

Plagiarism dilemma: Paraphrasing tools, artificial intelligence, and cutoff limits for plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unethical practice of taking content from published or unpublished sources by authors and claiming that content as their original content. The content could be a few lines of text, an image or photograph, or even a questionnaire, code, or tool developed by the original creator. Ethically, proper credit to the author should be given from which the content has been derived. The credit can be given to authors in terms of citations, acknowledgments, and permissions. In case when the authors take a few lines from a published paper, citing the source of the lines is sufficient. When an author uses the tool or questionnaires available in the open access, the acknowledgment must be given to the original creator. When the authors want to use copyrighted materials such as a photograph or copyrighted tool, written permission from the original creator should be sought by email.

Even if authors cited the source of the original paper, it is copy-pasting of text also falls under plagiarism. The authors need to have to change the text in their own language such that the sentence structure should be different from the source. In this case, the information and meaning of the text remain the same, but the structure of the text is changed.

The biggest dilemma for authors comes when it is not possible to change the sentence of the source, and they fall under plagiarism if they use it as such. The possible difficulties in changing the sentence structure arise if the sentence contains large full forms of abbreviations, technical names, and numeric data. In such a case, the author has no idea about how to deal with such a dilemma. Furthermore, in a few cases, the sentence structure needs to be modified so intensively to avoid plagiarism that the original beauty of the sentence is torn out.

There are several online tools available which can trace the original source of the content and report it as plagiarism if a match is found. Plagiarism detection software uses a predefined matrix to match the similarity index. For example, a matrix could be five or ten similar words or a 1% match in a single sentence. Such software has a large database of published and sometimes unpublished content in which a similarity matrix is run. Besides text, some software companies claim that their software can provide the similarity index to text of

audio, video, and images. New updates in the plagiarism detection software can also detect if the content is created using an artificial intelligence tool.

Many institutes keep the acceptable plagiarism limits up to 10%, which does somehow not feel correct. To keep a balance between the original beauty of the data and avoid plagiarism, the limits of plagiarism should be kept at least at 25%. A total of 10% of plagiarism in a manuscript tends to occur only by the technical words and full forms.

There are several artificial intelligence-based natural language processing paraphrase tools available online, free of cost, which removes plagiarism from the text. Such tools remove plagiarism from the text by rearranging the sentence structure, using synonyms, and modifying the grammar of the sentence. Although the help of such tools could be taken, text modified by such tools is error prone in 100% of cases, in case, they use as such. Therefore, 80% of the work could be done by online paraphrasing tools, but the authors need to put 20% effort into correcting the manuscript.

In our personal experience, we never use paraphrasing tools because there is no match of the content created by the human mind. While writing a manuscript author puts their original thoughts in the manuscript, which plays a significant part in the originality and beauty of the manuscript. The paraphrasing tools limit the thoughts of the human mind. Using a paraphrasing tool, although we got a plagiarism free manuscript in the end, but it will be a beautiful body without any soul. An author reflects their vision in the manuscript which they had originally developed. Therefore, it is recommended to use paraphrasing tools as low as possible; otherwise, the author should always try to develop the content using their original thoughts.

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Access this article online

Website: <http://www.jpbs-online.com>

E-ISSN: 2321-0125

How to cite this article: Goyal AK, Saini J. Plagiarism dilemma: Paraphrasing tools, artificial intelligence, and cutoff limits for plagiarism. J Pharm BioSci 2023;11(3):1.

Source of Support: Nil, **Conflicts of Interest:** None declared