

Piracy, Plagiarism, and Copyright Infringement

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Disclaimer

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- ❖ The slides should be used in the context of most English language journals. Some Chinese journals might not take the concepts of “Plagiarism” as seriously as Americans.

Chinese: What is 抄袭?

- ❖ A. Direct copy of ideas, parts of examination reports, and other people's work.
- ❖ B. Benefit from works that is not your own, without the consent and acknowledgement of the original creator.
- ❖ C. You must be knowingly “copying” from someone for this to be true.

Americans: What is “Plagiarism?”

- ❖ A. Copying of ideas, words, and works of others, then present it as your own.
- ❖ B. Benefit from works that is not your own, without the consent and acknowledgement of the original creator.
- ❖ C. Plagiarism could be intentional or unintentional, both with similar severity.

Severity of Plagiarism

- ❖ Undergrad: Review of coursework, automatic “F” for course.
- ❖ Grad: Automatic expulsion from university.
- ❖ Journal: Retractions, banning from publications, dishonoring, even revoke of PhD titles.
- ❖ Professional: Lawsuits up your ass (see Copyright Infringement).

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ SOURCE USED: The wind erosion problem of the southern Great Plains did not occur because farmers grew too much wheat, but because the drought prevented them from growing hardly any wheat at all from 1932 to 1940. During years of normal precipitation, the excessive root system of the wheat plants held the soil and offered excellent protection against wind erosion. In the droughty Thirties, however, the inadequate moisture supply prevented a suitable growth of ground cover in the early Spring “blow season” of February, March, and April. The drought then began a chain of events, the first of which was crop failure.
- ❖ STUDENT PAPER: "The wind erosion problem of the southern Great Plains did not occur because farmers grew too much wheat, but because the drought prevented them from growing hardly any wheat at all from 1932 to 1940" (Hurt, 1981, p. 29-30).

Hurt, R. D. (1981). *The dust bowl: An agricultural and social history*. Chicago: Nelson- Hall.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ NO.
- ❖ Proper citation is given.
- ❖ Enclosing quotation is given.
- ❖ Reference list is given.

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- ❖ STUDENT PAPER: "The wind erosion problem of the southern Great Plains did not occur because farmers grew too much wheat, but because the drought prevented them from growing hardly any wheat at all from 1932 to 1940. During years of normal precipitation, the excessive root system of the wheat plants held the soil and offered excellent protection against wind erosion. In the droughty Thirties, however, the inadequate moisture supply prevented a suitable growth of ground cover in the early Spring “blow season” of February, March, and April. The drought then began a chain of events, the first of which was crop failure." (Hurt, 1981, p. 29-30).

Hurt, R. D. (1981). *The dust bowl: An agricultural and social history*. Chicago: Nelson- Hall.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ PROBABLY YES.
- ❖ Plagiarism doesn't have a clear boundary on how much you could quote. In some cases, even a quote of a whole sentence could be considered plagiarism, even if proper citation is given.
- ❖ In short: DO NOT QUOTE UNLESS YOU HAVE TO.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ SOURCE USED: The wind erosion problem of the southern Great Plains did not occur because farmers grew too much wheat, but because the drought prevented them from growing hardly any wheat at all from 1932 to 1940. During years of normal precipitation, the excessive root system of the wheat plants held the soil and offered excellent protection against wind erosion. In the droughty Thirties, however, the inadequate moisture supply prevented a suitable growth of ground cover in the early Spring “blow season” of February, March, and April. The drought then began a chain of events, the first of which was crop failure.
- ❖ STUDENT PAPER: The wind erosion problem of the Great Plains occurred because the drought prevented farmers from growing hardly any wheat from 1932 to 1940. Normally, the excessive root system of the wheat plants held the soil and offered excellent protection against wind erosion, but in the Thirties, the inadequate moisture supply prevented a suitable growth of ground cover.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ YES.
- ❖ It is good enough for the Chinese “repetition checking software,” but not good for academic standard.
- ❖ Although paraphrased a bit, the source is not attributed correctly, and the paraphrase is a bit too close.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ SOURCE USED: The wind erosion problem of the southern Great Plains did not occur because farmers grew too much wheat, but because the drought prevented them from growing hardly any wheat at all from 1932 to 1940. During years of normal precipitation, the excessive root system of the wheat plants held the soil and offered excellent protection against wind erosion. In the droughty Thirties, however, the inadequate moisture supply prevented a suitable growth of ground cover in the early Spring “blow season” of February, March, and April. The drought then began a chain of events, the first of which was crop failure.
- ❖ STUDENT PAPER: During years of normal precipitation, the excessive root system of the wheat plant helps to hold the soil in place and lessens wind erosion. During the 1930s, however, drought prevented farmers from growing almost any wheat at all, and this prevented the growth of necessary ground cover. This crop failure was the first in a chain of events that resulted in the Dust Bowl (Hurt, 1981, p. 29-30).

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ NO, BUT...
- ❖ Please refrain from multiple sentences discussing or using materials from the same source. It demonstrate poor ability to summaries, create obstacles for references, and also making your article too long.

Is this Plagiarism?

❖ THE EARTH IS ROUND!

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ NO.
- ❖ You don't need citations for obvious facts, like "earth is round", "the civil war happened in the 19th century," "George Washington is the first president of US" etc.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ The first person to prove the earth to be round was Ferdinand Magellan, who completed the first circumnavigation of earth in history.

Is this Plagiarism?

- ❖ YES.
- ❖ Specific facts need to be cited.
- ❖ There is no “clear boundary”, again, as to “what are specific facts.” My understanding is that if it is not known by more than half of the earth’s population, then cite it.

Nowell, Charles E. ed. (1962). Magellan's Voyage around the World: Three Contemporary Accounts. Evanston: NU Press.

To Summarize

- ❖ What is Plagiarism?

1. Complete quotation of large chunks of other's work, without the author's specific licensing (currently only one license allows: DWTFYW license), are plagiarism, with / without proper citation.
2. Too close recreation of users' work, with/without proper citation, are plagiarism.
3. Paraphrasing author's work, without proper citation, is plagiarism.
4. Even if you do not mean to copy someone's work, if it happens, it is still plagiarism.

Why is plagiarism dangerous?

- ❖ US Copyright law: “...the legal copyright owner has the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, display, perform, and make derivative copies of the work. Using the copyrighted material of another person without first obtaining permission to do so or without properly identifying your source is essentially stealing someone else's property.”
- ❖ Any published articles, news articles, github codes, blogs online have a copyright license attached to it. If you are not sure, go check it out.

How to avoid plagiarism?

- ❖ Keeping notes of your sources, using citation software like Zotero.
- ❖ Don't be lazy! By paraphrasing you will also be able to practice your English.
- ❖ Remember, even with paraphrasing you still need proper citation.
- ❖ Don't overuse translation software. Google translations are predictable.

Resources:

- ❖ CMU Writing Center:
❖ http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/writing_center/
- ❖ The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University:
❖ <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>
- ❖ Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism (from The Duke University Libraries):
❖ <http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/>