

University of Diyala

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English

**Plagiarism and Paraphrasing: Understanding and
Avoiding Academic Misconduct**

Lecture presented by

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1. Introduction

Academic integrity is the foundation of credible scholarship and research. Plagiarism, broadly defined as presenting another person's ideas, words, or work as one's own without proper acknowledgment, poses a serious ethical challenge in academia. The practice undermines both the learner's development and the trustworthiness of educational institutions.

Objectives:

1. Define plagiarism and its various forms.
2. Explore the ethical and legal consequences of plagiarism.
3. Explain paraphrasing, its role in academic writing, and how to do it effectively.
4. Provide practical strategies for avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity.

2. Historical and Ethical Context

Plagiarism has been recognized as unethical for centuries. Early scholars regarded misappropriation of ideas as a serious moral violation. With the rise of print and digital media, plagiarism became more detectable, prompting formal institutional policies to ensure academic honesty (Pecorari, 2013).

Ethically, plagiarism breaches honesty, fairness, and responsibility—core scholarly values. It compromises trust between students,

educators, and the broader academic community. Understanding historical and ethical dimensions is crucial.

3. Definitions and Types of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can take multiple forms:

- 1. Direct Plagiarism:** Copying text word-for-word without attribution.
- 2. Self-Plagiarism:** Reusing previous work without acknowledgment.
- 3. Mosaic Plagiarism:** Incorporating phrases or ideas from various sources without citation.
- 4. Accidental Plagiarism:** Failing to cite sources correctly or paraphrasing too closely.

4. Consequences of Plagiarism

Plagiarism carries severe consequences:

- Academic: Failing grades, suspension, or expulsion.
- Professional: Loss of reputation, career setbacks, termination.
- Legal: Copyright infringement may lead to lawsuits and financial penalties (Park, 2003).

Illustration placeholder

Flowchart: Plagiarism → Detection → Academic Penalty / Professional Penalty / Legal Penalty.

Use rectangular boxes with arrows connecting stages.

5. Paraphrasing: Definition and Importance

Paraphrasing is restating ideas from a source in one's own words while preserving the original meaning. Unlike direct copying, paraphrasing demonstrates comprehension, integrates sources, and avoids plagiarism.

Table – Original vs Paraphrased Text figure below

Original

“Students must submit original work to maintain academic integrity.”

Paraphrased

“To uphold ethical standards in academia, students are required to submit work reflecting their own ideas.”

6. Strategies for Effective Paraphrasing

- 1. Read Source:** Fully understand the material.
- 2. Use Synonyms:** Replace key words while maintaining meaning.
- 3. Restructure Sentences:** Change sentence structure and order.
- 4. Combine Ideas:** Integrate multiple sources if relevant.
- 5. Cite Properly:** Always provide accurate citations.
- 6. Check Originality:** Use plagiarism-checking tools.

7. Citation and Referencing

Correct citation distinguishes original work from sourced material. APA 7th edition guidelines:

- In-text citation: (Author, Year, Page)
- Reference list: Full bibliographic details at the end

Source Type	In-text Example	Reference Forma	Color Suggestion
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Book	(Pecorari, 2013)	Academic writing and plagiarism. London: Bloomsbury Academic.	Light blue
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Journal Article	(Park, 2003)	Park, C. (2003). In other (people's) words... Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 28(5), 471–488.	Light green
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Website	(Gabriel, 2010)	Gabriel, T. (2010). Plagiarism lines blur... The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/...	Light yellow
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8. Tools for Detection and Assistance

- Turnitin: Detects textual similarity; widely used.
- Grammarly: Checks grammar and potential plagiarism.
- iThenticate: Professional-level detection for research publications.

9. Case Studies and Examples

- **Case 1:** Student copied content from online sources → Academic probation.
- **Case 2:** Researcher reused prior publication without citation → Retraction issued.

10. Conclusion

Plagiarism and paraphrasing are critical considerations in academic writing. Understanding plagiarism types, practicing effective paraphrasing, and adhering to proper citation practices ensures academic integrity, promotes originality, and maintains credibility. Implementing these strategies prepares students and researchers for ethical and successful scholarly work.

THANK YOU