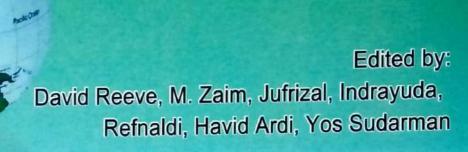
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# Character Building through Language, Culture, Arts, and Their Learning





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through Language, Culture, Arts, and Their Learning"

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# BUILDING ACADEMIC HONESTY IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING

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### Abstract

Character has become a central aspect of education. It has given much more influences on the success of character has be character in the nation. The term of character is defined as an individual's set of psychological characteristics that affect person's ability and inclination to function morally. It is comprised of those characteristics that lead a person to do or not to do the right thing. There are numerous character values in education which have been discussed and proposed by experts. One of them is honesty which significantly affects learners' attitudes and behavior to do and act properly. Building character of honesty in language learning can be done in many ways. One of them is through scientific writing. Writing is not only about what and how to write. Further, it deals with academic honesty which requires students to behave in accordance with character values. At this point, the issue of plagiarism should come into attention in order to build student's characters. This paper aim to discuss how scientific writing promotes character building especially in language learning.

Key words: academic honesty, plagiarism and scientific writing

#### INTRODUCTION A.

Character is a fundamental part in education. It is urgently required since human need to have good and strong characteristic which determine them with other creature. Character is viewed as someone's action which is the manifestation of their thought and conduct. People of character are those who have attitude, moral and behavior. They would have deep awareness about his potential and would act appropriately based on that potential. Someone with good and positive character would do the best in every step of all the way.

Character is defined as an individual's set of psychological characteristics that affect person's ability and inclination to function morally (Damon, 2002:48). Philips in Muslich (2011:70) defines character as a set of values which is oriented to a system based on thought, attitude and behavior performed. In addition, Musfiroh in Aunillah (2011:19) argues that character refers to a set of attitudes, behaviors, motivations and skills. The character also refers to the term of personality, behavior, attitude and nature. Generally, it can be clarified that character is individual reflection covering mentality, attitude and behavior.

Furthermore, Zubaedi (2012:10) explains that character covers attitude to do the best, intellectual capacity, behavior, maintaining moral principles, interpersonal and emotional skills which allow someone to interact effectively in any situation and commitment of contributing for society. Character is based on religion norms, law, politeness, customs and culture. Aunillah (2011:20) adds that someone is said to have good character if he/she has knowledge about her/his own potential which is reflected in behaving.

The issue of character is commonly related to the phenomena of people's character and moral problems which are increasing rapidly. The daily news reported in television and printed media tells us that there are many problems around us which are basically relate to unethical behavior and moral degradation. Corruption, criminalization, racism and many other countless problems among high functionary in this nation are regarded as common sense. Not only that, problems among our young generation are also increasing rapidly. These problems cover the increasing of free sex, bullying among students, plagiarism, cheating, pornography, stealing and many others social problems (Zubaedi, 2011:1-4). These phenomena absolutely indicate that how this nation needs character.

Educational institutions basically have responsibility to handle this case. They should be clean from those problems as they are pioneer of change and central of any movement. Sadly, today's problems emerge our doubt. Educational institutions which should be clear from those problems regard it as a common. Tremendously, plagiarism including cheating commonly happened especially in academic setting. Academic society seems to be familiar by way of this issue. These problems are observed to be more complex recently than before. It highlights that honesty is rare, not only for the high functionaries but also among the academic societies. As the result, this issue became a major problem to be solved.

Plagiarism is commonly regarded as academic stealing and crime. It is defined as taking someone else's ideas, thought, and work and presenting it as your own without giving proper acknowledgement (Roberts, 2008:2, Southerland-Smith, 2008:37 & Girard, 2004:13). It is categorized as a serious problem and should be penalized heavily. Almost all of educational institutions all around the world have set their policy to prevent this problem. this problem. Each of them describes plagiarism depend upon how it is defined. In fact, plagiarism still happens.



