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AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUE OF PLAGIARISM IN ACADEMIC WRITING AND FREE ONLINE TOOLS TO DETECT IT

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ABSTRACT Plagiarism is a rampant problem in academic circles. Facility of finding information on the Internet with the help of search engines has made the act of plagiarism wide spread. Due to huge size of online information, one cannot determine originality of a work on his own and for this, technical tools are required. This paper examines the issue of plagiarism and some free tools to detect it to some satisfactory levels in view of the reality that paid detection tools are not always affordable and are not needed by all.

KEYWORDS : Plagiarism, plagiarism tools, free plagiarism tools,

1.0 INTRODUCTION
Plagiarism is nothing but the unauthorized use of some intellectual work without giving proper credit to its original creator. Plagiarism is bad in law and in ethics as it violates copyrights, denies credit or monitory benefits to the rightful creators and it creates a bad academic environment with its negativity. It is a grave misconduct and misbehavior when it comes to academic matters. Due to several factors, plagiarism is increasing now-a –days and is occurring in various forms. It reflects academic dishonesty and violation of academic integrity and it can be found at any level of academic writing. Awasthi (2019) found that the vital factor which is contributing for the plagiarism is the advancement of ICT, due to which the material is available and accessible on the internet.

2.0 WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?
According to Wikipedia, the word 'Plagiarism' has its root in the Latin word "*plagiarius*"literally meaning 'kidnapper' ("Plagiarism," 2002). Plagiarism is a very common bad practice of borrowing ideas, wordings, and intellectual contributions of someone else without actually acknowledging the source person. It is an unethical and immoral act and it shows lack of intellectuality and lack of capacity to produce original thinking and ideas. It is exhibits dishonesty on the part of the person copying and reproducing. Sometimes plagiarism is result of an unintentional act. It may be due to lack of awareness also.

3.0 DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM
In simple terms plagiarism is an act of academic theft. Various definitions point out to this simple understanding. Plagiarism is defined as the "unauthorized misappropriation of another's work, ideas, methods, results, or words without giving the original source" (Ghajarzadeh et al. 2013). Britannica.com defines plagiarism as the act of taking the writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. The fraudulence is closely related to forgery and piracy—practices generally in violation of copyright laws ("Plagiarism," n.d.). According to Merriam Webster Online Dictionary plagiarism is to steal and pass off the words and ideas of another as one's own; use another's production without crediting the source; to commit literary theft; present as new or original an idea or product derived from an existing source. ("Definition of plagiarism," n.d.)

4.0 WHAT ACTS CONSTITUTE PLAGIARISM?
Plagiarism.org says plagiarism involves turning in someone else's work as one's own, copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit, failing to put a quotation in quotation marks, giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation, changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit, copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of one's work, whether one give credit or not ("What is plagiarism?," 2017). It can involve copying or creating exact match which is termed as direct plagiarism, it can be paraphrased plagiarism that is expressing others idea in some other words or it can be self plagiarism with an author copying his earlier work and newly publishing it. Sometimes accidental plagiarism occurs when paraphrased original content is not given source details or incorrectly citing it.

5.0 FREE ONLINE TOOLS TO DETECT PLAGIARISM
There are paid premier online tools such as Turntin, Urkund and iThenticate for checking plagiarized content and similarity. These tools cover a huge database of books, journal articles, conference proceedings, and student assignment papers etc. which ensure very good detection results. However due to high prices, many cannot afford to have access to them and in most general scenarios use of free tools is suffice. Therefore some free online tools are discussed below. There are open source softwares available online which can prevent the occurrence of academic misconduct (Awasthi, 2019). These also provide considerable good results.

5.1 DupliChecker.com (https://www.duplichecker.com/): A free tool for checking plagiarism with search box wherein a maximum of 1000 words per search can be pasted and checked for plagiarized content. No registration is sought by this website. Options for uploading text files and pasting webpage URL for plagiarism check are also provided. Pro version supports deep search up to 10000 words with no advertisements. Results are displayed in the form of donut showing plagiarized content and unique content. It is best suited for students or content created by students.

5.2 Plagiarisma (https://plagiarisma.net/): It attempts plagiarism detection in more than 190 languages. Contents uploaded are not stored in it. It has both free and paid subscription versions. Free version has all the basic needed features to check plagiarized content. Signup is needed to access its free features. After registration, up to 100 plagiarism checks per month can be performed. Its interface is also simple as that of DupliChecker.com with similar search features.

5.3 Plagiarism Checker (www.plagiarismchecker.com): It is a fully free tool with very basic search capacity. It is useful for finding exact matches without adding quotation marks. It mainly makes use of Google Search Engine for finding duplicates. It provides for Google Alert service for getting e-mail notice whenever certain content is published on the Internet. It also has a facility for checking website content by submitting webpage URL.

5.4 Searchenginereports (https://searchenginereports.net/): It provides for a single search consisting of up to 1500 words. Content can be copy pasted into the search box or it can be uploaded in the form of a text file. It has a very good coverage of almost all the web pages on the Internet with deep scan. Creation of account is not required. It gives scan results in the form of sentence by sentence results, matched results with address of the original source and document results highlighting plagiarized content.

5.5 Plagium (www.plagium.com/): This tool makes use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in detecting plagiarism. Free version provides for search up to 1000 words with quick search facilities. For deep search login is required. It is suitable for occasional searches.

6.0 DRAWBACKS OF PLAGIARISM TOOLS
It may seem that with the help of technology, plagiarism can be easily detected. But unfortunately this is only partially correct. Mohammed

Abdullah Adel & Wang (2019) found that even though the online plagiarism detection tools were able to detect plagiarism but it still could not detect the exact plagiarized amount in each level. Moreover, Syntax, lexical and morpho-Syntactic plagiarism patterns are difficult to recognize by the online plagiarism detection tools. For these reasons, re-written works and translational works are difficult to detect. Ideas lifted and reformatted are also difficult to detect. Ultimately human intelligence beats the mechanical and technical way with which plagiarism detection tools work.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Almost infinite sources of information easily available on the Internet have made the act of plagiarism super easy. Technology has made it easy to copy-and-paste. On the other hand, the same Internet Technology has also made it easier to detect the act of direct plagiarism. Technology can also detect plagiarism easily. Plagiarizing may seem simple, but it involves ethical and legal issues. One cannot claim others work, ideas, wordings as one's own. Avoiding plagiarism has become very important if one want to contribute meaningfully to academic content. If one follows few basic steps of avoiding plagiarism one can be free of consequences of plagiarism.

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