

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM IN WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses how to avoid plagiarism in a research paper. Avoiding plagiarism is part of a scientific writing ethic that always stated in any publication. Every writer should pay attention to their papers submitted to a journal or a scientific forum that they are free from unethical conduct. Writing a research paper needs overall accuracy especially in avoiding plagiarism in the paper that is to be published in a journal or to be presented at a certain scientific meeting, seminar or symposium. It is based on writers' experience as a paper writer as well as a journal reviewer. The first application that the writers use is 'checker', a Mac computer application, used to check spelling and grammar. It assists the writers to check how misspelling and an ungrammatical inaccuracy in the writers' papers. The second free application is 'plagiarism checker'. Checking originality of a paper is essential and it is not too difficult to do today. It is freely accessible that plagiarism checker can be used to check how original the paper is. By visiting "Google" then write down 'plagiarism checker', it will appear 'smallseatools' and then the writers could choose and check how original the paper is. This application is freely accessed and helps immensely to check how original a paper is and how far a paper is free from plagiarism. The unoriginal phrase will be underlined and marked red and finally will be shown how inimitable the paper is. Plagiarism scan report which consists of the date of the report, plagiarism status, total words and total characters can be downloaded.

KEYWORDS: avoiding plagiarism, checking plagiarism, paper writing, grammar checker, spelling checker

1. INTRODUCTION

Scientific publication is a long process, starting from deciding research topic or research conception, research design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation results, and research publication. All the processes have to be done correctly by following international ethics so the research publication will enrich the science, technology and art. The roles of editors and a suitable tool to filter the papers which are going to be published in a journal become very important to ensure that the papers presented are scientifically and ethically acceptable. It is widely found that ethical misconduct in a scientific publication specifically lies in data fabrication, multiple submission, plagiarism, and authorship misuse (Lukman, et al, 2017).

Ethics statement is completely stated in every publication of a journal, especially in online journals, and it becomes very important to be considered by all writers who want to submit their papers. It becomes the main priority of a journal to state strongly and it should be strongly also considered by the authors to check and recheck their papers or manuscripts before the process of submission (<http://ojs.pnb.ac.id/index.php/JASL/EthicsStatement>).

Plagiarism is taking ideas, methods, or writings from others without mentioning the source and with the aim of being claimed as a self-creation (American Association of University Professor, 'Statement of Plagiarism' (Academe, 75: 47-48, in Lukman et al, 2017). Taking ideas and method of others are called copying, but make people believe it is as though our own work is called stealing. In addition to plagiarism from the work of others, plagiarism can also be from the work itself (self-plagiarism). The use of a small portion of the manuscript that has published is called text recycling, but the use of most of the manuscript which has been published is called redundant or duplicate publication (Lukman, et al, 2017).

The development and revolution of information technology send human beings into a new world of creativity. Today some fruitful information around the world could be easily accessed without limit and it arrives freely in our palm. Many people feel free to get something from the Internet by downloading it and sending his or her idea by uploading it in an unlimited way. Of course, it could be found the benefit of the information technology, but it could also supply the negative impacts of it especially when it is used by an irresponsible person. The irresponsible ones will also feel free to copy an article or a good statement then he or she claims it as part of his or her own. A wise person, of course, has to decide to use a sophisticated tool to facilitate and improve his or her life. Many people believe that all the information accessed from the internet is free from the negative thing and then they will follow and use it as a guide for their life.

The experience of being a researcher has proved that it is not completely easy to write a good abstract or a research paper. This general difficulty drives an irresponsible person to copy and take an article or part of an article to be his or her own. It is a ridiculous experience to have a paper categorized as a part of plagiarism although someone sometimes does not do it intentionally; he or she does not realize that a certain paragraph of his or her paper belongs to someone else's paper published in an online journal. A writer or a researcher can get rid of plagiarism if they patiently try to check the originality of the paper they write by using plagiarism checker software that could be accessed freely on the internet. Or it is better for them to check their paper before sending it to a journal editor.

Checking plagiarism in a research paper has to be the main priority of journal editors to ensure or to guarantee that the papers that are going to be published are free from

plagiarism. It is really important to prevent that the papers are original. The role of the editor and also good reviewers are very important in preventing the existence of double publication and plagiarism. Reliable and active editors and reviewers in the publication will be able to detect whether the manuscript reviewed has been previously published or not. The availability of several programs that can be used to detect the resemblance or the similarity of a script is a must. Many tools, both free accessed nor paid access, are *'Iturnitin'*, *'Similarity Check'* (formerly *'CrossCheck'*) using *'iThenticate software'*, *'PlagScan'*, *'Plagiarism Checker'* etc. Plagiarism checked statement is essential to guarantee that the writers and readers, and indexical institution that publish the papers are professionally managed. *'PlagScan'* is an online plagiarism detection application that can be used by institutional users who have been registered. It can be accessed via the internet at www.plagscan.com/ristekdikti link. Since to apply the first of three are not free, based on the researchers' experiences, the best choice for the public falls into what it is called *'Plagiarism Checker'* (smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker).

