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Scientific integrity in legal researches

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Abstract

There is no doubt that scientific research has pillars that include the qualifications and experience that must be possessed to delve into the field of specific scientific research from which one cannot deviate. Through this intervention, we are trying to address the ethics of scientific research, which cannot be described as such unless it meets ethical and methodological conditions. Science, all of which come together interconnected to preserve its identity and status. Accordingly, we will try to answer the following questions: What do we mean by scientific research? What are the characteristics of the researcher? What is meant by research ethics? What is scientific honesty?.

Keywords: Scientific research, research ethics, scientific honesty

Introduction

The significant leap in technological advancements that occurred in global environment, resulting from both technological and scientific progress, has profoundly affected on various aspects of life in general and scientific research specifically. This affect has directly influenced scientific research, taking into consideration the hallmark of science is built upon cumulative knowledge, researchers, authors, and postgraduate students overall resort to draw upon the works of others and quote from them to build a specialized legal or advanced knowledge base.

Due to the requirements of scientific research is to resort the ideas from others, the concept of scientific methodology, procedures, or research approaches emerged, regarding the appearance of scientific theft in which its scope has expanded within time taking into account the phenomenon of scientific plagiarism and infringement on intellectual property rights which is considered infraction has reached its peak in recent times, drawing condemnation from all levels of society.

One of the most important requirements to achieve combating the phenomenon of scientific theft, which has become nowadays concern and obstacle to achieve the goal of this scientific research which its scope has expended significantly, whether this theft is intentional or unintentional, occurring locally or globally whereas eliminating raising awareness to reduce scientific theft allows the concept of scientific integrity to come to the forefront, especially considering its relationship with the regulations of scientific research. Therefore, this topic raises an important problem related to effectiveness of scientific honesty which related to the concept of scientific integrity to be highlighted, specifically in light of the relationship that connects this concept to regulate scientific researches with the principles of legal research, to deal with research problem, the research divided according to the following plan:

- **First Section:** Concept of Academic Integrity.
- **Subsection 1:** Academic Integrity. An introductory conceptual overview.
- **Subsection 2:** Definition of scientific plagiarism and its manifestations.
- **Second Section:** Methods to combat scientific plagiarism and achieve academic integrity.
- **Subsection 1:** Methods to prevent scientific plagiarism.
- **Subsection 2:** Methods to confront scientific plagiarism.

First Section: Concept of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is related to many research domains, including conducting research

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projects, disseminating knowledge, engaging in scientific communication, supervising students, and performing evaluations and expert assessments. The scientific community, as a whole, is deeply committed to respecting the ethical principles of research and academic integrity. However, scientific violations can occur, causing significant harm to science in general. The most serious cases involve fabrication, falsification, literary theft, as well as data withholding, which can have far-reaching consequences in scientific experiments.

Other cases may involve intentional exclusion of a publication's author (or the opposite), undisclosed conflicts of interest during evaluation or expert assessment, and inadequate supervision of students and novice researchers. In light of the above, the first section can be divided into two sub-sections:

Subsection 1: Academic Integrity-Conceptual Introduction

Subsection 2: Definition of Scientific Plagiarism and its Manifestations

Subsection 1: Academic Integrity-Conceptual Introduction

Scientific integrity is defined as "all the rules and values that should govern scientific research to ensure its truthfulness, accuracy, and scientific objectivity." which is regarded as an essential condition for maintaining society's trust in stakeholders in the field of research, and in order to provide more clarity to the requirement, it has been divided into two subparts. The first encompasses the concept of scientific integrity linguistically, while the second encompasses the concept of scientific integrity technically or in terms of terminology

First Branch

Scientific integrity is, for the researcher, falls under the general concept of integrity that human take the responsibility to alleviate injustice and ignorance from itself in accordance with the guidance of Allah in holy Quran) Indeed, we offered the trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they refused to bear it and were afraid of it, but man carried it. Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant) " [Al-Ahzab: 72], this indicates that is that humans were unjust and ignorant before undertaking the trust, and they needed to bear it to dispel injustice and ignorance from themselves.

