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## Problems by Graduate level Students in Writing First Research Paper

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### Introduction

According to Biol Med (2011), there are three main things to be discussed in introduction section of research paper. The students who are writing their research paper often raise questions about plagiarism, how many words we need to change in sentence to avoid the plagiarism, the answer is that there is no words to add in a sentence to make the idea your own, and real word needs real opinions. The format of the research paper means, the things come in position wise. For instance here is list of the things that will be coming from start to end; these are the positions of things that will be placed in a research paper:

1. Abstract
2. Keywords
3. Introduction
4. Literature Review
5. Methodology ( Research questions or Hypothesis, Objective , Population, and Sampling )
6. Data analysis \ Data collection
7. Finding
8. Discussion and Conclusion
9. References
10. Appendix
11. Future Work

Above is the main format of a research paper. We can see the position of abstract on the top but we never start our research from the abstract. We have a different way to start the research paper which has proper start and end. According to Med, (2011) there are three main things to be discussed in introduction section of research paper. In introduction section of the research paper, students are not aware of what things can be added.

### Literature Review

It's hard to write good literature review for beginner researchers (The University of Queensland, Australia). Smith (2003) argues that your literature review should have the ability to attract the readers, and there are some great contributions in your research paper on the topic. Jones (2000) says that the main motive of the literature review is not just the summary of what the authors currently know about that topic, but it gives details, how it is right and reasonable and these are in the form of arguments. Adams (1995) analysis is about the research being expected and that it should be in real combination of awareness for human beings.

According to Malik (2017) there are lots of brilliant students, who have the abilities to write, but as we know in every aspect of life we need guidance to do some special things like research paper. He argues

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that we can find lot things from internet related to entertainment, sports, dramas and movies, but we cannot get credible material related to education and research activities, as we know there are lots of scholars in Pakistan through any medium of the internet, but in Pakistan mostly intelligent students who have the ability to write are not being guided.

Genius (2016) mentions common mistakes in his study in writing the literature review. Firstly, using personal opinions and emotions, you are actually working on the research paper and in the research paper you need to add the thoughts and ideas which already exist; you cannot add your own opinions and emotions. Secondly, when you are giving the reference of any author use only the last name and year of study, some of the students use full name and full date; only use the last name and year of study which is mentioned in APA style. Some of the students use URLs, links in order to give the references of the author's studies which is not a good way, It is better to give the complete details in the reference section not in literature review; in literature review you can use only last name and year of study of the author. Some of the students read a lot from other works, in this result; they add irrelevant data in their paper which is not related to his research topic and research questions. Another mistake of students to write the abstract in the beginning of the research paper is one of the major mistakes in the paper.

Here are some common mistakes according to Koopman (1997)

Students do not dedicate their whole paper in the abstract because of lack of knowledge, if we take two lines from the every section of research paper, we can interpret the research paper and another mistakes is that researcher fail to choose those two lines which qualify the each section lucidly. Some time student gives the explanation in abstract, which is not qualifying the subject. Hypotheses are not clearly show in the research paper.

### ***Problems in Paraphrase***

On the stage of graduation, it's time for student to search out new things, using their own abilities, especially in research writing (Colwell 2011). It is a great dare for those students who write a skillful research paper on the graduate level. This stage helps in making the student for developing their conceptual study. There are a lot problems faced by graduate level students in writing research paper, including grammar, punctuation, data sources and they do not know how much explanation can be included in the research paper. Firstly, they have no clear idea about how to get relevant material, then they have no knowledge about paraphrasing, it is very helpful to get the ideas from previous researcher's work and rewrite these ideas using their own wording to develop research. Writing has two types of material one is quotations and the second is paraphrase (Spatt 1999, Trzeciak and Mackay, 1998). Roth argues that quotations are foremost things in your academic writing and students much use paraphrase in the papers, paraphrase takes a lot time but it will show either they understand the author's point of view. The student who is beginner in writing a research paper needs to understand the importance of paraphrasing otherwise he will be in critical problems of Plagiarism. The paraphrase is a key thing which is not found in every student. The student should know how to change totally formation of the sentence as well as the words.

### ***Major Mistakes in paraphrasing***

Kennedy and Smith (1986) mentioned that there are eight main mistakes which are done by students while paraphrasing, 1. Not deeply reading the ideas of authors, 2. Adding a lot of as it is, 3. Not adding key points, 4. Adding belief, 5. Concise rather than paraphrase, 6. Using unsuitable words in paraphrase, 7. Giving a lot of detail or closing idea, 8. And not saving the record.

