

# ATTITUDE TOWARDS PLAGIARISM AMONG STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE-SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY IN UZBEKISTAN

Kosimova Fotima Turgunovna

Senior Teacher of the Department of English Applied Disciplines,  
Uzbekistan State World Languages University Tashkent, Uzbekistan

## Abstract

Enhancements are required in promoting scientific honesty and decent practices in scholarly work, specifically in acknowledging the contributions of the authors. It is a sporadic situation to involve in plagiarism unintentionally when any academic work is used. Hence, it is quite crucial to know the attitudes of students towards plagiarism. Therefore, the current research is aimed at identifying the attitude of students who study at Uzbekistan State world languages university. The research is based on the questionnaire and the results are calculated through the quantitative method which are given in the form of diagrams and charts.

**Keywords:** attitude, plagiarism, students of language-oriented university.

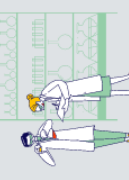
## Introduction

Since science and ethics are inseparable parts of our modern life, university staff is responsible for educating students certain principles as integrity, trust, morale, confidence and other essential qualities that prevent them from doing something unethical. However, the proportion of upbringing by parents should not be neglected when moral values of students are being estimated.

The increase of plagiarism is inevitable and ubiquitous. The main sources of this issue is the dramatic development of technologies and the amenities for obtaining any information via the Internet. The several attempts to minimize the amount of plagiarism are not working so effectively as they have been expected. Therefore, one alternative way to come up with new ideas to protect students from cheating is to familiarize with the attitude of students who study in language-oriented university.

## 2. RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY:

The notion “plagiarism” was first invented during the Roman era. Since that, a plenty of scholars and scientists try to define, explain and interpret it. The word plagiarism is defined as “to copy another person’s ideas, words and work and pretend that they are not your own”. Fisher and Levinger pointed out that plagiarism is accepted as a way of taking someone’s ideas or writings and demonstrate them as their own works. According to the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, there are several acts which are considered as plagiarism like “Quotation Total or partial reformulation of ideas or information, text, or



paragraph taken from a published article or taken from a book, magazine, study, report or website without mentioning their sources and authors.” and others.

Another topic which arouse the interest of scholar`s is what the reasons of plagiarism there are. Rezanejad and Rezaei stated 13 causes why students plagiarize, scaling them from their frequency from the most to least common. Some of the reasons you can see below:

- Easiness of plagiarizing.
- Not having a good command of the language.
- No training in universities on the issue of plagiarism.
- Lack of time to meet the deadlines.
- Lack of attention from professors to term projects.
- More confidence & belief in the original text.

Attitudes represent our wishes and direct our thoughts into actions. Thus, the investigation of attitude is intriguing for everyone, namely for psychologists, educators and administrators. APA Dictionary of Psychology indicates, “attitude is a relatively enduring and general evaluation of an object, person, group, issue, or concept on a dimension ranging from negative to positive.” Ajzen and Fishbein pointed out that the attitudes helps us regulate our behavior or what beliefs and feelings we have about certain situations which enable us to guess what to do in the future.

Regarding to the research, the study has been carried out through three stages.

**The first stage** included familiarizing students with the term plagiarism and how to avoid it. In addition, students practiced avoiding plagiarism though summarizing, paraphrasing and using direct and indirect quotation.

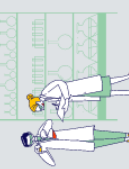
**In the second stage**, students were given an electronic questionnaire in which they were asked to answer to some questions. The questions were created with certain number of alternatives to enable students to choose an option easily. Furthermore, the last option “Others” provided the students with the opportunity to share their own beliefs as well.

