

# Applying Strategies for Avoiding Plagiarism in the English Department of Education Faculty at Balkh University

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this research was to find out the main solutions (Policies, Mechanisms and strategies regarding avoiding plagiarism at the universities. The research discovered that students consciously and unconsciously commit plagiarism without knowing of its dramatic effects on their learning process. According to this problem, factors illustrated which affect why learners do plagiarize. For instance, students don't know how to deal with paraphrasing, citation, academic writing, distinguishing between others and owns' thoughts and perspective during conducting a research or monograph and other assignments. On the other hand, understanding the effect and penalties this worse phenomena which has been written in the current research paper, can help students to be aware of plagiarism effects, consequences and its penalties, for teachers to increase the student's capacity building and awareness regarding this academic dishonesty and institutionalize new policies, mechanism (such as Turn-in-On) and dynamic strategies. Furthermore, main reason that students commit plagiarism is lack of background knowledge regarding plagiarism's consequences and penalties. Hence, unconsciously they do plagiarize due to lack of knowledge in the field of academic writing, where others committed it consciously through using copy-paste strategy without any punishment because still we haven't reach on that stage to avoid or at least decrease the rate of it. At the end, the study found the main solutions both for instructors and students in order to abolish such academy theft in the universities.*

**Key Words:** *plagiarism, dramatic effects, solutions, penalties, and abolish, academic theft.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Today plagiarism is a serious academic problem which always concerned teachers and administrators in higher education. However, the scholars, teachers and professors are trying to avoid or at least decrease the level of plagiarism in higher education, but still they didn't succeed. It is not a new phenomenon it also existed in many centuries ago, but in recent years especially in the age of Internet the level of plagiarism getting increased that today it has become a cause of concern for scholars, teachers and administrators. Especially in our country this problem has been risen also no one conduct research about this problem, hence this research paper includes the strategies and method to avoid or at least decrease the rate of this worse problem.

This monograph responds to the growing education concern about plagiarism which consider the defining and avoiding plagiarism with their academic meaning. The first section considers the helpful and academic definitions of plagiarism with their academic context. The second section includes the various (General and specific) strategies which used from more electronic websites and famous books to help the teachers and administrators to realize the cause of plagiarism and for students whose committing this worse phenomenon and theft the others' word, idea and work.

The main purpose of this research paper is, to provide logic and helpful information, clarifications and suggestion regarding the plagiarism for teachers and administrators in order to understand the causes, the problem and solution of plagiarism in higher education and other academic centers and per students, it creates ability in other to prevent from this worse phenom. Last but not least that, this research paper identifies some strategies, effective method and materials to find answer to the following question : what are the causes and how to avoid plagiarism?

### 1.1 Research Questions:

- What are the main causes for committing plagiarism?
- Do teachers institutionalize any mechanism, policies, strategies and issuing penalties for avoiding plagiarism?
- Do students are familiar with plagiarism definitions, consequence and penalties ?
- Why they conscious and unconsciously do plagiarize?

### 1.2 Research Objectives:

- To discover the factors for committing plagiarism and present solutions for them.
- Find out, how teachers should deal with students and such academic theft.
- To illustrate students are familiar with plagiarism's definition, effects and penalties.
- To show the main factors and solutions for preventing such worse phenomena.

## 1.2 Research Hypothesis:

- Plagiarism rate getting increase day by day and going to change for an academic catastrophe or insuperable problem.
- Teachers and faculties should issue penalties and institutionalize strategies (such as Turn-it- On software) in the academic environment.
- The research clarify that most students are not familiar with plagiarism as academic crime, its penalties & consequences and policies for its preventing.
- Creating ability on student's writing skills, institutionalizing an effective mechanism for preventing the crime, and issuing critical penalties for students, may be occur useful for instructors and further researchers.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Gilmore (2008) stated, "The word itself has Latin root and come from (plagiarious) word which means (kidnapper). What does it mean to kidnap? After more research finally I found that kidnap within its academic context to steal some one's idea, word and work or theft some one's creativity, thoughts or language. Also scholars argued that the word of (plagiariuos) to (plugus) an old world of Latin language which means –Net–" (p.7). What does it mean to net? It means that using from today's online internet website. It's very clear for all even in first world country leaners using from free websites and download 100 papers in 10 minutes. Beside of above explanation I would like to translate the word plagiarize according the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. The meaning of plagiarize:

- To steal and pass of (the ideas, words of another person) as your own.
- To use (others' production) without crediting the original source.
- To commit literary theft.
- To present as new and original idea on product which used from an existing source.

