

Plagiarism is Case Report: An Ethical Problem in Academic Publication

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Received: September 18, 2018; **Published:** October 15, 2018

The case report is an important type of academic article. It is usually deal with uncommon, rare or firstly observation [1]. To prepare a good case report requires good data gathering and writing. Another important consideration is on the ethical issue for reporting. The basic issue is usually on the patient's right and privacy. Nevertheless, the concerns regarding the ethics for academic publication should be mentioned. Indeed, the ethical problem in academic publication is not uncommon and can be seen worldwide. Of several problems, the plagiarism becomes a serious common ethical problem.

Similar to other kinds of publication, plagiarism can be seen in case report. The verbatim copying of the whole article is observable but not common. The interesting more common problem is usually on the other subtypes of plagiarism. For example, translational plagiarism might be difficult for diagnosis. In addition, the figure plagiarism might be seen. Some tricky authors might perform duplication or salami type redundant publication. In some cases, the author might use the same text or picture in the different articles with different description (see example of case in "Arch Gynecol Obstet. 2005 Mar; 271(3): 259-61" and "Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health. 2006 Sep; 37(5): 1021-4." [2]). These unethical problems are totally unacceptable but can still be seen. It should be the roles of editors, authors, readers and everyone to help collaborate aiming at stop the plagiarism and create the way to sanction the plagiarist.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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Volume 1 Issue 1 November 2018

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