### ***Plagiarism in Writing***

Plagiarism has two categories first, copy data from other researcher's work and paste into your research paper (Central Queensland University 2007). This type of data in the first papers of graduate level students is frequent and the other one category of plagiarism is minor changing in the words (Queensland

University, 2007). If we want to write good paraphrase, we need to understand the ideas of an author not just changing the synonyms of the words. Dilbaldi (2003) argues that if the students are writing in English language and since English is not their native language there are a lot of problems while paraphrasing and student tend to get nervous and copy the data of previous researcher and paste it in their research paper to keep away from the grammar mistakes and finally their research paper falls into plagiarism.

According to Gordon (2017) these students who are writing their research paper often raise questions about plagiarism, how many words we need to change in sentence to avoid the plagiarism, the answer is that there is no great words are phrase to add in a sentence to make the idea your own, and real word needs real opinions.

The chief principle to avoid plagiarism is giving the references at the end of the research paper. The most important thing to discuss is that most students do not check their papers after completing it. There are lots of ways to check plagiarism such as a Quetext and Write Checker, before submitting your paper to your teacher in order to check plagiarism.

### ***Second Language Problem***

Öztürk (2011) argues that the major thing behind the research paper is to develop the self-motivation in the graduate level students. Lea and Street (1998) argue that research paper writing is a vital role for graduate level students. The student of Shaw University (1991) analysis that the literature review is not difficult to write but two parts of the research paper is difficult first is an introduction and second is discussion because in literature review, we just take the ideas for our research paper but in the introduction and discussions we analyze the data, but that the language we are using, if it will be the second language (not in the mother tongue) so, it creates difficulty in writing. Here are two graduate level students in Hong Kong University named Cooley and Lewkovicz (1995) they both say that the 50 percent students of second language having problems in writing research papers and Shaw (1991) say some students are skillful in vocabulary but they are weak in using right words in a research paper. Bowen and Mark (1994) argue that when we write research paper in second language it is very difficult. Khuwaileh (1995) argues that mostly student convert data from their mother tongue to second language. It creates a lot of grammar mistakes and doesn't provide clear ideas. Here are two students (Arab's University) Hussein and Mohammad (2012) who doing the same mistake, means translating data from the native language to research's language (English). Hussein and Mohammad (2012) they say that if student will choose the topic which is well known to them and cultural, it will solve their second language problem. Casanave (2010) argues that great role in writing any research paper is good guider. So, students need a good guide in writing their first research paper.

Fareed Ashraf Bilal (2016) describes that the students who are writing research paper in second language, they have some kind of problems lack of knowledge and vocabulary. They cannot use good words to write their ideas and thoughts, therefore sometimes they have good ideas and thoughts but they have not good words to express these ideas in appropriate vocabulary, grammar and syntax. The main issue for the second language students is tense, articles and propositions. They cannot create cohesion and coherence in their work.

Haider (2012) mentioned in his study that some students who are actually ESL, do not know the collocation and connotation meanings, therefore they have the problem of vocabulary. (Nik, Sani, et al., 2010) .

### **Problems in Choosing Topic**

Das (2014) argues that the act of choosing a research topic for graduate level students, especially in choosing first time, the students will not choose the topic correctly; they choose the topic without knowing the problems of that topic in details. If we know about the problems related to the chosen topic, we cannot write a good research paper and good literature review. However the students of the graduate level who are writing their first research paper choose an irrelevant topic. They choose the topic in which

they have no interest and have no knowledge about the problems of chosen topic. Marek, (2016) argues that the topic of your research paper should show a problem, and this problem should be specific that is not shown in any other academic literature, this problem has to show in your introduction, and then explain your motive and this motive should be a question. According to Rajasekar (2017) it is very difficult to choose the topic in writing first research paper and main thing in research paper is to find problems of the research topic which you will solve or introduce in that paper and it is the very difficult part of the paper. There are three main things which are very important for students while choosing the research topic.

1. The Topic should be appropriate for research
2. Interest in choosing topic
3. Should not choose a topic under any compulsion

### **Starting Point of Research Paper**

The students who are writing their research paper for the first time find it hard to understand starting point of a paper. According to study of Laramee, (2010) we know all the position of the abstract at the top, but we cannot write the abstract first because first of all we have to prepare a literature review because if we write the abstract in the beginning we are unable to write concise. According to Husain, while preparing the literature review, we have to write the references at the same time, on the separate page, while borrowing the ideas, if we shall not do this we shall forget that, from where we borrowed these ideas related to our topic. Smith (2003) argues that your literature review should have the ability to attract the readers, and there are some great contributions in your research paper on the topic. Genius (2016) mentions common mistakes in his study in writing the literature review. Firstly, using personal opinions and emotions, secondly, when you are giving the reference of any author use only the last name and year of study, some of the students use ULRs links. On the stage of graduation, it's time for student to search out new things, using their own abilities, especially in research writing (*Colwell 2011*). This stage is to make student for developing their conceptual study, but students face problems in paraphrase. Kennedy and Smith (1986) mentioned that there are eight main mistakes which are done by students in paraphrase, 1. Not deeply reading the ideas of authors, 2. adding a lot of as it is, 3. not adding key points, 4. adding belief, 5. concise rather than paraphrase, 6. using unsuitable words in paraphrase, 7. giving a lot of detail or closing idea, 8. and not saving the record. According to Gordon (2017) the students who are writing their research paper often raise questions about plagiarism. There is no great words or phrase to add in a sentence to make the idea your own, and real word needs real opinions The great and chief principle to avoid the plagiarism is giving the references at the end of the research paper, you need to write the last name author, publish year and the title of the research. There is another problem faced by students in writing research paper is second language problem. Cooley and Lewkovicz (1995) they both say that the 50% student of second language having problems in writing research papers and Shaw (1991) say some students are skillful in vocabulary, but they are weak in using the right words in a research paper