It should be mentioning some points which it needs to write here before defining of plagiarism. Monograph mainly focused on plagiarism avoiding strategies like how it happens, why it happens and how can we avoid it by identifying of strong reason and strategies to satisfy learners in order to give up committing this worse phenomenon and for teachers to realize the causes of plagiarism. But for building their knowledge background and more information about plagiarism like what is plagiarism? Plagiarism definition within its broad and specific meaning, I should explain for them the materials and information which I summarized on my literature review. One year before I conducted research about plagiarism in Balkh University which I understand the learner's knowledge background and information about plagiarism and its causes, the result of my research paper showed that still the learners' information is much less, so I tried my best to generalize that logic information which I collected during this monograph literature review from academic sources.

According to Ross (1993), poor children at the turn of the century received little mothering in our sense of the term. Mothering was defined by economic status, and among the poor, a mother's foremost responsibility was not to stimulate her children's minds or foster their emotional growth but to provide food and shelter to meet the basic requirements for physical survival. Given the magnitude of this task, children were deprived of even the "actual comfort" (p. 9) we expect mothers to provide today.

You may need to go through this process several times to create a satisfactory paraphrase.

- By summarizing or synthesizing their information and providing a reference,
- By quoting directly their words and providing a reference,
- By copying their tables, graphs, diagrams and so on and providing a reference.

## 3. METHODOLOGY:

We have collected the data from individuals by regular contact through the interview. The nature of data is the primary and actual representation of them. We have used the high quality of the instrument as a tape recorder and put it just approach to the mouth of the native speakers for the data collection. After that, we have entailed the description of the tools wick is used for data collection.

### 3.1 Participants:

When we are writing a research paper, we are going to be writing to a specific participant. For example, we need to determine if you are writing to an expert in the field or a layman. This will help when we are developing our focus and conducting your research. It will also help us when we are figuring out the total tone of your paper. Hence in this research paper I had chosen mixed- gender participants, both boys and girls in Balkh and other private universities of Mazar-e-sharif. The vast amount of participant were students of universities, whom voluntarily participated in our

research process, and function as key factors of this research paper. 15 boys and 15 girls were gathered as participants and took parts in all research survey process. I had chosen them both of governmental and non-governmental university, however they have examined in the same way.

### 3.2 Data Collection

Before gathering the data, I obtained their permission and informed them about the title of my research, ways of surveying, questionnaires, checklist and privacy of my report. Initially I informed them about the whole process, secondly, I united them in both ways, physically and mentally to take accurate parts for answering the question and completing inquiry process. I endeavored to behaved them enthusiastically, so I gathered all of the participant in a classroom of Taj university for testing and measuring, scoring for collecting valid and reliable data.

I submitted thirty copy of questionnaires about how to prevent plagiarism. The questionnaires contained multiple choice question, true and false, filling gaps and matching. The result of the testing and scoring is drawn in tables and figures sections and I attached some template of them within appendix section. Consequently; for giving more validity and helping the audience and readers too, I used both qualitative (Survey and interview) and quantitative (questionnaires and checklists). Face to face; this is probably the most traditional method of the survey research design. It can be very accurate. It allows you to be selective about to whom you ask questions and you can explain anything that they do not understand. It's worth mentionable which I have observed the privacy of participants, those whom wanted to functioned as anonymous factor.

### 3.3 Data Analysis

For interpreting, analysing and generalizing the data I have used the quantitative approach of research methodology. In quantitative data analysis we are expected to turn raw numbers into meaningful data through the application of rational and critical thinking. The same figure within data set can be interpreted in many different ways; therefore, it is important to apply fair and careful judgement. For example, questionnaire findings of a research titled "A study into the impacts of informal management-employee communication on the levels of employee motivation: a case study of plagiarism may indicate that the majority 52% of respondents assess communication skills of their immediate supervisors as inadequate and deceptive result. I have drawn the result and scores on charts, diagrams and used electronic objects for analysing and generalizing of the data, that obviously I would have attached them in this research paper.

