VIRTUAL RESEARCH VERSUS VIRAL RESEARCH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PARAPHRASING

Gheorghe Săvoiu[1], Constantin Manea[2], Marian Țaicu[3]
University of Piteşti, Romania
[1]**gsavoiu@yahoo.com**, [2]**kostea_m@yahoo.com**, [3]**taicumarian@yahoo.com**

Abstract. *The emergence of the Internet and its later development caused virtualization of research, with search being conducted mainly by title, abstract, keywords, JEL codes, etc. Yet research is also viral, and the statement particularly refers to the impact of plagiarism and citation errors taken over with plagiarism. Inevitably, there appeared a conflict between viral research and virtual research. This conflict saw a first phase of amplification during the time when information technology developed. Naturally, the solution also came from technology, via the Internet and the anti-plagiarism software programs, and then there followed a phase of simplification. The conflict is not extinguished even today, when its most visible and most acute manifestation seems to be paraphrasing, which has also become the cause of plagiarism, and one of the easiest solutions to avoid it.*

Keywords: *virutal research, viral research, paraphrasing, plagiarism*

1. INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism, especially text-based plagiarism, or copying language from various sources, is one the main issues circumscribed by the ethics of knowledge. It typically affects students (mainly younger students), amounting to an evidently detrimental *publish or perish* attitude, but it can also affect well-established academics and researchers prompted by excessive competitive stress in the academic community and misplaced professional ambition, more often than not directly connected with promotion paranoia. Some other causes have been shown to be rampant competition among students while writing their dissertations or essays, sheer laziness, and even not properly using plagiarism detecting software by reviewers and editors of different scientific journals. The main source, as well as dissemination path of text-based plagiarism, seems to be availability in, and publication through the electronic media. Also, one of the most direct causes of plagiarism is lack of education in the field among educational institutions and members of the academic community.

There is an Office of Research Integrity that describes plagiarism as "theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work. It does not include authorship or credit disputes. The theft or misappropriation of intellectual property includes the unauthorized use of ideas or unique methods obtained by a privileged communication, such as a grant or manuscript review. Substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work means the unattributed verbatim or nearly verbatim copying of sentences and paragraphs which materially mislead the ordinary reader regarding the contributions of the author."

Both the borrowing ideas and borrowing texts (without giving due recognition to the actual or original authors) are censurable, though some people draw a distinction between *semantic reusing* vs. *textual reusing*, or *plagiarism of ideas* vs. *plagiarized text* [1], and even between *intentional* and *unintentional plagiarism*. On the other hand, there is *paraphrase*.

Paraphrasing is a pitfall or trap that young researchers can particularly be victims of. This is why their are advised to avoid paraphrasing or applying it as a result of some experience gained through reading. Paraphrasing is characteristic of, and has a higher frequency especially in such sections as: introduction, literature review, methodology, results and discussion, and only rarely occurs in the conclusions section. Hence, one of the specific terms of the range of themes and issues appertaining to plagiarism is, among other terms, paraphrasing.

Table 1. Definition of *paraphrase* and *paraphrasing*

Source	Definition
DEX https://dexonline.ro/definitie/parafraza	Parafrazare = Acţiunea de *a parafraza* şi rezultatul ei. (Paraphrasing, paraphrase = action of *paraphrasing*, and its outcome). A parafraza = A exprima prin alte cuvinte (şi mai pe larg) conţinutul unui text; a expune prin cuvinte proprii ideile unui text. (To paraphrase = To express the contents of a text by means of different words (and more extensively); to expound the ideas in a text in one's own words.)
As defined by an English monolingual dictionary (Oxford) https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/paraphrase	Verb – Paraphrase = Express the meaning of (something written or spoken) using different words, especially to achieve greater clarity Noun – Paraphrase = A rewording of something written or spoken

Source	Definition
As defined by a French monolingual dictionary (Larousse) http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais/paraphraser/57994?q=paraphraser#57651	Paraphraser = Exprimer quelque chose sous une autre forme, en général plus longue, plus explicative. (To paraphrase = To express something in a different form, usually a longer and more explanatory one).