Scientific integrity should not separate from being a manifestation of bearing the trust in the general sense, as represented by revelation (Wahy), which we received through the Quran and the Sunnah. Hence, there is a connection between integrity, knowledge from the Quran, and the Sunnah, as evidenced by the saying of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): "Trustworthiness descended in the roots of the hearts of men. Then the Quran was revealed, and they learned from the Quran and Sunnah." The readiness to bear the trust existed in prepared hearts, and based on this, their knowledge of the Quran and the Sunnah was built.

"The delivery of the knowledge of revelation is the trust (Amanah) for which the Prophet, peace be upon him, witness that he fulfilled it, and that is why one of the most significant qualities of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, is that he is the truthful and trustworthy. Hence,

we take this as our starting point for safeguarding and preserving the scientific trust."

The delivery of the knowledge of revelation is the trust that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was carrier, and that is why he was characterized as truthful and trustworthy. From here, we derive our starting point for maintaining and preserving academic integrity.

In the language of scholars, integrity is derived from security, and the trust is synonymous with fidelity. It is said that a person is trustworthy (Ameen), meaning that he will never violate the rights of others.

Branch 2: Definition of Academic Integrity Terminologically

Academic integrity is a virtuous quality nurtured by high spiritual education, derived from the noblest and loftiest principles of religion. It is a positive trait emanating from a pure and sanctified soul. One cannot be deemed trustworthy solely who's its actions are subjected to the scrutiny of the law or public observation. True trustworthiness is demonstrated when any an individual has the opportunity to betray without consequence but chooses to uphold integrity. This reveals immunity and strength of will rooted in the elevation of the self and the spirit.

The value of integrity is great value and Allah glorify its importance in religious teachings, as evidenced in holy Quran, where the angels describe the revelation as coming from the Trustworthy Spirit. God warns believers against betraying trusts, stating, ("And indeed, it is revelation from Allah the Lord of the worlds, the faithful spirit has sent it down to your heart) [Quran, Al-Shu'araa: verses 192-193] and Allah warns the believers from betraying trust and Allah states in holy Quran (O you who believed, do not betray Allah and the messenger or betray your trusts while you know) [Quran, Al-Anfaal: verse 127], taking into consideration this verse is completely comprehensive, covering all forms of trust

God describes successful believers in six characteristics in holy Quran, and honesty in relation with trust was one of those qualities Allah refers to those who faithful believers ("And those who are careful of their trusts and their covenants) [Surah Al-Muminoon: verse 8].

Academic integrity as an image of the ethical principles of scientific research. Researcher duty should be trustworthy when writing its papers, utilizing external sources, and quoting from others. Scientific integrity means not copying the words and ideas of others without proper documentation and attribution. Additionally, precision in conveying information and avoiding distortion is crucial. The researcher must maintain complete neutrality in presenting information.

Academic integrity is directly concerned with giving each one who has part in research its own rightful duties, it is a responsibility that researchers and academics must bear, not only for ethical reasons but also to avoid legal consequences. An essential condition for ensuring academic integrity is the researcher's scholarly competence. The researcher or academic writing who would like to write a scientific paper must possess complete knowledge of the significance of academic integrity, how to achieve it, and the potential consequences for violating it.

Academic integrity is not copying what others have stated without giving everyone their due credit notably that the one who act of reproducer or attributing the efforts and hard

work of other without referring to them is considered as plagiarism, thus, one of the prominent qualities of a student of knowledge is possessing scientific integrity which people should believe in the knowledge that having within and understand the extent to which it is influenced by knowledge.

In France, academic integrity is now defined in research law (Article L. 211-2) as the set of rules and values that must govern research activities to ensure their sincere and rigorous nature.

The researcher believes that academic integrity is essential for the smooth progress of research work in composing research. It forms the basis of the trust relationship between the research community and other societal components. It involves the scientific researcher relying on previous studies based on the efforts of others, integrating some information and data from these studies within an area related to scientific domain, taking into account proper acknowledgment and accurate documentation of the sources or references which the researcher relied in its study.

Section Two

Definition of Scientific Plagiarism and its Forms

Scientific plagiarism is the impersonation as it is like to be appropriation process or illegal transfer of others' work, involving presenting someone else's work as one's own. This act is considered both illegal and unethical, whether intentional or unintentional.