If plagiarism is found in an article then the consequence of the article can be withdrawn (retraction), cancelled (cancellation), removed from the database (removal), replaced (replacement), especially for medical articles (Lukman, 2016). Authors who are caught doing plagiarism may be banned from sending manuscripts to the relevant journals.

Today it is relatively easy to avoid having or doing plagiarism if a writer or researcher patiently could check it using online checker called *'plagiarism checker'* on the internet. Everyone could access it freely as far as they are having an internet access. There would be more than one internet site provide plagiarism checkers, but the researchers must decide the easiest one. When typing *'plagiarism checker'* on Google, everyone is offered some Web sites provide it to access. The following are the example how everyone could access fruitful checkers of plagiarism. They attract online visitors by showing their interesting *'titles'*, the first-five sites are *Plagiarism Checker, A Free Online Plagiarism Detector* (smallseotools.com), *Free Plagiarism Checker for Teacher and Students* (www.paperrater.com), *Plagiarism Checker, Grammarly* (www.grammarly.com), *Quetext, Official Site* (www.quetext.com), and *Advanced Plagiarism Checker Free Article Checker Online* (searchenginereports.net).

The other experience as a journal reviewer has taught the researchers or reviewers how to build a strategy or a technique of reviewing numerous papers in a limited time. The only method or technique that has been used is by using plagiarism checker, online plagiarism checker software which could be freely accessed. It could be also used to check whether someone's statement or paper originally belongs to him or her or it belongs to someone else

by copying it on the internet. Nonetheless, today it will be easier to check how original a paper is by using an application called 'plagiarism checker'. Just by visiting 'google' and then type in it 'plagiarism checker' it will show the guidance how to check how much an article is original or free from plagiarism. Plagiarism checker is claimed to be best for students, teachers, writers and webmasters to check the plagiarism percentage report of articles, essays, thesis and web pages (smallseotools.com).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Three papers of twenty papers which were sent to publish in a journal and a seminar program were taken as a sample of the research. These three papers were purposively chosen to be tested whether they were original or not or free from plagiarism. The following steps were taken to process of checking for plagiarism. The first step, each paper was divided into parts consisting of 1000 (one thousand) words each to ease checking in the plagiarism checker. If the paper consists of 5000 words, it will be divided into five parts (I, II, III, IV, V). The second, the researchers open the internet access, and then go to 'google' and then type 'plagiarism checker, or by clicking the next one: <http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker>. The third, the researchers follow the instruction given. The researchers then will be guided to check systematically the papers to prove the originality.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this analysis, the writers, as well as the researchers, would like to show that it is simple to avoid having plagiarism in a paper by being patient to check how original the paper is. It is based on the experiences for years as a paper writer, before being tested by plagiarism checker, the writer usually checks the paper using 'grammar and spelling checker', namely a computer application using a Mac computer. This computer application is easily and freely accessed in application store (Appstore) using a Mac computer. This application is useful in checking paper's grammar and its spelling. This is the first application or computer application called 'checker' the researchers have used so far. Although it can be downloaded using a Mac computer and it must be accessed using internet connection. This 'checker' application must be accessed when there is an internet access using WIFI or using a modem. It is very useful to check the grammar and the spelling of our paper, although the tenses or past form as an example could not be identified well. It is useful for the writer of English paper not for the other paper such as Indonesian paper. Misspelt words will be corrected by giving suggested proper words to revise. Revising misspelt words seem to be easier for it than revising grammar.

The second computer application or software is 'plagiarism checker' which can be accessed online at <http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/> or just type "plagiarism checker" on google, then it will be shown many websites offering plagiarism checkers, but the writers choose to use 'plagiarism checker' shown above. As it was mentioned above that a plagiarism checker is a computer application that can be accessed to test plagiarism percentage of articles, essays, thesis, and web pages. It is best for students, teachers, writers and webmasters to check plagiarism percentage report of articles they write (<http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker>). For the researchers own business, after checking the grammar and the spelling of the paper, the writer uses plagiarism checker to make sure that the content of the paper is free from plagiarism. For the sake of the researcher own business as a reviewer of a journal, the writers also use this software to check the originality of the paper the writers have to review as a journal reviewer.

