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Plagiarism Research Paper

Recently, a number of international students who come to study in the Western societies grow at a dramatically increasing rate. Most students entering universities should understand that plagiarism is dishonest and misleading as it can be determined that students who contribute their own works by using someone else's particular ideas (Badke, 2003, p.97). Moreover, many universities in the Western cultures extremely focus on the intellectual property. American Association of University Professors stated that, the infringement of words, ideas, concepts or methods from the original authors without permission or with intention and claiming them as their own intellectual property is literary theft. Plagiarism might occur from various circumstances. However, students could avoid ethical misconduct by clearly addressing reference and citation (As cited in Roig, 2003). In order to conduct such academic papers, writers are necessary to recognize the ethical practice. This research paper will discuss general knowledge of plagiarism and why plagiarism is an important issue in the academic society.

Nevertheless, different education institutions have different concerns in terms of the rules of academic writing styles. Likewise, many Western universities support necessary knowledge and resources, especially academic honesty and integrity, which the results of our own work should be honest, in which Weil (2015) indicated, "They need to cite other publications or information that was not their own and was used in the development of the paper". In addition, many non-Westerners may not familiar with the word "Plagiarism" because of different cultures. For instances, in my country, Thailand, it can be seen that the perspectives on writing and citation may differ from the Western styles of citing sources. Instructors tend to focus on student's knowledge rather than plagiarism. Basically, students can just copy a passage from the sources that they like and slightly change words or structure of the sentences. Furthermore, instructors do not require students to cite sources and there are no citation styles like APA, MLA and Chicago styles, compared with Western countries where I have studying experiences such as the United Kingdom and the United States. While, it might be counted as plagiarism in the Western universities. As a result, plagiarism can lead to the consequences of honor code violations and punishments such as a grade reduction on the assignment or course and fail in the course (The Mason Honor Code, 2013).

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Plagiarism can be both intentional and unintentional depends on the context and the way to paraphrase the passages. Plagiarism can be caused from improperly citing sources. Some students, especially, international students might not familiar with academic integrity due to the cultural differences. Another cause of plagiarism is that students have limited knowledge on particular topics because it might be difficult for them to develop their own idea or even paraphrase from other sources, as they do not deeply understand that topics. Consequently, they might end up with copying from the sources, which can be called plagiarism.

Students should be always aware of the importance of writing ethically. There are various ways to avoid plagiarism. Firstly, it is acceptable to use direct quotation but the writer should not frequently use it. It is necessary to always give credit to source of another authors' original ideas by enclosing quotation marks. The second guideline is to paraphrase by taking the ideas or a part of text from others sources and thoroughly modifying the sentences by using synonyms to replace some of the words, and credit the authors. More than that, instructors should also support academic integrity seminar such as explaining the honor code of George Mason University. Not only theoretical steps but also practical steps, in which teachers can prepare appropriate academic exercises in summary writings with citations and paraphrasing practices (Bacha et al, 2012). These techniques enrich students to have critical thinking because it allows them to use their original idea and concept.

In conclusion, plagiarism is significant fundamental issue in academic writing in the Western universities. Therefore, to produce effective writing works, plagiarism is not considerable to use and should be avoided. It is also important for students from non-Western countries to develop academic writing skills by understanding plagiarism.

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