

Plagiarism Reduction using Keywords Sequence (KSI) Technique

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Plagiarism is cheating. It's a "deliberate or reckless representation of another's thoughts, words, or ideas as one's own without attribution. It may also happen as a result of carelessness of the author. Every journal or institution allows similarity of text to a certain level. This acceptable similarity in the text or manuscript varies from journal to journal and institution to institution. However, the average acceptance of similarity is between 15% to 30% in different institutions.

There are different types of plagiarism. Direct plagiarism means taking another author's ideas word for word but not giving proper citations. Self-plagiarism refers to copying any part of own previous work or submitting the previous work without permission. Next, mosaic plagiarism means quoting another's work without using quotation marks. This also means changing words in another's work with synonyms while keeping the similar overall meaning and structure. Next, accidental plagiarism happens when the author forgets to cite sources, paraphrase sources without giving credit where credit is mandatory and misquoting sources.

There are specific strategies to avoid plagiarism. A researcher needs to start working earlier when s/he has ample time at hand because starting to work at the eleventh hour motivates researcher to copy and paste due to lack of time. The researcher must cite sources correctly following the recommended citation style of the institution or the journal. Inaccurate citation or a mixture of two different types of citation also create confusion among the readers. Once the manuscript is ready, researcher needs to proofread and check if any in-text citation is missing in the reference list. Sometimes it happens that the reference list doesn't contain reference for all in-text citations.

Using quotation marks is another way of avoiding plagiarism in scholarly writing. Researcher needs to use quotation marks if s/he quotes someone directly. Quotation marks can save someone from being accused of plagiarism if it is done accurately. Nowadays, there are a lot of plagiarism checkers online. Researchers can use these plagiarism checkers or software to find out percentage of plagiarism in their work and reduce it to the acceptance level. Researchers are also suggested to keep records of the sources they refer to and use of citation software like EndNote, Mendeley or Reference Manager to manage the citations are helpful in reducing plagiarism.

In addition, the ten tips by Nancy Brooks can also be helpful in reducing plagiarism and avoiding legal risk and unnecessary hassles. The ten tips are:

1. **Avoid plagiarizing: keep track of all the sources you use when researching a project (for books: Title, author, publisher, date published, city and country of publisher, and page numbers, for periodicals such as magazines and journals: Article title, periodical title, date published, volume and issue numbers, and page numbers, for online materials: Article or blog title, author, page number, if any, and the complete URL, for music and video: The composer, lyric writer, music publisher, and date published or issued, for a conversation, electronic or in person: Yes, conversations do count. Record the person's full name and the date you talked, texted, or e-mailed);**
2. **If you quote something word-for-word, put quotation marks around what you've copied;**
3. **If you are using an idea or concept, you don't need quotation marks, but you still must give credit — even for a conversation;**
4. **The same thing is true if you don't quote word for word. You don't need quotation marks, but you do need to give credit, for example: John Doe wrote that flying saucers are real because he has flown in one;**
5. **Create a footnote (or endnote) for every quotation. This is sometimes called a citation, as in, "Always cite your sources";**
6. **If you use someone else's idea, create a footnote (or endnote) the first time you mention it;**
7. **You don't have to give credit for something that everybody knows. For example, if you write that the earth revolves around the sun, you don't have to cite Galileo;**

8. At the end of a research paper or article, you will need a bibliography. This is a list of all of the resources you used;
9. If your instructor or employer has given you a form to follow for footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography, you are a little ahead of the game. If not, there are various sources to help you; and
10. If in doubt, insert the citation. It's better to give the credit than invite trouble.

The latest and easy plagiarism reducing techniques are forwarded in KSI (Keyword, Sequence and Importance) research techniques. The new techniques presented by KSI developers are changing vocabulary by using synonyms, changing word class, changing word order, plus minus technique, five/six-word technique, and KSI six model technique. Changing vocabulary technique means changing the word by using a synonym. However, the researcher should be cautious if the replacement of words expresses exactly what the previous word means.

Next, changing word class or use of derivatives means to use a noun instead of using a verb. For this purpose, researcher needs to look at the sentence structure as the change in the word class affects the sentence structure. Next, changing word order is another technique used to paraphrase and reduce plagiarism. This can be done where a list of things is mentioned. Researcher just need to change the order of the list of items, names or terms as the original terms or names cannot be changed by using synonyms. Then plus-minus technique refers to add a word or reduce a word which won't affect the meaning of the original text. By doing these, researcher can break the continuity of the original text after 4/5 words and avoid plagiarism. However, researchers need to be cautious in keeping the originality of the text they paraphrase. These tips by KSI are suggested to be used for introduction, background and literature review part of the article or thesis to avoid hassle of plagiarism and become graduate on time.



Perpustakaan Sultan Abdul Samad (PSAS) successfully conducted a workshop on "Plagiarism Reduction using Keywords Sequence (KSI) Technique" on 3rd May 2019. This is among the initiative by PSAS to support research activities in UPM. The workshop took approximately 2 hours and presented by Dr Md Kamal Uddin from Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. The workshop attracted 90 participants from UPM comprising of students, researchers, lecturers and was held at the Termasa Room, PSAS.