Writing a paper which is free from plagiarism will make sure the reviewers that the paper the researchers write is free from copying or quoting someone's papers. Once the researchers have proven to be a plagiarizer or an illegal writer, it will be difficult for the researchers to convince them that the writers did not do it intentionally. Every time the writers finished writing a paper, what the writers must do is checking it using 'checker application' which the writers download free of charge by using MacBook computer from Appstore (application store). The writers must use it online namely by using an internet access to use 'checker application'.

Reading and reviewing a paper to be published in a journal is time-consuming. It takes much time to read it and then to review it as a good paper to publish. As a reviewer, the writers did not get any useful information about what to do. Just review it, so it will be better to publish it in a journal. First, the writers read the article that the writers have to review. The writers have to conclude that the first paragraph the writers read did not show good English sentences. To help the researchers judge that this paper did not show unique paper in the sense that it is free from plagiarism, the next step the writers have to do is to check it using plagiarism checker. The writers were happy at that time, not because of proving it that there is a plagiarism part found in this paper, but the writers were aided reading all the paper. Since it was found 50% to 60% of the paper that belongs to someone else paper, finally the writers stop reading it and then the writers send back to the editor in chief by attaching the note and the proof of plagiarism scan report provided by this software. As an example, the writer also takes this paper (Avoiding Plagiarism in A Research Paper) to test using grammar and spelling to make sure it is well composed. This paper was also checked using plagiarism checker and it was reviewed to be a good article and completely free from quoting someone

else papers or using someone else statements which have been published in an online journal. It was officially stated that this article is fully unique or it was stated that ‘the plagiarism status is 100% unique, in the sense that there is no any statement or phrase written in the article that belongs to someone’s else paper which has been previously published in an online journal. As a paper which will be sent to a scientific meeting or seminar, based on the review of plagiarism checker, it is free from quoting or pasting from another paper.

The next example is taken from two papers which were reviewed by the researcher. As it was stated above that here the researcher is as well as a reviewer. The next table is just an example of the plagiarism scan report taken from a paper the researcher has to review. One of the steps the writer must take as a reviewer is to find out a method or a technique to ease the writer as a journal reviewer is reviewing or reading the abstracts and the introductions of the papers. The method of reviewing that the writer applies is by using plagiarism checker. The next table shows how Plagiarism Scan Report describes shortly that the paper being tested is full of plagiarism. It shows that the writer of the paper was only able to show the uniqueness of his/her paper under 47%. It means that the paper contains 53% unoriginal paper of the writer. Of course, in general, it can be categorized to be an unsuitable paper to be published anywhere.

Table 1 Plagiarism Scan Report

Summary	
Report Generated Date	22 Aug, 2017
Plagiarism Status	47% Unique
Total Words	848
Total Characters	6584
Any Ignore Url Used	

Table 1 (quoted from the original scan report) presents the summary of the plagiarism report as a result of plagiarism checker. The original one can be downloaded and printed but it cannot be saved since it was protected. But it is easy to access it in the download section in the computer anytime. The original one is completed by the page of plagiarism checker. Before being downloaded, the report showed the statements or phrases that belong to writers of the original one and it can be traced. The unoriginal phrases were marked red and underlined to indicate that they belong to another writer. It can be traced in the website where the unoriginal statements were taken and also we can trace who it belongs to. The Table 1

also describes the date of the process of the paper was checked. In the plagiarism status, it was stated clearly how many percents is based on the writer own-self. The uniqueness above is only 47%, it means that 53% of the statements or phrases belong to another writer. If it is the writers or researchers own paper, the writers can trace it and revise it to improve and get rid of having plagiarism. The plagiarism scan report can be sent to the writer as a proof that the paper needs revision. Since the report is downloaded from the reputable website, the writers have to realize that they ‘unconsciously’ have made some mistakes that should not appear in the paper.

How many percents of the plagiarism is tolerated by editor team? It depends on the rule of the journal editor. If 25% is to be tolerated, it means that the uniqueness should be 75%. But when it is the writers own research, of course, the writers must revise it to be 100% unique that means 100% free from plagiarism. How should the researchers do if some statements or phrases were found as part of plagiarism? The best way to is to rewrite it to minimize from having plagiarism. After being revised, try again to recheck it to make sure that it is good enough to be a scientific paper.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on two papers used as the research’s sample, it has been found that the possibility of finding unoriginal papers is still possible. The best way to avoid having plagiarism is by testing a paper by using ‘Plagiarism Checker’. It is a free online plagiarism software to check how original a paper is. This software helps a reviewer immensely to check a paper which adopts plagiarism. It helps reviewers, as well as writers, check from having an unoriginal paper. The reviewer becomes more professional in reviewing the paper if he or she could show the result of the review by attaching Plagiarism Scan Report. The writer will be hopefully aware of what he or she writes in the paper since the suggestions given are objective enough and not based on personal considerations.

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