The researcher will address the definition of scientific plagiarism and then explain its manifestations through the following branches:

First Branch

Plagiarism is considered as any appropriation or stealing information without accurate documentation as well as it is proper attribution and disregard the ethics of scientific research, it occurs when someone appropriates the ideas of others and presents them to readers as if they are the product of their own thoughts, without a pang of conscience or self-review. Intellectual theft manifests appeared as a violation committed by some members who they work in universities within academic community in scientific research or it can also involve as part of a whole appropriating from specific journalist scientific articles or writings published on the internet.

Scientific theft or Plagiarism is defined as: "Every complete or partial quotation of ideas, information, text, paragraph, or excerpt from a published article, books, journals, studies, reports, or electronic websites, and rephrasing them without mentioning their source or original authors." Mohammad Ghamaq considers the key to plagiarism as "quoting the writings of others and their meanings partially or entirely, and attributing them to the conveying person."

According to the previous definitions, scientific theft or Plagiarism is when a researcher attributes what he has taken from others, whether intentionally or otherwise methods, to himself. This type of appropriation or impersonation is considered both illegal and unethical. Even if an individual takes from their own previous works, when referencing or quoting an idea from the works of a previous researcher, proper attribution to the original source is necessary, even if the person is the originator of that idea in the past.

Second Branch

Images of Scientific Theft

Scientific theft is considered serious problem that violates the principle of scientific integrity and undermines the work of others. Various forms of scientific theft exist, including: The negligence in attributing documentation to the original author, implying that the perpetrator of scientific theft is the author, rewriting ideas or information from published or audible materials without mentioning their true source, purchasing a text from another person and claiming it as one's own composition, extracting information from the internet, reproducing it, or reusing it without proper citation using quotation marks, presenting ideas in the same format and arrangement as they are displayed in another source without acknowledgment, drawing or depicting someone else's work without appropriate citation, as remarked by Professor Mohamed Ali Mustafa in his article on research and authorship theft; scientific theft has various forms, including complete intellectual theft occurs when the thief transfers the entire intellectual production and attributes it to themselves. Partial intellectual theft involves seizing a portion of someone's work, using it to complement another work, and covering up the original text. Indirect intellectual theft occurs by taking the idea without the text or scientific results. Direct or explicit intellectual theft is one of the most dangerous threats to scientific integrity, furthermore, there is another study to be as remarking distinguishes between five types of scientific theft which are as follow:

Copy-Paste Scientific Theft: Occurs when using a phrase or expression verbatim as it appears in the original source without using quotation marks or indicating the source.

Scientific Theft by Word Substitution: Involves quoting a sentence from a source and changing some of its words to make it appear innovative.

Scientific Theft of Style: Involves replicating the writing style of the original article, sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph, thereby stealing the logical thinking followed by the original author in structuring the work.

Scientific Theft Using Paraphrasing: Involves using paraphrasing either to enhance the clarity of an idea, provide an explanation, or convey an idea without acknowledging the original creators.

Scientific Theft of Ideas: Occurs when an idea created by a researcher or a proposed solution to a problem is utilized, and it must be clearly attributed to its original source.

Second Topic: Methods to Counteract Scientific Theft and Achieve Scientific Integrity

This process includes the methods to counteract scientific theft include both preventive measures that the researcher must maintain specific steps to avoid falling into scientific theft as it is aforementioned in the first requirement as it also includes the mechanisms, regardless of their nature, through which one can confront this theft if it actually occurs as it will be mentioned in the second requirements for the current section of research

First Section: Methods of Avoiding Scientific Theft

It means here what are the methods the researcher will follow for avoiding scientific theft which those are

considered preventive, i.e., the measures that, if adhered to by the researcher, would prevent them from falling into scientific theft, therefore, achieving scientific integrity during the preparation research when the researcher start preparing its work which involves the process of documentation which will be explained later as first branch and the process and the process of citation which will be the second branch, in addition to the role played by ethics in achieving scientific integrity which will be the third branch

First Branch: Documentation

It includes attaching quoted information, whether it's a direct and literal quotation or an indirect and non-literal one, to its original sources, as well as it includes providing references or citations in the margins to indicate the documents where this information was found in accordance with the established rules and methodological approaches, respecting the principles of attribution and citation in this manner is one of the essential components upon which the stage of writing scientific research relies, neglecting this stage may result in the collapse of the entire research process. The margin, which includes references, annotations, and explanations beyond the text, is considered as one of the most important parts of the research; it is, in fact, its essence.