There are some factors causing plagiarism. Firstly, it is resulted from the failure of building students' academic honesty. An honest person does not commit plagiarism. She/he beliefs that stealing other's and lying are wrong things and should be avoided (Koelhoffer, 2009:29). Secondly, it happens because students are lack of awareness. Nowadays is easily for students to access and use any sources especially from the internet. Mostly, they forget to reference and take it as their own while those sources are copyrighted (Girard, 2004:13). Thirdly, plagiarism happens because students are lack of knowledge concerning writing skill. The ability of paraphrasing, note-taking, and referencing are important for students as they are effective to avoid plagiarism (Roberts, 2008:2 & Assessment Committee of the Faculty of Education, University of Malta, 2007:6).

Regarding the factors causing plagiarism above, it is clear that academic honesty is urgently needed in order to avoid plagiarism. Every component of education should be involved, together with subject matter which potentially promotes academic honesty. One of them is through scientific writing where the issue of plagiarism commonly takes place. The writer attempts to discuss briefly about building academic honesty in scientific writing and deliberate way to avoid plagiarism.

#### B. DISCUSSION

#### 1. Character & Character Education

Character means the individual's inner make up as a well-established structural whole as manifested in the individual's actions habits and mode of thought, as well as in the human sphere of the emotions (Adi, 2011:401). While, Samani and Harianto (2012:41) define character as the way of thought and act which is uniquely belongs to somebody for living, cooperating within family, society, and nation. Wynne in Huitt (2004) claims that generally character bad or good is considered to be observable in one's conduct.

In addition, Tadzikoratun Musfiroh in Aunillah (2011:19) states that character is the compilation of attitudes, behaviors, motivations and skills. In other word, character viewed as someone's action which is the manifestation of their thought and conduct. Someone who has good character would have deep awareness about his potential and would act appropriately based on that potential and someone with positive character would do the best in every step of all the way but in the good way. In building someone's character can be done instantly but it needs a process. One builds it daily by the way one thinks and acts, thought by thought, actions by action.

Furthermore, there is no way to separate character and education. Character is a must and essential as it becomes the meaning of education itself. Character education is defined as the process of engrafting the moral virtues into students' life that includes knowledge, individual awareness, willpower and actions that implemented into their life, for god, themselves, other people, environment and country (Aunillah, 2011:18). In addition, Samani and Harianto (2011:43) state that character education is any single positive thing that done by the teachers that has influence to the character of their students. Moreover, Elkind & Sweet in Zubaedi (2012:15) state that character education is the deliberate effort to help people understand, care about, and act upon the core ethical value. It can be seen that including character in education means building up student's potential to be people of character.

Related to the character and character education, there are some pillars of character that can be reference in implementing character education and integrating character into classroom activities. According to Smith in Meladina and Amir (2013:188), there are several traits that will be learned in character education. Firstly is responsibility which is the basic belief that each of us has mutual agreement with those around us to do our part, to carry our fair share of the load and to accept the consequences of our action. Secondly is honesty, it means telling the truth or conforming our words into reality. Thirdly is integrity which is about conforming our reality into the words or in other word keeping promise and filling expectations. Then, the next is respect which is based on the social groups, believe in religion and culture for example respect to self and others. The last is caring which means showing understanding of other by treating them with kindness, compassion, generosity and forgiving spirit. At least these five pillars of character can be implemented by integrating it into learning activities as covered in any subjects. Basically, any substance of learning and teaching activities should be done though character.

# The Importance of Character Building

Including character in education is a must regarding to the problems faced by this nation. Character is an important aspect in developing human resources in a country (Muslich, 2011:35). The quality of human resources depends on how well the character of the citizens. Character building is urgently needed as there are many problems which are recently appeared, especially among young generation. There are five important reasons why education should be based on the character education (Tantra in Saputra, Nitiasih & Putra, 2013). They are: First, education is a process of acculturation of the most effective character education. Second, education has a very long time span. Third, education can be believed to be able to overcome negative tendencies and behave badly. Forth, the ministry of education and culture of republic Indonesia intends to create and develop the potential of human learners to become Indonesian which has a character education.



Fifth, character education is an investment system values to educators, learners, and education both formal, nonformal and informal.

Regarding the goals of character education, Sahrudin in Aunillah (2011:105) explains that there are three important points why character building through character education is needed in our country; First three important production is needed to develop basic potential of the students so that they can grow up and become the bas good personality, bright thought and pice act. Second it is peeded to character cuts who has good personality, bright thought and nice act. Second it is needed to consolidate and build multicultural society behavior. The last is character education can improve the civilization of a nation that can compete in the world association. In addition, Schwartz in Samani and Harianto (2011:16) states that in relation to school community, character education has functions as: (1) it helps students to achieve the successful in school and in life, (2) it helps students to face any challenge in their life, (3) it improves positive students' attitude and behavior and decrease the possibility of doing negative actions, (4) it makes everyone at school acts based on the moral virtues, and the last (5) it makes the learning process easier and more efficient.

