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Deontology Academica

A case of plagiarism, a case of unethical behavior in the scientific and academic field

Plagiarism occurs when someone claims explicitly or indirectly that he wrote what someone else wrote in whole or in part, without acknowledging or mentioning the original source, and it is a form of fraud and copyright infringement. In other words, it is the illegal possession or theft and publication of ideas and writings of other people and claiming that it is one's own work. As a result, this act is academic fraud and breach of ethics. Although Plagiarism and copyright infringement are very similar, they are not equivalent, and there are many forms of plagiarism that do not represent copyright infringement, the former is not subjected to legal penalties, but is subjected to penalties from institutions such as professional and educational societies and commercial establishments such as publishing companies, while the latter is defined by laws and penalties and may reach court trial.

The academic community considers intellectual theft or scientific theft to be a moral crime, moreover, Plagiarism faces academic condemnation and criticism, and the perpetrator may be subjected to punishment such as paying a fine or deprivation, and sometimes up to dismissal from the university. Recently, many cases have been discovered in an exaggerated manner. In order to avoid being held accountable, students, researchers, authors, etc., are required to attribute each work to its original owner. Nowadays many organizations use text matching software to detect plagiarism and these programs show the texts that have been stolen, one of the most prominent of these is Turnitin, an American website used to calculate the percentage of texts copied from others.

Scientific plagiarism is not only to transfer the entire text from its original author, but there are several methods, including copying a few parts of the text, using quoting without mentioning its source, citing the text in a wrong way, or quoting from the text without changing the structure of words and reformulating it appropriately. Among the most famous examples of plagiarism are the following:

- **Prime Minister Victor Ponta**

His doctoral thesis which was published in 2003 at the university of Bucharest contains large quantities copied from various other sources without mentioning the attribution or citing it. Irish Times journal newspapers reported that. The Science Journal Nature said that his research contains texts transmitted by others, at a rate of more than fifty percent, but he denied these accusations and did not want to submit his resignation. He claimed that he mentioned the list of sources in his research and he had no problem with the Ministry of Education examining his work. Furthermore, he defended himself by saying that he only made a mistake that he did not write the references at the end of every page and only added them to the bibliography and it was not his intention to plagiarize or to take someone else's effort. He said: *"If the National Ethics Council finds that I made a mistake and I should have made footnotes, then I will pay by giving up my PhD title"*¹. Mr. Ponta said that these allegations are all in order to wage a political war between himself and President Basescu and that each of them is leading this war with their own weapons.

- **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Martin Luther King Jr. was an African-American leader and humane political activist, who advocated an end to racial discrimination against blacks. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and he was the youngest person to have it. Martin Luther King Jr. is considered as one of the most important figures who fought for freedom and human rights. Luther founded Southern Christian Leadership, a movement aimed at achieving equal civil rights for African Americans, but unfortunately, he fell a victim to his own fault. King rejected violence of all kinds, and was himself a perfect example to his comrades and to many blacks who were-struggling, through his patience, kindness, wisdom, and conservatism.

An academic investigation was conducted regarding his PhD thesis, and the results indicated that it contained stolen parts, and that this behavior was not appropriate for a person like him. Despite this, the committee did not intend to cancel his PhD because there is no benefit from this procedure as it is very important and is considered a valuable addition in the society in general. However,

¹ McLaughlin, D. (2012)

there was controversy over how to interpret his plagiarism. Ultimately, he was able to justify his action, defend himself, and obtain the certificate he worked to obtain.

History News Network Organization in George Washington University cited two examples of King's work and said that one of them did not contain meaningful plagiarism, namely “Autobiography of Religious Development”, and “The Chief Characteristics and Doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism” paper consisted almost exclusively of paragraphs drawn from the best available sources², and that the more he engages in his academic career, the more patterns of language borrowing became more deeply rooted in his thoughts, but without a clear attribution of ideas. It seemed that plagiarism in his thesis was the result of his multiple practices. Boston University convened a committee to evaluate this case and concluded that the doctorate should not be revoked, although “Gary Wells” and others were opposed to this decision. The writer of the news added “So, *“I Have a Dream” was no new vision; it was a recension, quite literally, of his own “An American Dream” And that dream, as we know, already had a long history. King's vision was perhaps more inclusive than earlier dreams, but it appealed to us because we already believed it.*”³.

- **Plagiarism since ancient times**

It is worth noting that plagiarism is not limited to scientific and literary fields, and it is not considered a new topic, but rather it was known before. As it is known, the Arabs love poetry very much and they consider it an important thing in their lives, and they were all proud of their ability to write poems. It was said that the Arab poet Al-Farazdaq plagiarized a line of Jarir's poetry and he said that it resembled his poetry very much. Jarir accused Al-Farazdaq of theft, saying:

st'elm mn ysyr abwh qyna wmn 'erft qsa'edh ajtlaba
you will know who become his father professional and who knew his poems attraction

‘People will know who is my father, and whose poems are known to be inspired by others.’

He means that people will understand who did it and know his name and his father's name.

² Luker, R. (2004)

³ Luker, R. (2004)

Al-Farazdaq claimed the same against Jarir, and he said:

en astraqk ya Jryr qsa'edy mthl ad'ea'k swa abo:k tnql
your theft Jarir my poems like claiming else your father transfer

'When you claim that I am eavesdropping on you, is such as you are claiming that your father is someone else other than your real father'

He means that removing suspicion from yourself is very difficult and not possible, just as it is not possible for a person to change the name of his father who gave birth to him⁴.

- **Dr. Maher Omran**

As an unethical behavior in the medical field, Al-Arabiya newspaper reported that the Egyptian doctor, Maher Omran, revealed details about the health condition of the actress Yasmine Abdel Aziz, he did so in order to defend his fellow doctors after some news published that they had caused a medical error. As a result, after the fierce attack on them in the medical sector, Dr. Omran decided to list the full facts after her health condition stabilized. Some accused him of violation of privacy, but the doctor claimed that what he did was not⁵.

⁴ Tabbanah, B. (2012).

⁵ Al-Raidi, A. (2021)

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