

The Improvement of Scientific Paper Quality Through The Plagiarism Prevention Policy at Universities

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Abstract

Plagiarism is the act of intentionally or unintentionally in obtaining or trying to gain credit or value for a scientific paper, by citing someone else's writing without stating sources. The act of plagiarism into scientific papers will directly affect the quality of scientific papers itself. This study aims to know the policy formulated by several parties to improve the quality of scientific papers through the plagiarism prevention action. This was literature review research conducted on several resources related to the policy of plagiarism prevention. The finding showed that some of policy-makers have implemented a policy that has to be done by each of higher education institution, for example the Ministry of Education and Culture has issued the Ministerial Regulation No.17/2010 on Prevention and Handling Plagiarism at Universities. The implementation of the policy, several universities in Indonesia have done the prevention of plagiarism, both through appeal and circular letter from the Rector and through the direct action with the help of several programs of plagiarism detection. Brawijaya University has implemented the policy of Minister Regulation No. 17/2010 with the Rector's circular letter about the plagiarism detection at Brawijaya University, both through a program and an appeal as well as the understanding improvement about plagiarism for civitas academica. It is same like what universities in Makassar do; they have used a plagiarism prediction program to minimize plagiarism at universities. Gajah Mada University and Padjadjaran University are universities having plagiarism detection application that has been implemented at those two universities.

Keywords: Policy, Plagiarism, Quality, Scientific papers

Introduction

Law on the National Education System No.20/2003, Universities have an obligation to implement three missions of universities, in which a university should serve as a world of education, research and public services as a form of development of science and technology. In Implementing the three missions of Universities, each of university has an obligation to search for, discover, and maintain the academic integrity. It can not be denied, along with technological progress and information system, the development of science and technology to some extent is influenced by thoughts and others opinion [1].

Civitas Academica are demanded to be able to improve science and technology that have been found without leaving an opinion or the identity of the first inventor in a citation. For thus, it should someone else's opinion that are served as references in improving science and technology awarded by citing the sources properly and clearly in accordance with the applicable regulation [1]. If it is not be done, it can be categorized as plagiarism. The study of plagiarism policy has been done in several countries, such as in South America, Canada, Europe, and Asia [2]. The previous study focused on several steps taken by several cases of occurred plagiarism. In addition, all of researches also consider the policies made by a country to overcome the act of plagiarism, for example in England and Australia [3];[4].

Policy and management of plagiarism prevention is a hot topic that is still talked, thus universities in England are really concern on those two things to ensure resulted scientific papers [5];[6];[7]. Plagiarism can indirectly affect the quality of scientific papers produced by universities. Sweden is a country using software in preventing plagiarism at universities. The software can directly detect various scientific papers in the internet, so that it can help to minimize plagiarism [8]. Hungary, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Lithuania are several countries in Europe that have found various softwares to prevent plagiarism. The software help library and educational institutions in preventing and minimizing plagiarism by doing repository management of various data of minithesis or thesis in those countries [9]. This study aims to know several steps that have been done by several parties to improve the quality of scientific papers through plagiarism prevention action in Indonesia.

Research Methodology

This was literature review research conducted on several resources related to the policy of plagiarism prevention. Literature review is an activity to search for relevant reference of theory and information with the topic discussed in the research. Literature review can be found in several types of writing, such as journals, papers, and online media writing discussing some of plagiarism prevention policies in Indonesia.

Research Findings

The number of universities in Indonesia was the highest in South East Asia, Its total was 3.119, both were state universities and private universities [10]. The total of the students were about 4 million inhabitants, and thirty-six thousand students were studying overseas.

Universities in Indonesia were dominated by private university. It causes state universities were not able to accomodate all students who were interested to study at state universities [10]. Indonesian students believed that taking class at state universities has more prestige than at private universities. For that reason this could affect disparities of social and intellectual in various elements in the future, including the quality of resulted scientific papers.

A large number of universities in a country should be equivalent to the number of scientific papers that are produced by that country. The number of scientific papers resulted by universities will be heavily weighted if it contains the novelty of science and protected from plagiarism elements.

Plagiarism is the act of intentionally or unintentionally in obtaining or trying to gain credit or value for scientific papers, by citing in part or whole of work and or scientific papers of someone else that are recognized as his/her scientific paper without stating sources appropriately and adequately. While a plagiarist is an individual or a group doing plagiarism, each of them acts for themselves, for group or for and in the name of an entity [11].