### **Data Presentation**

This table is presenting the percentage of the problems of the research paper which they have faced while writing the research paper

<b>Problems Faced in paper</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Plagiarism	70%	Students often raise the question, how to avoid the plagiarism?
Second language	80%	Major problem in research paper.

Paraphrase	40%	Wrong paraphrasing not clearly show the idea of authors.
Not interested topic	60%	Students choose topic by other suggestions
URLs added in paper	20%	Adding the URLs links are against to the rule
Author's name	50%	Students use the full name of author in references
Usage of synonyms	30%	Only change the synonym is order to avoid the plagiarism
Unfamiliar with format	10%	Not clearly familiar with format and process of research
Literature review	30%	They did not start their paper from literature review
Grammatical	50%	One of the major problem in research
Need of guidance	70%	They write in the sampling test “We were in lack of guidance”

The major purpose of this study is to show the problems of the students which they have faced in writing the first research paper and also the solution of that problem. The data were collected from two different universities (Punjab University and GC University Faisalabad). According the test performance of the students which have no knowledge about the basic things of the research, for example the format of research paper, how to start? How to give the end? How can get the literature review? Some of students start their research paper from the abstract. Students have shown the problems of plagiarism, even one student of M.A English says: “I cannot solve the problem of plagiarism and I could not find out the much relevant data” students add the URLs links in the paper which is also against the rule of research paper. Some students just use the synonyms while borrowing the ideas of Authors in order to avoid the plagiarism. 50 percent of students use the whole name of authors in order to give the references which are against the rule of the APA research format.

30 percent students did not start their paper from literature review. The very common and major problem of the research is writing the research in second language and 80 percent students fall in this problem. The purpose of a researcher is not only showing the problems of research but to give the solution of these problems. It is the duty of the teachers to guide the students for this type of academic work. Some of students are very intelligent but they need just guidance. They have the ability to write this type of academic work but they cannot do because of lack of guidance.

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**Appendix**

In this section I have pasted the picture of the test which is held in the GC University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

The test is for the research purpose and will be kept for the record. It's all about your first research paper which you have written or writing still. Please give answers honestly

Name Sobia Parveen Age 22 Education Master in Eng

Write your first research' topic name:  
Feminism

Your research working Date 11-8-2018

1.	Did you choose your topic with your own choice?	YES ✓	NO
2.	Anybody forced you to select the topic?	YES	NO ✓
3.	Your topic was your own interest?	YES ✓	NO
4.	Did you face problems in selecting topic?	YES ✓	NO
5.	Did you set any plan after selecting the topic?	YES ✓	NO
6.	Were you familiar with procedure of research?	YES	NO
7.	Did you have the whole knowledge about format of research paper?	YES ✓	NO
8.	Anybody guided you for the format of research paper?	YES	NO ✓
9.	After deciding to write the research paper how much days you took in selecting your research topic? <u>10</u> If more than two days write your reason. <u>not appropriate topic in my mind</u>		
11.	Did you feel any problem for plagiarism?	YES	NO ✓
12.	Did you face any problem in English writing (English as a second language?)	YES	NO ✓
13.	Did you face grammatical problem?	YES ✓	NO
14.	Did you face vocabulary problem?	YES	NO ✓
15.	Anybody guide you how to borrow the ideas of authors?	YES	NO ✓
16.	Did you start your paper from Abstract?	YES	NO ✓
17.	Did you collect the literature review first?	YES ✓	NO

- |     |   |   |  |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 18. | Did you use whole name of Author in order to give reference?    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |
| 19. | Did you use year of study in order to give the reference?       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 20. | Did you read rules before the starting the research?            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |
| 21. | Do you know what an APA style is?                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |
| 22. | You know about the paraphrasing while research writing?         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |
| 23. | Did you just use few synonyms in order to avoid the plagiarism? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES            | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |
| 24. | Did you use URLs links in your research paper?                  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 25. | Did you prepare the reference section with literature review?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO            |

Please write the problems which you have faced while writing the first research paper:

First of all I faced the problem in selection of topic and then I have faced problem to find out the related material and in writing Literature Review.