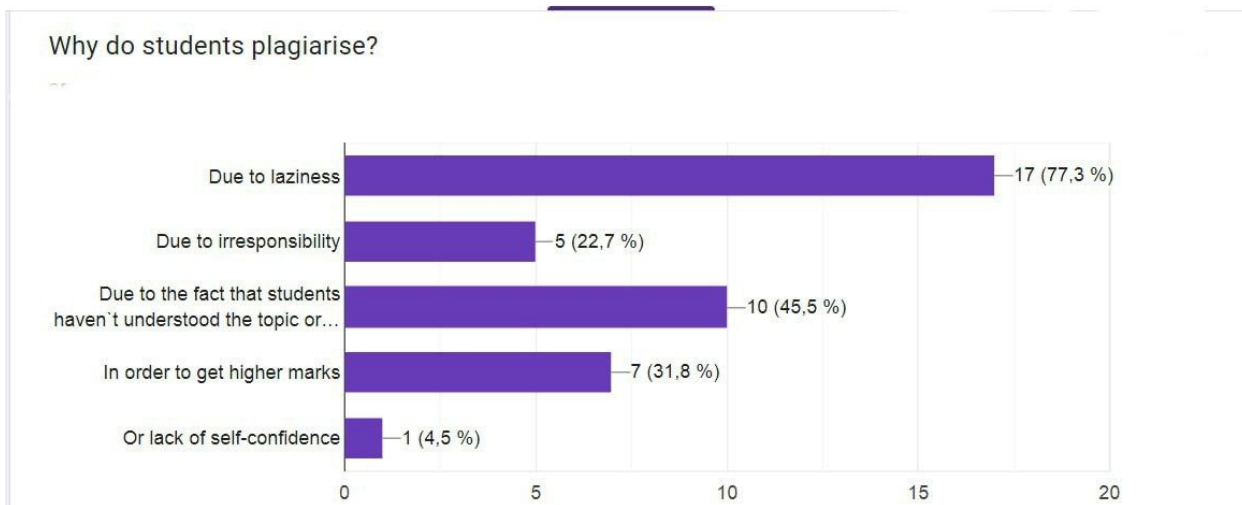
**In the last stage**, the results are scrutinized and examined closely through qualitative method. Moreover, the results are presented in the forms of diagrams and graphs to make it accessible to the readers. Some recommendations were requested from students to encourage their pairs to avoid plagiarism. When the analysis was done, the conclusions were made and other recommendations along with students` suggestions were mentioned in discussion part of the article.

### 3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The results are initially demonstrated in the forms of diagrams and graphs so that it is understandable for all types of readers, then the table shows the quantitative result of the research.

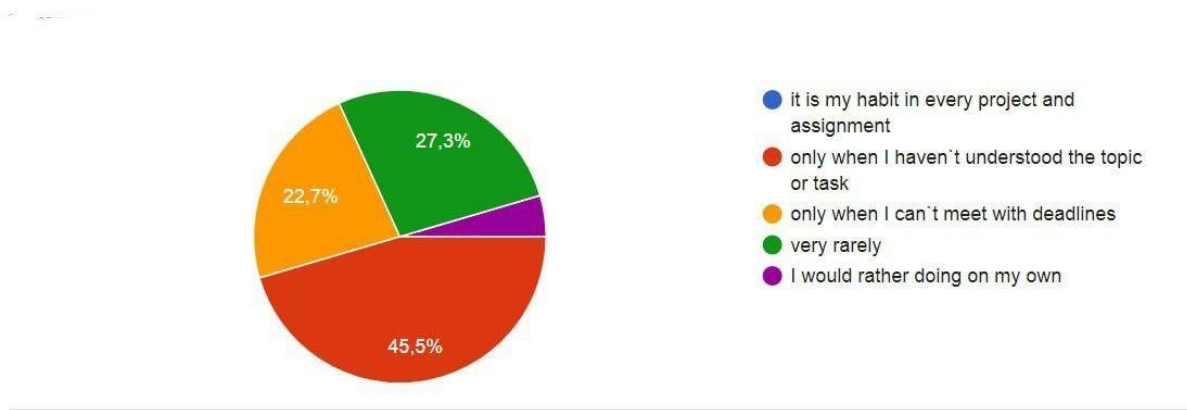
The **first diagram** shows the reasons why students cheat. The highest proportion is taken by “due to laziness” and another highest source of plagiarism is owing to the fact that students haven`t understood the topic or the assignment.





**Diagram. 1**

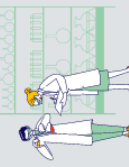
How often do you plagiarise?



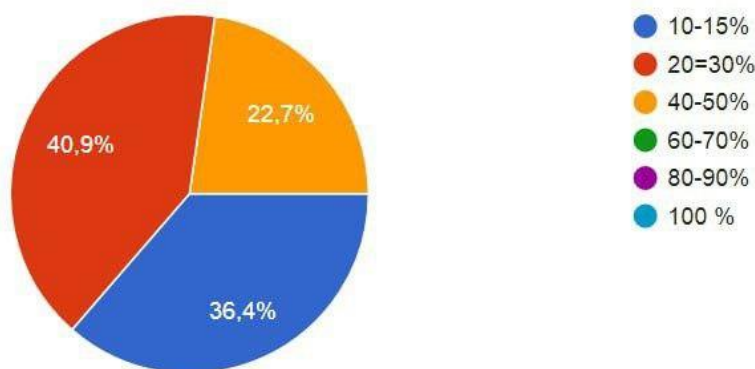
**Diagram. 2**

The **second graphic** is in the form of pie-chart which is aimed at identifying the frequency of plagiarism that students do. The half of the participants admit that they cheat when they have problems with understanding of the task or theme while other two options like “very rarely” and “only when I can't meet with deadlines” get over twenty percentages of the graph.