Things categorized as plagiarism: [12]

1. Using someone else's raw writing without giving a clear mark (for example by using quotation marks or different paragraph block) that the text is taken exactly from other writings.
2. Taking the ideas of someone else without giving sufficient annotations about the source.

Things not categorized as plagiarism: [12]

1. Using a general fact information.
2. Rewriting (rephrasing or paraphrasing) someone else's opinion by providing a clear source.
3. Quoting someone else's writing sufficiently by providing a clear limit in a quotation part and writing its source.

Plagiarism is a serious offense in the educational institution. This is due to the understanding that plagiarism is a common activity that is done by students to their dean, or other instututions having right in expressing thought [13].

Cases were quite frequent discussed in Indonesia about plagiarism is a Professor stripped the title of professorship due to s/he was proven to have committed plagiarism on his/her scientific paper. A professor at one of state universities in Jakarta is proven to have committed plagiarism into his/her student's minithesis, it happens because in some parts of the scientific paper are still emboided the word of "minithesis" that has not been changed yet. This case was revealed since there was public report and there was one by one scientific paper checking of dean who apply for promotion.

It is increasingly clear that Indonesia is very concerned the quality of scientific papers from civitas academica containing plagiarism or not. Academia sanctions that will be accepted by civitas academica if they are proven to do plagiarism are started from demotion, revocation of academic degrees, and dismissing from their position. According to The Higher Education General Director of Minister of Education and Culture, the sanction imposed is appropriate to the level of mistakes made by civitas academica.

In 2010, The Ministry of Education and Culture issued a policy on plagiarism, that is the regulation of Education Ministry No.17/2010 on prevention and handling plagiarism at universities. That minister regulation is the legal basis governing about plagiarism handling at universities in Indonesia. Through this policy, it is expected all universities in Indonesia can minimize plagiarism at University.

The policy of plagiarism at university always try to prevent, minimize, and even early detection of the occurrence of plagiarism process in an arranging process of scientific paper [14]. In addition some of the things done by universities are improving an understanding about plagiarism and the impact of plagiarism to the civitas academica.

The policy of plagiarism prevention at universities can directly increase universities awareness in the process of producing quality scientific papers. However, some of universities also can not apply the policy with variety reasons. This is equivalent to the policy concept by Edward III saying that "public policy is what government says and do, or to do. It is the goal or purpose of government program's" [15]. On the other hand, David Easton provides an understanding of public policy that is allocation of forced values and valid to all members of society, in this case is universities. All policy executors should have the sufficient freedom and flexibility in interpreting a policy, and having a high commitment in an effort to reach public welfare, mainly things being a group target. According to Gerston, implementation is:

"the process of implementation, the administrative tasks of transferring policy commitment into practices. As part of the public policy making process, implementation is the mean by which decision are covert into application. In others word, it is the effort that carries out what policy maker decide should be done" [16]

According to Gerston, public policy can describe the actions of bureaucrats, deciding how far that policy is carried out. The following are some simple rules that can be followed: (1) Ensuring that the policy in question is authorized and the one that has been listed on the appropriate government authority , such as the city attorney, clerk, or the foreign minister; (2) knowing wether there is bureaucracy assigned to execute the public policy and the special circumstances and responsibilities of bureaucratic work, including if and when the members of the bureacucracy who have to report to the public's policy-maker; (3) Monitoring the policy improvement by reviewing officials implementation report issued by bureaucrats to policy-makers; (4) Checking notes, such as the report of campaign donations or press conference held by government leaders, groupings interest, or the influenced person trying to put in this process; (5) Holding accountable public policy if bureaucrats failed to manage the policy as designed. Even though the local government administrator, states, or federal usually executing policies, the reponsibility for policies starts and ends with those who are elected to decide it.

Policy implementation in the context of management, after the policy making done, the next task is: (1) Strategic implementation (pre-implementation) include: adjusting the structure with strategy, instituting strategies, operationalizing strategies, using procedure to make implementation becomes easy; (2) organizing (it includes the following activities: organization design and structure of organization, job description and task design, integration and coordination, recruitment and placement of human resource, human rights authority and duties, delegation, (centralization and decentralization), development of

organizational capacity and human resource capacity, and organizational culture; (3) Mobilization and leadership includes: leadership's effectiveness, motivation, ethics, quality, teamwork, organization community, and negotiation; and (4) control: control design, management information system, financial and budgeting control and auditing [17].