In terms of margins the significance of the margin varies depending on the type of research. For reference margins, they enable readers to refer back to gather more information or to verify accuracy. This also relieves the researcher of responsibility for the information sourced from these references, attributing ideas to their original creators while acknowledging their efforts, thus maintaining scientific integrity whereas the issue that related to explanatory or commentary margins, the importance lies in adding extra information that the researcher deems should not be in the main body of the research but is important enough to mention without disrupting the research structure. Finally, in terms of translation, a focus often emphasized by researchers is the recognition of merit or a reminder of the contributions of scholars or role models. It serves to clarify the development of ideas and how they crystallized, acknowledging those who played a part and supporting the documentation of the research as well as it provides strength and giving creditability to those who owned information related to the research also its participants in order to give acknowledgement. Modification

Second Branch: Citation

Citation is considered as an integral part of the process of writing and editing scientific research, as it involves utilizing information sources in scientific research. As for direct citation, it entails the verbatim transfer of specific information due to its importance for the researcher and the research need to appear it in its original form notably there are several important considerations that must be taken into account in this citation, and they are:

1. "Not modification or expressing in any phrase, word, or sign that appeared in the data and information available in the original source of the quoted material
2. Citation is usually limited, which means there should be restricted as to say in another way there should be reasonable numbers of lines that should be used within research.

3. Using quotation marks at the beginning and end of the quoted data and information.
4. The quoted information should have particular importance to the research.
5. In case of deleting a part or deleting section from the quoted information, it should be ensured that such deletion does not affect the meaning of the quoted passage. Three consecutive dots (...) are placed where the researcher omits information whether it occurs at the beginning, middle, or end of the quotation.

As for indirect citation, it means that the researcher benefits from specific ideas and information, then rephrases or abbreviates them in its own style, or makes some linguistic or expressive changes that they find necessary, provided that they preserve the meaning of the referenced information. Based on what has been mentioned, the importance of indirect citation becomes evident in the researcher's effort to identify and characterize relevant sources, giving importance to the cited document. It helps the researcher highlight the authenticity and legitimacy of their effort, showcasing their skill and responsibility in managing scientific and research dialogue. In terms of researcher ethics which is considered a reflecting to its honesty as it is linking to its scientific integrity, which is connected to the requirements of scientific research in addition there should be commitment joined with transferred information which is crucial, notably the presence of information in the research does not inherently indicate a quotation from the researcher itself. Quoting from other researchers without acknowledging them constitutes an infringement on their intellectual rights and a departure from scientific integrity. The researcher may appear as an imposter, essentially a thief of others' efforts especially if there is no referring or identifying to their efforts and it led to generate new ideas through discussing the opinions of others. It should be noted in this context that there are three methods for placing numbers in the text and margin: assigning a sequential number to each page individually, making the numbering specific to each chapter or section, or starting the numbering of the margins from the beginning of the research and continuing it until the end. While the first method is the simplest and clearest.

Third Topic: The Role of Ethics to Avoid Scientific Plagiarism

Starting from the fact that scientific integrity is fundamental in a researcher's preparation for the current study, it is assumed that the researcher adheres to ethics, primarily scientific integrity. This should be intrinsic to the researcher's ethical principles, emphasizing scientific integrity. The logic dictates that one should treat others and their property just as they wish to be treated, as the ultimate goal is to prepare an authentic study that benefits everyone and this can be an addition to the library of university herein notably universities nowadays focus on the ethical aspect of researchers by raising awareness and implementing specific programs. This includes education and the establishment of proactive or preventive measures to prevent the matter of scientific theft. On the other hand, these educational programs include a reference to the consequences resulting from the violation of the duty to respect scientific integrity. It should be noted that these ethical guidelines must be present at all stages of the research process, starting from

planning the research, through the stage of collecting and processing information, to the writing and editing stage. This stage is considered one of the most important phases in the preparation of scientific research where these ethical guidelines can be demonstrated.

Second Branch: Methods to Confront Scientific Theft

The methods of confronting scientific theft, refer to those mechanisms, especially legal ones, that legislators put in place to determine how to deal with proven cases of scientific theft and the most important are the legislations related to intellectual property as first section in this chapter as well as there are technical mechanisms, especially software, that assist in detecting scientific theft in various research as the second section in this chapter.

