



Attitude and Practices of Senior High School Students Towards Plagiarism

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Abstract – Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's ideas or words as one's own, without proper acknowledgment of the source. The main objective of this study is to determine the attitude and practices of students towards plagiarism in one institution in Pangasinan. It is an experimental study that investigates the attitude and practices of the students once they found out that their instructor runs their submitted paper to a plagiarism detection software. The sources of the data are the 44 Senior High School student from one institution in Pangasinan, where students were asked to submit an essay paper in a Science Subject. A 1500 word essay which is divided into three questions was given to the student as an assignment. Submission of the assigned work was made thru Google Classroom for easy organization. Based on the result of the study, based on the first submission where students are unaware of plagiarism testing, 40.9% of the total students have 75 to 100 percent matching. The study shows a positive result in avoiding plagiarism for the second submission due to the feedback provided by Turnitin, a plagiarism detection software. It is recommended that the institution should be serious about maintaining academic integrity by subscribing to the tools that help the education system away from plagiarism.

Keywords – Turnitin software, plagiarism,

INTRODUCTION

As educators are generally proficient in terms of instructional competencies and teaching effectiveness (P. G. Queroda & Nama, 2018; Salcedo, 2018), they should also be knowledgeable in different technological trends that are needed to improve academic integrity. Plagiarism nowadays destroys credibility in education, and it is an issue in higher education institutions throughout the globe (Graham-Matheson & Starr, 2013; Roman, 2018).

Plagiarism is a major offense in academic writing. It constitutes the majority of academic ethics violations at the School (Nather, Lim, & Nather, 2015). In this regard, the academic industry should not tolerate the practice of copying ideas which do not belong to the student itself. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's ideas or words as one's own, without proper acknowledgment of the source (Anderson & Steneck, 2011).

Plagiarism is rampant in today's academic world (Bruton & Childers, 2016; Sutherland-Smith, 2014) and it has consequences. According to iThenticate "The consequences of plagiarism can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal. With plagiarism detection software so readily available and in use, plagiarists are being caught at an alarming rate" (iThenticate, n.d.).

Turnitin is known as one of the best plagiarism detection software. It is a subscription based where an institution or an organization may subscribe to the service.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to determine the attitude and practices of students towards plagiarism in one institution in Pangasinan. It is an experimental study that investigates the attitude and practices of the students once they found out that their instructor runs their submitted paper to a plagiarism detection software. Aside from the brief profile of the respondents such as sex and age, students were also asked for the reason for doing such practice.

Importance of the Study

The Importance of the study will benefit the academic industry and add additional validation on the previous study about plagiarism. This study is also a basis for the encouragement of all educators to create a plagiarism and citation policy in every institution.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study covers one class with 51 students of the Senior High School in one institution in Pangasinan. To maintain the confidentiality of the data,

the name of the institution and the name of the respondents were not included in the result of the study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this research study, the researcher adopted an experimental method of research. It used the submission of the students and a plagiarism tester Turnitin in order to determine the practice and attitude of students. A follow-up interview was conducted in order to determine the attitude of the respondents. The researcher selected Turnitin as a plagiarism tester because it is considered as one of the best similarity detection because a huge number of database (Batane, 2010; Buckley & Cowap, 2013; Dahl, 2007; Khoza, 2015).

Sources of Data and Processing

From a total of 51 students, the sources of the data are the 44 Senior High School student from one institution in Pangasinan, where they were asked to submit an essay paper in a Practical Research 2 subject. A 1500 word essay which is divided into three questions was given to the student as an assignment. Submission of the assigned work was made thru Google Classroom for easy organization.

Turnitin software was used to facilitate the identification of plagiarised material in assignments. As shown in table 1, the software used color codes to determine plagiarism range which was adopted in this study.

Table 1 Shows the Color Coding by Turnitin

Blue: No matching text
Green: One word to 24% matching text
Yellow: 25-49% matching text
Orange: 50-74% matching text
Red: 75-100% matching text

Statistical Treatment Used

The researcher used frequency and percentage to determine the number of students. The spreadsheet was used to record the similarity index of each of the papers from the 44 students. Several formulas from the spreadsheet were used such as SUM, AVERAGE, and others. COUNTIFS was used to determine the number of students in a different range of similarity percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are a total of 51 students in the class, where there are 27 females and 24 males. Out of 51 students, only 44 responded. The students are given 3 question with a minimum of 500 words each question with a total of 1500 words.

Student's Practice without Plagiarism Policy

The result of the study shows that students tend to practice plagiarism because of ignorance in the plagiarism detection software. As shown in table 2, it is there are only 3 students who passed the acceptable similarity index of less than 24 percent. It is alarming that 40.9% of the respondents have Red marks or 75-100% matching text.

Table 2 shows the results of the Similarity Index for the first submission

Results	Frequency	Percentage
0%	0	0.0%
<24%	3	6.8%
25% to 49%	9	20.5%
50% to 74%	14	31.8%
75% to 100%	18	40.9%
TOTAL	44	100.0%

During the follow-up interview, most of the respondents are surprised seeing the similarity index result of their paper that shows the source of the text.

