Plagiarism: Its causes and approaches to preventing it

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Abstract

Plagiarism, commonly and traditionally, is attributed to any practices where a person knowingly takes and uses another person's work and claims it, directly or indirectly, as their own without attributing or acknowledging the sources. Issues on plagiarism in the academic discourse community are relatively popular until recently. Most academics and practitioners agree that it is a form of an academic misconduct – an offense towards ethic policy. It is also posing a threat to the notion of academic integrity which becomes the core value underpinning university life. Losing this value will challenge the credibility and reputation of the offender as well as the institution where it happens. In the global context nowadays, issues on plagiarism are not as simple as the definition mentioned above. There have been ongoing debates among education practitioners and language experts as to how far an act can be categorized a plagiarism. This short article discusses several issues concerning this act: why it is matter, what count as plagiarism acts, what causes plagiarism, possible ways of tackling with plagiarism, and plagiarism issue seen from EAP (English for Academic Purposes) perspective.

Keywords: plagiarism, copyright, plagiarism act, patchwork writing