

**Students' Plagiarism in an EFL Context: An Investigation of EFL  
Undergraduate Students' View in UIN Raden Fatah Palembang**



**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

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## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

This chapter presents: (1) background, (2) research problems, (3) research objectives, (4) significance of the study

#### 1.1 Background

Plagiarism is a problem that occurs in broad circles in the world. According to Coughlin, Ellery, El-Shinawi et al., and Henning et al., plagiarism in an academic context is a scholastic untruth other than fabrication and falsification and even this is a problem throughout the world (as cited in Maimuna, et al., 2018, p.664). Plagiarism or simply cheating is an unfavorable in the current field of educational field , range from secondary school till university. According to Yasami and Yarmohammadi (2014), in doing assignments and projects, many students are accused of committing plagiarism. It especially occurs in higher education. From Jenea, Sihotanga, and Ehrich, Howard, Mu, and Bokosmaty say that research of student and instructors' perceptions and attitude towards plagiarism, experts has revealed that it often happens because of the the amount of solid work and insufficient authoring skills (as cited in Maimuna et al., 2018, p.665).

In Minister of National Education Regulation (2010) paragraph 1, article 1, plagiarism is an act of quoting parts or all of the work of another person intentionally or unintentionally without providing an appropriate and adequate source to get a value for scientific work. It can be concluded

that plagiarism is an act of someone who takes another person's work and pretended to be his or hers. However, plagiarism is a common case among students.

Plagiarism is related to the internet. Mundava and Chaudhuri (2007) explained that there are many things that might be a factor in plagiarism: not understand on what is meant by plagiaris, misndertanding about collaboration, downloading images from the internet, incorrect paraphrasing or not including sources, wanting to get good grade at any cost, the pressure of work,laziness, or recognition that everyone is doing it, and frustrated with the writing process varies. In addition, he also explained that internet is another factor in plagiarism.

Internet has a role in plagiarism that giving students a chance to find or buy a paper from internet such as in www-sites. Although the internet is blamed for the increase of plagiarism. There are some other factors that have effects on plagiarism. Sikes (2009), said that two more factors in plagiarism: the shifting of moral values on plagiarism behaviour and the pressure of academic demands for publication (as cited in Ahmadi, 2014, p.152). Other reasons for the increase of plagiarism mentioned in Kumaravadivelu (2003), respecting authority and lack of critical thinking in Asian sociaties (as cited in Ahmadi, 2014, p.152).

There are many of media, sources and ways commonly used by students to plagiarize and cheat, such as copying friends' writing, taking quotes from the internet without including the autors' name or copying the

text without changing it by using own words. The presence of the internet makes it easy to plagiarize. According to Sawar, Moin, and Jabon, extraordinary developments in the field of information and communication technology, provide opportunities in research misconduct specially in plagiarism (as cited in Maimunah, et al., 2018, p.663). It is also informed particularly by the work of Auer and Krupar (2001), Doro (2004), Mundava and Chaundhuri (2007), Erkaya (2009), and Razera (2011), the advancement of technology and internet has an important role in the development of plagiarism among students, where the internet is the most common media in plagiarism among students.

After I read some previous related studies, the plagiarism was found increasing in numbers. In Martin's study (2018) from the AR Annual Report provide data of the number of the plagiarism and it was found that the number of recorded cases in 2015-2016 is low with a total 14 and increasing to 42 in 2016-2017. I also read students thesis in State Islamic University of Raden Fatah Palembang, and did a plagiarism test using online plagiarism checker Edubirdie. The result of the test indicated that a number of thesis included in plagiarism. There were eighteen of thirty theses have score below 80 which means identified as plagiarism. It was based on English education department regulation of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang.

There were four previous related studies in this research. First, the result from Doro's study (2004). The screening of the twenty-five essays

indicated that there were several reasons for plagiarism. The most often reasons of plagiarism included shorten time and minimize efforts, and unintentional plagiarism. Second, Ahmadi's study (2014) showed that plagiarism was quite common in the Iranian EFL context because various types of plagiarism used by the students. Many students were found not to have a negative attitude toward plagiarism. The results also indicated that some things played significant role in plagiarism such as academic level, age, and field of study. Meanwhile, marital status, gender, and occupational status did not have a significant effect on plagiarism.

Third, Doro's study (2004) which found that in some cases the Hungarian students being even stricter. The results indicated general negative attitude towards plagiarism, except for cooperating with others on an assignment and lifting small sections from sources without acknowledging them. Fourth, Erkaya's study (2009) found that prevalent causes of plagiarism were lack of students awareness about plagiarism, lack of knowledge about research writing, students' lack of motivation, lack of freedom to express opinions, and the negative attitude of the instructors and low students expectations.

It is important to know the students' perspective on plagiarism. According to Gullifer (2013), there are benefits in understanding students' perspectives on plagiarism to develop successful strategies to improve academic integrity, thus prevent plagiarism. It is supported by The WPA (Writing Program Administrator) mentioned that understanding why

students plagiarize can help teachers determine how to reduce the possibility of students plagiarism in their classrooms. In addition, knowing the reasons behind plagiarism is also important for students, faculty, and administrator to develop approaches like what should be done to reduce or even eliminate plagiarism among students. So, I am interested in conducting a research about undergraduate students' views of plagiarism entitled "Students' Plagiarism in an EFL Context: An Investigation of EFL Undergraduate Students' View in UIN Raden Fatah Palembang". This research only to investigates students' view towards plagiarize in EFL undergraduate context and reasons behind it.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the background, the research problems are formulated in the following questions

1. What was the EFL undergraduate students' understanding towards plagiarism at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang?
2. What were the EFL undergraduate students' reasons behind plagiarism committed by them in their own educational context at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the research problems, the aims of the present study are:

1. To investigate EFL undergraduate students' understanding of plagiarism at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang.
2. To find out what students' reasons behind plagiarism committed by

them in their own educational context at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

I hope this study can be useful for lecturers. By knowing the students' views of plagiarism and the reasons behind it can provide input to lecturers in developing good ways to give a correct view of plagiarism to students, help lecturers in handling plagiarism cases in their students, and improve quality of teaching. Thus, it can make students avoid plagiarism. Besides that, I hope that this study can bring positive effects to students in understanding about plagiarism that plagiarism is a bad action and will have a negative impact, such as will affect learning outcomes or student achievement. And this research is also expected to give an idea that plagiarism is a big thing and will get big sanctions. This study provides information about students' view on plagiarism. I hope that with this study the institution or university can improve supervision and strategies to avoid acts of plagiarism among students and develop appropriate strategies to promote academic integrity. For next observers, I hope this study will inspire the next researchers to conduct further studies with the same theme. The procedure and the result of this study can help the next observers easy to find out what the things that may be needed to do in the next studies with the same theme. Therefore, the purpose of this study generally is to provide awareness to lecturers, institution or study program, and students about the existence of plagiarism among students, which will facilitate to determine which approach can be improved.