Reasons for Practicing Plagiarism

Ten students were asked how frequent they are practicing copying over the internet. Their answer was "Always" because of the absence of knowledge about plagiarism detection software. Based on the result of the study, the majority of the students are unaware of the plagiarism detection software, some of them are aware but believed that the educators are not using it. Most of the reason why they commit plagiarism is that laziness and aim to finish the assignment as soon as possible. Lastly, some of students reason for the practice of plagiarism is the easier to access information that can be effortlessly pasted into their writing. Procrastination and poor time management also leave students with limited options. There might be a relationship between the piracy practices such as downloading illegal content

from the internet (Ventayen & Ventayen, 2018) and plagiarism practices because most of the students that were asked also admitted that they have a copy music and movies without paying.

Student's Practice with Plagiarism Policy

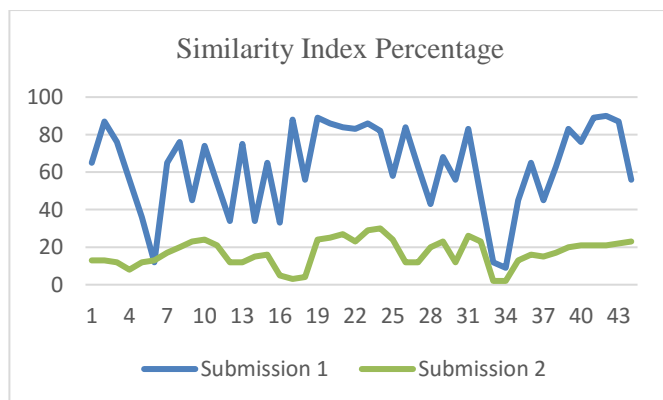
The students are given another essay activity and notify them that the teacher will provide a similarity index report. The result of the experiment shows that the majority of the students or 88.6% didn't commit plagiarism, and only 11.4% of the students commit a small amount of plagiarism.

Table 3 shows the results of the Similarity Index for the second submission

Results	Frequency	Percentage
0%	0	0.0%
<24%	39	88.6%
25% to 49%	5	11.4%
50% to 74%	0	0.0%
75% to 100%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	44	100.0%

During the follow-up interview, most of the respondents are afraid to commit plagiarism because of the warning provided by the teacher.

Table 4 Shows the Comparison between the first and second submission



In this experiment, the teacher's competency in terms of technology is important in order to understand how plagiarism testing works and to fight plagiarism. Also, teachers should possess professional

characteristics in terms of decisiveness, integrity, commitment, resourcefulness, and tolerance (P. Queroda, 2017) to fight plagiarism.

As shown in Table 4, the comparison shows between the first and second submission are far different. Students who are unaware of plagiarism testing tend to do the crime.

Table 5 Similarity Index of Each Student

Student No.	Submission 1	Submission 2	Difference
1	65	13	52
2	87	13	74
3	76	12	64
4	56	8	48
5	36	12	24
6	12	13	-1
7	65	17	48
8	76	20	56
9	45	23	22
10	74	24	50
11	54	21	33
12	34	12	22
13	75	12	63
14	34	15	19
15	65	16	49
16	33	5	28
17	88	3	85
18	56	4	52
19	89	24	65
20	86	25	61
21	84	27	57
22	83	23	60
23	86	29	57
24	82	30	52
25	58	24	34
26	84	12	72
27	63	12	51
28	43	20	23
29	68	23	45
30	56	12	44
31	83	26	57
32	47	23	24
33	12	2	10
34	9	2	7
35	45	13	32
36	65	16	49
37	45	15	30



38	63	17	46
39	83	20	63
40	76	21	55
41	89	21	68
42	90	21	69
43	87	22	65
44	56	23	33
Average	62.80	16.95	45.84

This study shows the distribution of Similarity Index of each student as shown in Table 5. The unaware students of the plagiarism tester has an average of 62.80 percent of similarity index, while the aware students of plagiarism testing has only 16.95 percent of similarity index with a difference of 45.84 percent. The result shows that there is a huge change in the effect of awareness.

The goal of each academic institution is to get away from plagiarized paper. A plagiarized paper or assignment doesn't only waste the time of educators, but also a crime as a thief in the side of students who did their best. Academic writing which includes essay assignment should be original work by the student, any text derived from another published source, or from an author not named in the writing, must be formatted to clearly indicate the correct citation to the original source must be given. Institution should purchase subscription of the top plagiarism testing provider such as Turnitin (Johari, Alias, Rahman, & Ibrahim, 2015).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study concludes that student should be notified and be aware of the plagiarism detection software. The awareness of students will lessen the practice of copying and pasting articles from the internet. It is recommended that institution should purchase subscription of the top plagiarism testing provider such as Turnitin in order to maintain the academic integrity. Educators should also develop a plagiarism and citation policy for the institution to disseminate the information.

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