**Discussion about Plagiarism**

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Plagiarism is real a big problem is academic. Image that a person who tries to kidnapping someone else’s child, that is very serious crime. And plagiarism is like the same kind of action in academic, as “plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s ‘brainchild’—— that person’s language, ideas, or research... ”[1]. It is very important for graduate students to have a clear acknowledgement of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is defined as the “wrongful appropriation or purloining and publication as one’s own, of ideas, or the expression of the ideas … of another” [2]. In the Investigative Writing, Hjorshoj categories plagiarism into “theft and fraud”,” unauthorized assistance or collaboration” and “lazy citation and paraphrase”, which, “theft and fraud” is obviously deliberate, but the following two is more hard to define the boundary and thus more ambiguous (chapter 6,pp. 173-177).

For people that are not in the academic area, they might think plagiarism is not a big deal, it is just about one piece of words. But in academic field, this piece of worlds is the idea, the theory that the person who wrote it came up with, it may cost someone years to finally put it into literature, it is the presence of one’s talent, hard working, it represents the value of the author, this honor should not be stolen. Besides, for educators, for professors in colleges, for scientists in research institutions, people actually make they living through these works, the virtual property turns into reality property for them, plagiarism is equally to occupy their private property.

Plagiarism is an act of stealing someone’s property, the intellectual property. According to Bloch, the very difference of intellectual property and physical property is that under certain constraint, which is often complicated, intellectual property can be borrowed without seeking the permission of the owner, which is definitely illegal regard as physical property. [5]

As for graduate school, according to Hjorshoj, students are graded (another form of academic currency) based on their work, and under the assumption that the writing and other work students turn in is the product of their own effort, “borrowing” language and ideas from someone else constitutes cheating. And the advantage gained by plagiarism is very unfair for other students.

Getting involved in plagiarism issue could be very exhausted, the result of such problem can be as small as rewrite the essay to real trouble such as suspension and get a notice of misconduct on one’s academic record.

To avoid that, first of all, always ask for clarification. As mentioned before, sometimes the boundary between authorized and foul could be ambiguous, especially in respect of “unauthorized assistance and collaboration”, since the rule of course differs from one class to the other, make sure you know exactly where the boundary lies in every course, if there is any confusion, ask for clarification.

Another cause of plagiarism is often the “lazy citation and paraphrase”, there is a simple way to get rid of this: if you are not sure whether to cite or not, always cite it.

There is one more thing to notice, for college students, turning your own work as the assignment of two courses without the permission from the instructors is also kind of plagiarism, the so called self-plagiarism. Although it might be a little bit, but it actually makes sense and is considered very seriously. So, like the first rule, if you don’t know if it is allowed, always ask for clarification.

Plagiarism is a real serious issue in academic field, since the intellectual property is the presence of value of scholars. College students should be aware of the specific regulation of their school to avoid getting in trouble with plagiarism.

Reference:

[1] Keith Hjorshoj, ” Theft, Fraud, and the Loss of Voice” in T*he Transition to College Writing*,2001,pp.172.

[2] Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press,1989.

[3] Gunda I. Georg, Shaomeng Wang, Editors. “Plagiarism”. Journal of Medicinal Chemistry,2013.

[4] Michael J. Droller, M.D. ” Plagiarism”. Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations, vol.30, pp.547-548,2012.

[5] Joel Bloch. ” The Problem of Plagiarism” in *Plagiarism, Intellectual Property and the Teaching of L2 Writing*. Multilingual Matters,2012, pp.1-1.