First Section: Confronting scientific theft through legal legislations to protect intellectual property

Based on the fact that, the researcher's commitments to scientific and ethical standards, primarily guided by its conscience, which is considered as one of the most distinguishing characteristic, as well as research requirements in particular. One of the most crucial requirements to achieve this is maintaining integrity, which involves respecting the ideas of others. The researcher should embody sincerity and dedication.

In this regard, The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: "Advice each other in knowledge whereas betrayal of one of you in his knowledge is worse than betrayal in his wealth, and God will question you on the Day of Resurrection".

Intellectual property refers to the legal rights arising from intellectual activities in industrial, scientific, literary, and artistic fields which legislators recognize these rights and provide legal protection according to specified conditions taking into account intellectual property rights are not fundamentally different from other property rights, as they empower the owner who had right to have benefit in various ways from their work, which started as an idea and evolved into a tangible product.

It is essential to note that the concept of intellectual property is not a new one. The history of intellectual property dates back to the beginnings of human civilization, where each society distinguished itself with a unique cultural and folkloric style different from other societies. Each people had its own writing style, religious beliefs, and specific crafts mastered by that people. Thus, each society had its own intellectual property, representing its civilization and work since ancient times.

It is believed that the earliest seeds of the concept of intellectual property emerged in northern Italy during the Renaissance period. The first specific law to protect intellectual property was issued in 1474, known as the Venetian Patent Statute, aimed at protecting inventions whereas in terms of copyright system, it traces back to the invention of separate movable type and the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440.

In the late 19th century, due to the Industrial Revolution in Europe, there was a pressing need for an international agreement to protect inventors and manufacturers. The reluctance of inventors to showcase their inventions at the Vienna Exhibition in 1873, fearing the theft of their ideas and their production and it may face stealing in thoughts during trade from the participating countries, had a

significant impact. This led to the establishment of the Paris Convention for the Protection of industrial Property in 1883, making it the first international agreement granting patents. Subsequently, similar agreements followed, such as the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in 1886.

The field of intellectual property, in all its forms and methods of protection, has gained significant international and local attention. It plays a crucial role in encouraging innovation and scientific creativity, fostering advancements in the arts, industry, and commerce. International agreements have been signed to provide legal and judicial protection, safeguard creativity, and combat intellectual property theft, protecting the rights of others without due cause.

Second Section: Confronting Scientific Theft Through Electronic Software Programs

Electronic software refers to programs available online, either for free or at a cost, designed to detect instances of similarity between research papers, making it difficult to distinguish between them taking into consideration this process falls within the realm of plagiarism or scientific theft by comparing and matching texts notably there are various types of plagiarism detection software, based on the working environment, such as web-based or operating system-based software, furthermore, they differ in the method of detecting plagiarism, relying on search engine algorithms or text database comparisons, or using a combination of both. However, these software tools have some drawbacks, as they may not be precise enough to detect and find scientific theft, allowing for modifications and word manipulations. Moreover, the matching process depends on what is available in their database, making it uncertain whether the results are accurate because it depends on specific things that available in the existing content.

Conclusion

Despite the prevalence of practices and behaviors contrary to the ethics of scientific research in our academic institutions, scientific theft stands out as the worst and most damaging among these violations. It has become one of the most negative phenomena threatening the future of scientific research. Therefore, instilling the basics of proper academic research remains the first step in preventing scientific theft and impersonation in academic environments, even if unintentional. Here lies the importance of studying the topic of scientific integrity, as the pursuit of integrity should be automatic without facing difficulties. However, we are confronted with the reality that this is not the case. The prevalence of scientific theft continues to grow significantly. It is strange and unfortunate that, despite living in a world of technology and globalization, these advancements often constrain us intellectually, even in creating simple research.

Recommendations

1. Establish a national institution to monitor the rights of scientific researchers and prosecute those infringing on their intellectual property.
2. Create a committee for the ethics of scientific research in academic and research institutions to establish controls for research and scientific publication.
3. Prepare and develop a guide for the ethics of scientific research in various knowledge fields, outlining the

characteristics of scientific research ethics in each discipline.

4. Adopt strategies and programs to raise awareness among student audiences about the nature and dangers of scientific theft and the importance of scientific integrity.
5. Address violations of scientific theft and their consequences through organizing public lectures and distributing awareness brochures.
6. Professors in universities should not tolerate any violations of authorship rights, especially in case of theses and research papers.

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