase the original, attributed work
6. For extensive quotations, obtain permission from the publisher of the original work
7. Avoid self-plagiarism by taking permission from the publisher of the previous article authored by you
8. Obtain permission for use of published drawings or other illustrations

Anti-plagiarism Tools (Keuskamp and Sliuzas, 2007)

The most accurate way to detect plagiarism is to take a “fingerprint” of a paper - defined by structure, words, and content - and compare it with papers stored in an electronic archive or on the internet using Plagiarism.org. To prevent plagiarism, software tools are developed - referred to as anti-plagiarism software. There are a number of anti-plagiarism tools, most popular being Turnitin and plagiarism.org.

Conclusion

We should make every attempt to distinguish an innocent misstep from a deliberate act. However, the best way to confront the situation is for authors to police themselves such that the act of checking new submissions for plagiarized text rapidly becomes unnecessary.

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