As far as paraphrasing is concerned, one can talk about a certain historical, synthetic and creative specificity. More recently, the timeliness of paraphrasing the text has become a fundamental requirement for selecting and publishing. Some contemporary accents can turn paraphrase, too, into a seemingly original design and wording, yet only when in conjunction with promptness and timeliness, or the very recent character of the sources paraphrased, or the originality of the interpreting classical sources (that are apparently outdated), by means of paraphrase:

Table 2. Semantic paradigm of *plagiarism* in *research*

Bibliography or references = the list of sources used in conducting, developing and presenting the research	**Note/annotation** = something that explains or completes a text, an explanatory note	**To plagiarize/to self-plagiarize** = to defraud a research by copying, wholly or in part, the substance (including the form) of a work, omitting the correct and complete citation of the work and its author
Citation/self-citation = correct attributing of a written paper or book to an author (to oneself)	**Footnote** = a note containing bibliography or various explanations, placed at the bottom of the page	
Quotation/self-quotation = written text exactly reproduced from the source (one's own prior text).	**Plagiarist** = a person engaging in copying and stealing in the activity of research.	**Paraphrase** = a more extensive, or lengthier explanation of a text mentioned in the references, using one's own words
Common knowledge = common corpus of information and fundamental knowledge.	**Involuntary** or **unconscious plagiarist** = nonsensical or unacceptable notions.	**Intellectual property** = product of the human mind and of scientific research (ideas, etc.)
Copyright = form of protection guaranteed by law (for original papers/books and authors).	**Plagiarism** = the result of plagiarism, a paper appropriated by theft from another author.	**Incorrect wording of source** = fraudulent writing meant to mask a case of plagiarism.
Public domain = there are no restrictions on access / copying ideas.	**Self-plagiarism** = republishing of one's own research, wholly or in part, without citation.	**Appropriate use** = permitted use of the source, without infringing the original author's rights.

Source: Dinu, V., Săvoiu, G., Dabija, C.D., 2016. *A concepe, a redacta şi a publica un articol ştiinţific. O abordare în contextul cercetării economice*, Editura A.S.E., Bucureşti (*Conceiving, editing and publishing a scientific article. An approach related to the context of economic research*, A.S.E. Publishers, Bucharest), pp. 221-222

2. HABITS AND SKILLS THAT FAVOUR AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Umberto Eco (2014) presents some basic rules concerning the proper citation of ideas taken from other sources:
- *The reasonable size and the non-contradictory content of citations;*
- *Making good use of the citations to support one's own research;*
- *The paper cited has critical hints and aspects;*
- *The author and the year are the essential elements of the direct citations in the text, using the original source language, while the citation coprises as few lines as possible;*
- *Ensuring superior fidelity between the original source and the newly worded text.* [2]

Avoiding plagiarism requires concerted action from the actors directly or indirectly involved in the scientific research approach in question:
- The author (researcher, teacher, student, PhD, etc.) is the subject of the scientific research action or approach, and assumes responsibility for the originality of his/her work;
- The academic community can expressly demand its members compliance with research ethics through concrete actions;
- Universities, publishing houses, and journals are interested in publishing original works and avoiding plagiarism scandals that can seriously affect their image;

- State authorities must ensure copyright compliance.

In Table 3 are presented, in a synthetic manner, the main steps to be taken by the categories of actors involved in conducting and encouraging scientific research.

Table 3. Necessary steps intended to prevent and combat plagiarism

Party involved	Step to prevent plagiarism	Observations
The author (who is the main actor – as originator of the scientific paper)	Increasing the time devoted to research and writing a scientific paper;	In addition to preventing plagiarism, it improves the quality of scientific works.
	Compliance with the citation standards imposed by universities, journals, publishing houses, etc;	-
	Checking the sources quoted in the original texts;	It prevents erroneous citation, common in scientific papers or books.
	Using paraphrase only when absolutely necessary;	-
	Avoiding republishing papers/articles or partitioning more extensive research into smaller papers.	It avoids self-plagiarism.
The academic community	Sanctioning plagiarists Proposals to improve the legal framework on copyright and plagiarism	In this way, the academic community protects its public image and helps to prevent plagiarism.
Universities, publishing houses, journals and reviews	Imposition and enforcement of high standards concerning scientific quality of papers;	-
	Drafting and enforcing a set of standards regarding citation and ethics in scientific research	-
	Educating college students, undergraduates, postgraduates and doctoral students in preventing plagiarism	Cultivating honesty can significantly contribute to reducing the incidence of plagiarism in the coming years
	Implementing modern IT solutions meant to detect plagiarism.	Papers where cases of plagiarism are identified will not be sustained or published
State authorities	Creating a legal framework for: - Protecting copyright; - Punishment of plagiarism; - Ranking of universities, publishing houses, journals	-