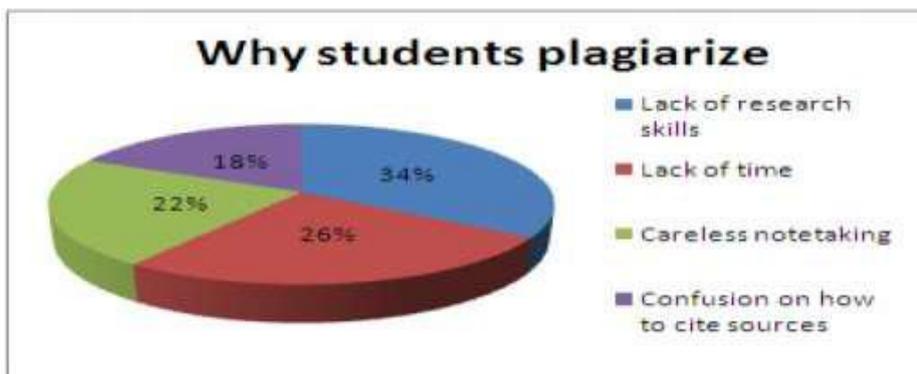
In brief, our finding reveals, though this academic dishonesty and theft is still a worse phenomenon in our academic environment. In spite of scholars and researchers conducted many researches regarding plagiarism but still they couldn't defeat it completely and last as virus as to day. Now, in first world countries they are using a software, have been called as Turn- it- on. It specifies the plagiarism area very well and standard. On the other hand, Afghanistan is still agonizing with poverty and luck of technology and above-mentioned mechanism and software's, but is still there is hope. We could eliminate or at least decrease the plagiarism rate through institutionalizing of strategies for preventing it. Undoubted; this monograph contains such strategies and policies to help instructors and student for avoiding plagiarism and give a direct clue for future researchers.

## 4. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS:

Today plagiarism is a serious problem in academic area, day by day the rate of this worse phenomenon has been risen, so it should be avoided. According to Amanda (2009) "Plagiarism poses a considerable problem for academic institution worldwide as many student and /or/ researchers do not realize that it is a serious form of academic misconduct which can lead to expulsion from an institution such as university, civil claims and even criminal charges, hence it must be avoid" (P1).

### 4.1 Findings

For avoiding plagiarism, we need for policies and strategies which mentioned in this monograph in order to know the causes, consequences and prevention of plagiarism. This monograph contains famous scholars' policies and strategies regarding avoiding plagiarism with more similarity such us; Amanda's policies and Doreen's strategies have similarity. According to Amanda (2009), "for avoiding plagiarism an exposition of informative, educative, preventative mechanism should be create" in other hand, remember that while you are at university you are expected to develop your own ideas and opinions about different issues, which you can then reinforce and support with the research of other scholars. Students should educate their self about academic integrity and honesty, staff must make use of plagiarism detection software mechanism {Turnitin} for avoiding plagiarism (Doreen, 2007, p.6)



Figures 1.1 Why students plagiarize?

Amanda and Doreen’s ideas provide the same solution which I agree with both because for avoiding plagiarism we need such policies and strategies to inform the learners about consequences of plagiarism, to educate them regarding how to avoid plagiarism and for staff to check and specifies the rate of plagiarism in learner’s work and the above three steps requires a preventative mechanism as the both scholars point out on it.

#### 4.2 Discussion

In our province learners committed plagiarism while the tasked for an assignment cause of lack of knowledge so they do plagiaries and this problem happens even in first world countries, scholar’s ideas about the solution for this problem is the same such as Rhoten (1997) explained, “because of the serious nature of plagiarism, you should ensure that any writing you submit represents your own assentation and abilities, and incorporates other texts in an open and honest manner. The best way to avoid plagiarism is to be careful to document your sources” (P.1). The same ideas come from Ehrlich, Harris & Murray (1998, 2002) stated, “Using different correct and academic path other sources will help pupils to avoid committing plagiarism” (p.4). The scholars realize that one of the main causes for plagiarism is assignment so their similar ideas and solution guide teachers to create ability on the student in order to distinguish the original sources and their own ideas, words and works.