There is no doubt that character education plays an important role in building civilization of a nation. It gives influences for almost the entire component of human life where it is the pointer of the successful of a nation in the world association. The root goal of character education is students or the youth, so building students' character means helping and preparing them to face the big challenge in the future.

# Honesty: A Fundamental Character in Academic

Honesty is one of the urgent characters in education which should be developed. It becomes fundamental because every single aspect in this life should be based on honesty. The problems arise in social context basically relate to dishonesty. It can be analyzed through people lying to themselves which make them behave unethically. Then it comes to broader context. Simply, corruption, criminalization, and many other problems are done because of dishonesty.

It is easy to define honesty. Koelhoffer (2009:27) explains that honesty means telling the truth, behaving honorably and not lying, cheating or stealing. An honest person is truthful not only to other people but also to him or herself. Lying about things on a regular basis with the intent to deceive is a sign of dishonest character. Honesty exists not only in the things to say, but also in the things to do (JIST Editor, 2006:154). Moreover, Koelhoffer (2009:27) says that being honest also means understanding that the truth is the foundation on which our society and everything in it are based. Without honesty, most people can never have peace of mind or achieve true success. As the old saying goes, "Honesty is the best policy."

Koelhoffer (2009:27-33) explains that there are seventh different forms of honesty. Each of form has its own framework. The first form is academic honesty. It means being honest in an educational setting. Someone who is academically honest does not commit plagiarism. Other form of academic dishonesty include doing someone else's work, changing grades or academic record through forgery, stealing or ruining property that belongs to the school, lying about or exaggerating data to make the results from your work seem more believable, and cheating on a test or other assignment by using notes or other resources that are not supposed to be using. It is no doubt that academic honesty is very important to have especially for students and academicians.

The second form is integrity. Honesty and integrity are often used interchangeably. Although they have similar meanings, integrity is a broader term. Whereas honesty means telling the truth, integrity means being yourself and not putting on an act or pretending you are something you are not around others or even when you are by yourself. The third form is sincerity. It means behaving in an open and honest way that you are genuine or being sincere on what is saying and doing. The fourth form is scientific honesty. Someone who is honest in the scientific arena is careful to be accurate in collecting and reporting data that result from research and experiment. It also means not faking the experiment results just to confirm a hypothesis or to look good.

The fifth form is honor. Having honor means having a sense of fairness and always striving to do the right thing, no matter what the situation is. An honorable person can be relied on to be truthful in both words and actions. Someone who has honor will go out of his or her way to stand up for the truth, even when it would be easier just to keep silent. The sixth form is trustworthiness. Being trustworthy means that people can depend on you to do what you are supposed to do. One of the examples is being on time. The last form is sportsmanship. It means showing honesty and honor when you participate in athletic activities and other games. Someone who is a "good sport" behaves in a dignified way and threats other with respect, whether he or she wins or loses.

Scientific Writing & Plagiarism

Writing is difficult and being a good writer involves countless skill. Besides spelling and grammar, which seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing voice, expressing our own idas, and in many the seem like enough to worry about, good writing involves finding writing w and in many cases incorporating other people's ideas into the mix (Williams, 2008:5). It is getting more difficult when difficult when supporting opinion with the ideas and expertise of others are required because writing invoves both individual and collaborative activity.



Scientific writing is one of the fundamental form of writing in academic setting. This writing is a kind of communicating science and research result to public. Grossman et al. (2009) explain that there are some kinds of scientific writing. They are scientific article and journal, reports, conferences paper, research proposal, thesis and dissertation. Scientific writing requires complex skills. A writer need to have good writing and research skills, ability to work with sources, and presenting research result to the public. The writing skills such as paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting and even note-taking are actually needed. The lack of these abilities push writers to work such in 'instant' way. That is what is called plagiarism.

Plagiarism is defined in a broader area. Generally, it is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, throughts, and works and presenting it as our own without appropriate acknowldgment (Roberts, 2008:2, Southerland-Smith, 2008:37 & Girard, 2004:13). This 'work' is usually something that has beed produced by another person, 'published' in some tangible ways, and presented formally into the public domain. Extremely,

plagiarism is also regarded as academic stealing which sould be heavily penalized.