The main purpose of the **third diagram** is to calculate the percentage that students cheat. 41 % of students acknowledge that they plagiarize 20-30 % whilst over 35 % of students mention that their 10-15 % work includes plagiarism. 22 % of students state that 40-50 % of their work is based on plagiarism.



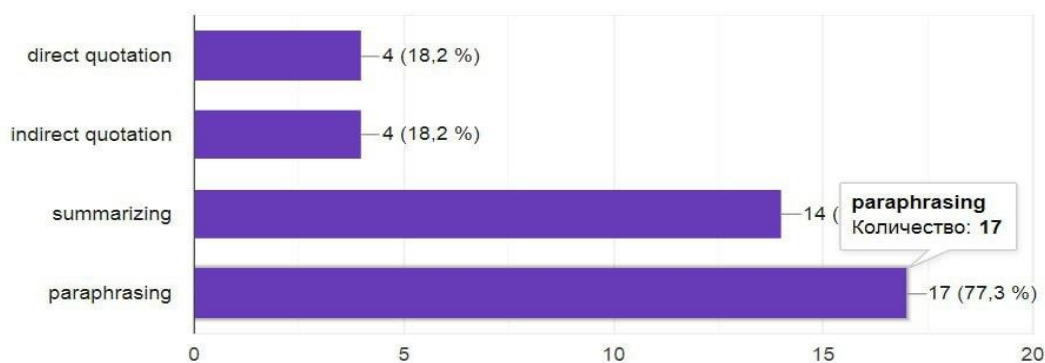
How much is the percentage of your plagiarism in your assignments? (Be 100 % honest)



**Diagram. 3**

The **next diagram** is targeted to detect the ways that students use to avoid plagiarism. There have been given four options as Direct quotation, Indirect quotation, Summarizing and Paragraphing. The all ways have been explained and students have practiced how to apply them in their piece of writing.

What ways do you use to avoid plagiarism?

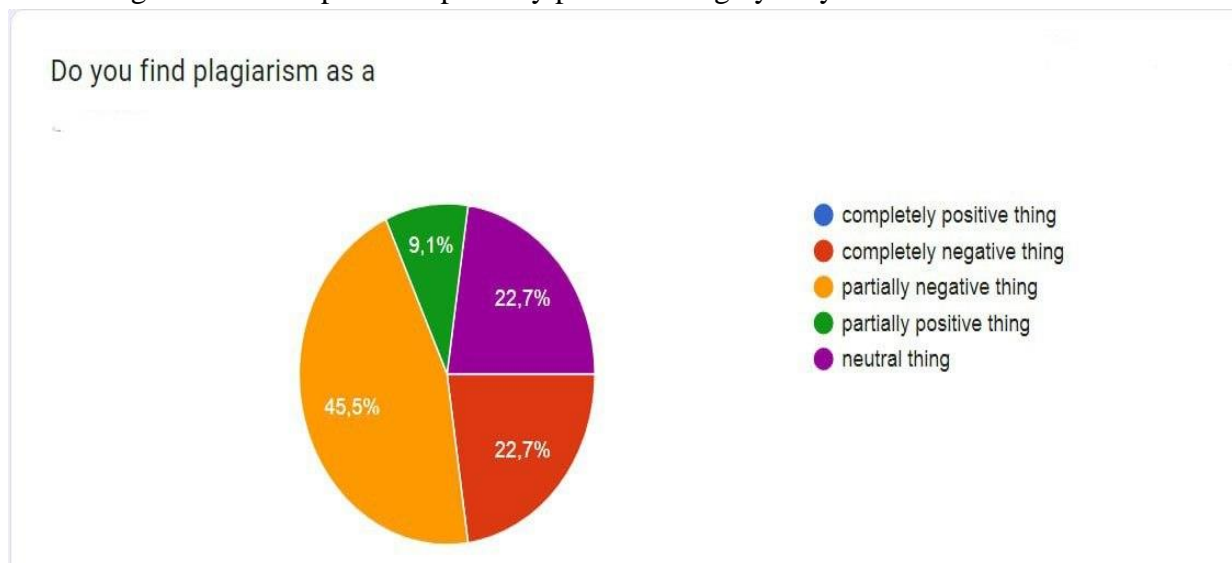


**Diagram 4**

Majority of students mention that they prefer paragraphing. The second most mentioned choice is summarizing. Only few numbers of students choose the rest of two.