Finally, in we compare and analyse the whole scholars’ ideas, policies and strategies, we find similarities which mainly focused on learners that educated about paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, copping from original sources, referencing, proper note-taking, citing, acknowledging and appropriate using of electronic sources. Hence, I agree with all of the scholars’ ideas which mention in this paper due to if we give our country as an example the learners background knowledge about the above terms are not sufficient. If we implement or institutionalize the scholar’s ideas, policies, and strategies regarding this problem, we can avoid form plagiarism and its consequences in higher education.

#### 5. CONCLUSION :

Avoiding plagiarism is not an easy work it requires policies, mechanism and strategies. Although in the first world countries the scholars and instructors have the preventative mechanism and strategies for avoiding plagiarism, but still 20% of learners do plagiarize without any penalties in universities. In the third world countries such as Afghanistan we can identifies the plagiarism in several ways even during primary schools and totally about 80% of students succeeded to commit plagiarism, because still the higher education didn’t have those preventative mechanism, policies and strategies for students. On the other hand, the rate of plagiarism is getting increased day by day specially in higher education as the scholars mentioned that luck of knowledge and penalties caused that learners commit plagiarism very easily specially in the age of Internet.

As far as I know that administrators don’t have their own informative, educative and preventative mechanism to avoid or at least decrease the rate of this phenomenon on student’s works and assignments or they cannot implement the scholar’s ideas. So they should value my finding and implement it regarding avoiding plagiarism.

The finding of this research paper from scholar’s ideas, mechanism, policies and strategies regarding this serious problem refer to informative strategies (Literacy courses, research methodology courses, plagiarism warring guide, library service for student), educative policies (educating of paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, referencing, note taking policies, coping, citing, acknowledging) and preventative mechanism like (plagiarism detection software “Turnitin”). Absence of the informative strategies, educative policies and preventative mechanism we cannot decrease and avoid plagiarism rate in the higher education. Therefor the administrator, instructors and learners must institutionalize the above terms in order to avoid and eliminate this worse phenomenon and academic theft.

**6. RECOMMENDATION:**

Although this monograph contains the famous scholar’s idea, policies, mechanism and effective strategies regarding the problem “How to avoid plagiarism” which collected form many books and online sources to help instructors and learners to avoid, eliminate or at least decrease the plagiarism in universities, but it’s not a complete and sufficient.

I suggest that other learners and researcher don’t give up researching regarding this topic and they try to use complex and new scholar’s ideas and thoughts about this title in order to fill the gap of pervious and this research in the future.

**7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

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**APPENDIX: Students awareness Survey Questionnaire**

**I. Questions**

**Directions:** Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of these statements regarding plagiarism. Place an "X" mark in the box of your answer.

**Q1:** How many times per year do you participate in seminars are work shop regarding plagiarism?

**Q2:** Do you visit any website for checking your assignment and specifies the plagiarism area?

- Yes
- No

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. NOT FAIR to the students who do their own work.					
2. NOT FAIR to the people who actually created the source that a plagiarizer uses - they deserve to get the credit for their hard work.					
3. Depriving yourself from expressing a point of view or argument about a subject under discussion.					
4. You may have to search around the website to find some details. For instance, see if there is a "home" or "about us" page.					

5. If you cannot find an individual author, it is perfectly acceptable to cite the organization producing the website as the author.

6. Check for copyright dates and the date the site was last updated if you cannot find a date of composition.

7. To avoid plagiarism, if you have had to look something up, it is safer to assume it is not common knowledge and to tell us where you found it.

8. If you are not sure whether something is 'common knowledge', try and find a source to back up your information.


**Q9:** You must always give credit to people who create?

- Books.
- Websites.
- Newspaper articles.
- Models.
- Television programmers.
- Journal articles

**Q10:** My assignment is not a piece of written work. How do I avoid plagiarism??

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*Notes: The questionnaire may contain mixed closed-ended and open-ended questions as well as response formats. However, it is ideal to begin with closed-ended questions for higher response rates.*

## II. Demographic Data

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Family Members:

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-10
- more than 10

Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** This section is optional. The questions asking for demographic data should be relevant to the survey goal and must point to the characteristics of the target population.

**III.** Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. Enjoy dining at surveying of plagiarism.

**Note:** This section may also include further information regarding on how to claim the incentive that you wish to provide to the respondent.