Implementation of the policy of The Minister Regulation no.17/2010 on prevention and Handling Plagiarism in Universities at Brawijaya University has been done with the regulation of Brawijaya University's Rector on implementing the plagiarism detection to the scientific papers of Post graduate students of Brawijaya University. By those policies, Brawijaya University appeals to all of faculties to conduct free certification of plagiarism on the scientific paper written by students. Meanwhile, for the implementation unit of publishing "UB Press" also implement the law by conducting free certification of plagiarism on all of books that will be published through "UB Press"

Three universities in Makassar has also implemented that policy, they are State University of Makassar, Hasanuddin University and State Islamic University Alauddin. Those three universities use a software to help the prevention process of plagiarism. Through the software it can be detected a number of words, letters, and sentences having similarity. So that it can anticipate plagiarism [18].

The Lecture of Gadjah Mada University (UGM) has found a software or application of plagiarism detection to minimize plagiarism of scientific paper, this application called TESSY (Test of Text Similarity). It has been used at Faculty of Economics and Business of Gadjah Mada University. Each of student who want to release his/her thesis, s/he will be required to submit softcopy of the minithesis and then will be tested using the application in the library. If the results of the TESSY detection not found the elements of plagiarism so that the minithesis is passed and the students can participate in graduation ceremony. Meanwhile, if there is a similarity on the literature the students will be asked to see the officer to ask to revise the minithesis, and even if the value of plagiarism is high enough the student have to write the new one [19].

Padjajaran University (UNPAD) based in Bandung has prepared its own anti-plagiarism software that will be used in all of libraries of Padjajaran University. Anti-plagiarism software which is useful to check Indonesian plagiarism will be applied at libraries of every faculty of Padjajaran University. It is part of the implementation of the policy of the Ministry Regulation no 17/2010, in addition the application is expected to minimize the act of plagiarism at Padjajaran University.

Policies can not be easily implemented, there are many things affecting the process of policy implementation, both in terms of implementation and involved actors, target groups or the influence of resources involved whether in the form of financial resources and other materials or human resource as well as the environment where the policy is implemented.

The model of public policy implementation by Edward III states that the successful implementation of policies can be determined by four variables, they are (1) communication points out that every policy can be implemented properly if there is effective communication between the program managers (policy) with the target group; (2) resource that every policy has to be supported with the

adequate resource, both human resource and financial resource; (3) disposition refers to characteristics that tightly adhere to the policy executor (4) Bureaucracy structure to be important in the policy implementation related to two things that are the mechanism and its own structure of executor organization contained in the Standard Operating Procedure of program execution [21].

Conclusion

The number of Indonesian students is the highest in South East Asia; the total is approximately 4 million inhabitants, both studying local and overseas. Indonesia has 3.119 universities and it is dominated by private university. The total of the students will improve the quantity of scientific papers published by universities. The quality of scientific papers is strongly influenced by the wealth and the novelty of information, as well as the avoidance of plagiarism element. The Ministry of Education and Culture issued the Minister Regulation No. 17/2010 on Prevention and Handling Plagiarism at Universities. That policy is the basis of all universities to further improve the quality of scientific paper, by doing the plagiarism detection on the scientific papers that will be published at universities, both minithesis, thesis, dissertation, and journal.

The policy is a serious concern about the number of plagiarism cases in Indonesia. Some of universities are now implementing the policy with various things. All policies made by university aim to prevent and minimize the act of plagiarism at universities. Brawijaya University is one of the universities implementing the Regulation of Minister on prevention and handling plagiarism. The circular letter of Brawijaya University's Rector is conducting free certification of plagiarism on the student's scientific papers, such as thesis, dissertation, and journal before participating at final test and graduation ceremony. That policy is a particular concern from the rectory to the scientific papers at Brawijaya University.

Three universities in Makassar also have implemented the policy of plagiarism prevention by detecting a scientific paper through plagiarism detection application. This is done to detect the research authenticity conducted by students. UGM and UNPAD are universities creating plagiarism detection application to be used in each of the university. That application will be used to detect plagiarism of student's scientific papers. If students are proven to do plagiarism, so that they have to revise the one affected plagiarism and do not allow to participate at graduation ceremony. If the value of plagiarism is high enough, the students have an obligation to write the new one.

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