Source: developed by the authors

3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORIGINALITY AND THE VALUE OF A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Any approach to, or initiative in scientific research, including those in the economic field, must be characterized by originality. This requirement is fundamental, and recognized as such, and is in total opposition with plagiarism, since the essential purpose of research is to create the premises of research practice that can contribute to the overall progress of science. The authenticity of the scientific approach, its results, and its practical utility give real value to any type of scientific work.

The above considerations naturally beg the question, "What makes a work original?". One possible answer can include the following elements:
- an innovative manner for implementing a number of methods;

- improvements to some methods, processes and models;
- designing and implementing new theories, methods, processes and models;
- contesting oldest scientific laws, and identifying new ones, etc.

Common knowledge (the common corpus, or common core of knowledge) – can only appear when coherently defining a common knowledge by the common corpus, or the specificity of a science. The latter must be widely accepted by researchers, since common knowledge does not involve intellectual property rights in terms of legislation [3].

Citing and quoting in full compliance with the editorial guidelines specific to scientific publications (and observing anti-plagiarism laws) – appropriate use of a guide for the publication of books, papers and articles by quoting the source and the author of

the paper/book that an idea (method, model, etc.) was taken from, in a correct and standardized manner [3].

4. INSTITUTIONS SPECIALIZING IN IDENTIFYING AND PUNISHING PLAGIARISM AND SELF-PLAGIARISM

Among these authorities, the following should be mentioned for illustration purposes:
- ✓ The Romanian Copyright Office (ORDA)
- ✓ The National Ethics Council of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation (CNE)

Uncertain plagiarism and controversial plagiarism (omitting citation of own works, from which the author took a significant part, or important passages, etc.) are analyzed by the above-mentioned institutions in terms of moral academic conduct and research conduct, dealing with the ensemble of public communication, publication, dissemination and scientific popularization of results in the form of books, papers, public lectures, etc.) [3].

Added to the main gist of the present contribution, there is a warning against the (sometimes voluntary) confusion frequently made between someone's work involving *synthesis* (aggregation etc.), *compilation* (including paraphrase), and, finally, downright *plagiarism*. There are still cases when the difference between a mere synthesis of scientific materials and results is made (as part of one of the sections of a larger scientific paper), a compilation of sources is made in order to 'stuff' a would-be research paper, and genuine plagiarism (mainly text-based plagiarism), is difficult to draw, mainly in those disciplines which are not recognized as 'hard sciences' – and the consequences of such confusion can be rather dire, both for the author(s) and the publication.

5. CONCLUSIONS

It seems that, for the most part, avoiding plagiarism since the outset of a young scientist's career would mostly coincide with avoiding paraphrasing. Later, in the course of his/her career, the researcher must avoid paraphrasing of plagiarized texts, or plagiarism by paraphrasing…

A mature researcher's honest and creative career is naturally concluded with acquiring the ability to paraphrase, as a result of experience and constant, ample reading in the specific field he/she chose to serve. Hence one must conclude by stating that a thoroughly honest scientific author or responsible researcher should use his/her own speech/language in order to express (present, describe, aggregate or summarize) his/her own ideas, methods and results.

REFERENCES:

[1] Vessal, K., & Habibzadeh, F. (2007). Rules of the game of scientific writing: Fair play and plagiarism. The Lancet, 369, 641. CrossRefGoogle Scholar

[2] Eco, U., (2014). Cum se face o teză de licență. Iași: Editura Polirom

[3] Dinu, V., Săvoiu, G., Dabija, C-D., (2016). A concepe, a redacta și a publica un articol științific. O abordare în contextul cercetării economice, București: Editura A.S.E.

[4] Definition of "parafrază", DEX, available on https://dexonline.ro/definitie/parafraza, accessed December 2016

[5] Definition of „paraphrase", English monolingual dictionary (Oxford) available on https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/paraphrase, accessed December 2016

[6] Definition of „paraphraser", French monolingual dictionary (Larousse), available on http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais/paraphraser/57994?q=paraphraser#57651, accessed December 2016