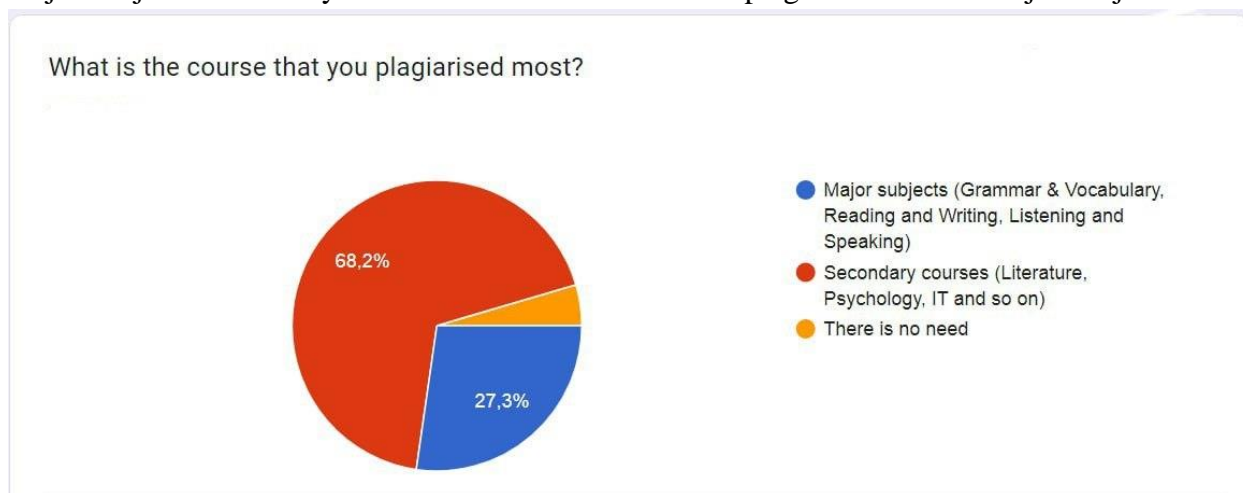
The **next diagram** clearly shows the attitude of students towards the plagiarism. The main options are based on students` positive and negative attitudes towards this issue. Almost half of the students consider plagiarism as a partially negative thing while over 20% of students

find it completely negative thing. The same number of students think plagiarism as a neutral think. Plagiarism is accepted as a partially positive thing by only 9 % of students.



**Diagram. 5**

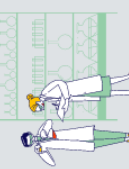
The final diagram shows that in which course (major or non-major) students are likely to plagiarize most. The results show that almost 70 percentage of students plagiarize in their non-major subjects while only more than 25 % of students do plagiarism in their major subjects.



**Diagram. 6**

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Overall, the results show that plagiarism among freshmen of Uzbekistan State world languages university happens more owing to the laziness than other four reasons. Regarding to the frequency, most of students (45.5% ) students tend to plagiarize when they have some challenges concerning to the understanding of the topic and task. Even though the questions are somehow similar, the results are completely different and controversial which requires further investigation and research to identify this difference. Furthermore, the percent of



plagiarism in their assignments is another question that has been required students to be candid while answering to the question. 41 % of students indicate that they are likely to plagiarize 20-30 % of their work. It means that they try to avoid plagiarism in 70-80 % percent by using specific ways of avoiding plagiarism. The next research question presents which ways are mostly used to avoid plagiarism. According to the results, the paraphrasing is the most optimum way for students to use to prevent plagiarism. They mention that paraphrasing is easier for students to apply while they are creating their work. The main reasons for this are that paraphrasing can be in the same or more than the original text, the synonyms and collocations can be used to paraphrase words from original texts. Another research question helps to find out in which courses students are likely to plagiarize more. According to the results, since secondary courses at the university ask students to prepare more self-study and piece of writing instead of oral stuff, students become lazier to create it themselves and just plagiarize. Lastly, students acknowledge that plagiarism is accepted as partially negative thing by 45.5 % of students. It shows that students know that it is not a positive thing to do, but they may plagiarize due to their laziness or some difficulties with understanding of the theme or assignment.

The quantitative analysis of the research shows the following results in percentage.

Mean	Median	Mode
25 %	22 %	22 %

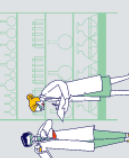
There are some suggestions by students to encourage other students to avoid plagiarism. Most of the students suggest others to catch the topic clearly. If students have problems with understanding of the question, they are advised to address to the teacher to explain the topic or task by simplifying. Others mention to be creative and hard-working instead of being lazy. Generally, although students have negative opinions about academic dishonesty, but they tend to cheat when they have some problems with perceiving the topic or how to do the task successfully.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The research is based on identifying the attitude of the students who study at Uzbekistan State world languages university towards plagiarism. The investigation has been carried out through three stages. The results show that the laziness is the main source why students plagiarize. The percentage of students` plagiarism consists of 20-30 %. Moreover, they tend to plagiarize when they are doing some tasks on their secondary subjects. The best way to avoid plagiarism for students is to paraphrase. In general, plagiarism is accepted as a negative thing by students.

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