The term of "plagiarism" itself is derived from the Latin term for plundering. In fact, the idea of kidnapping the word of others is appropriate to explain the way which plagiarism is defined. There was acceptance in eighteennth-century england of the concept that words could be kidnapped or misappropriated by someone with legal recrimination. The basis of this acceptance was also embodied in the laws of former British colnies such as Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand and the United States. The birth of the idea that a person could "own" words and exercise ownership or authorial rights over their creation was unleashed in varios copyright laws around the world. Plagiarism is closely aligned with legal rights of copyright and pursued in courts today (Southerland-Smith, 2008:37).

In general, plagiarism is one of a number of practices deemed by universities to constitute cheating, or the university-term is 'a lack of academic integrity'. The type of plagiarism itself is clasified in different point but still in the same framework. Girard (2004:13) says that the most common types are submitting someone else's written, copying information precisely fro the internet, using incorret paraphrashing, not documenting

references, and copying from yourself (autoplagiarism).

Furthermore, Neville (2010:29) esplains plagiarism in more detail. She says that there are there main forms of plagiarism. They are: 1) copying another person's work, including the work of another student and claiming or pretending it to be your own. 2) presenting arguments that use a blend of your own and a significant percentage or copied words of the original another without acknowledging the source. 3) parapashing another person's work, but not giving due acknowledgement to the original writer or organization publishing the writing, including internet sites. The exceptions to this would be in relation to common knowledge.

Scientific writing has its own way in order to produce a writing product or even presenting research result to the public. It requires a complex skills and gradual processes. If the process of writing are followed well along with the required skills, plagiarism totally can be avoided by anyone. Students need to acquire more skills and knowledge while the policy of plagiarism itself should be clearly built up.

# Effective Note-Taking: A Tremendous Way to Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism mostly happens because students take note as they read, but forget to write down the name of the original author of the words and ideas in their notes. Then, it affects students in writing down what they got in reading sources. To avoid this problem, effective note taking technique clearly shows the difference between your voice and the voice of other writer or researcher. By this techniques, writing skills covering paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting and referencing are integrated.

The followings are some steps on implementing effective note taking as proposed by Spiteri et al. (2007:14):

# Step 1

Preparing a list of questions needed to answer from your reading and look for the answer to your

# Step 2

Making notes on the information you find. It can be done this through quoting, paraphrasing or summarizing the text.

## Step 3

Commenting the notes on whether the writer's ideas support your ideas, you agree or not and why it

## Example:

The assignment is: "Discuss the issue of plagiarism in writing world."

As part of student's preparation for this assignment, the student has decided to read the following journal: 'Plagiarism: An ethical problem in the writing world' written by Girard in AORN Journal

In order to create an active discussion between students and the writer, the following steps of note taking



- Students prepare the questions related to the topic
  - What causes plagiarism?
  - What is covered into plagiarism?
- Students divides note taking into two parts:
  - · On the left-hand side there is space for taking notes (quote, paraphrase or summary)
  - · On the left-hand side there is space for own comments on reading

## Writer's idea

The main points/argument/ideas, etc of the writer

Student's response student's thoughts/ideas/hypothesis/arguments, etc. in response to writer's voice

Problems causing plagiarism 'many writers use someone else's work, change a few words from the original document, and then do not reference the original document'

In my opinion, considering the complex definition of plagiarism, these cases absolutely makes plagiarism arises.

I agree with this case because not referencing means taking other's as our won which means plagiarism.

#### CONCLUSION C.

Educating people does not mean only transmitting knowledge but also building their character. People of character are those who are able to act and behave properly based on the character values. There are many characters which should be had by students. One of them is honesty which becomes a fundamental character among others. In academic setting, honesty is urgently required. The general term used is academic honesty which means not committing plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as as taking and using another person's ideas, throughts, and works and presenting it as our own without appropriate acknowledgment. This is commonly takes place in scientific writing where other's idea and expertise are needed. Plagiarism is regarded as academic stealing and crime and should be penalized heavily. Plagiarism among students are the reflection of the failure of building academic honesty. Thus, building academic honesty can be effectively done if the writing processes are followed well along with the skills required.

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