

ANALYSIS OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ACTS OF PLAGIARISM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM LAW

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Abstract: *This study examines sanctions against acts of plagiarism from the perspective of the National Education System in Indonesia. Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another person's ideas, concepts, or works without properly acknowledging the source and claiming them as one's own, which essentially constitutes a violation of academic integrity and intellectual property rights. In the digital era, the ease of access to information increases the potential for plagiarism, particularly within higher education institutions. This research employs a normative juridical method by reviewing various laws and regulations, including Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, Law Number 28 of 2014 concerning Copyright, Minister of National Education Regulation Number 17 of 2010, and Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Regulation Number 39 of 2021. The results indicate that sanctions against plagiarism are regulated comprehensively and progressively, ranging from minor administrative sanctions to dismissal and revocation of academic degrees. The latest regulation emphasizes a stricter approach through the principle of aggravated sanctions for repeated violations. Therefore, the enforcement of plagiarism sanctions serves as an important instrument in maintaining the quality, credibility, and integrity of the national education system.*

Keywords: *Academic Integrity, Plagiarism Sanctions, National Education System*

Introduction

Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's work and presenting it as one's own. In *Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia* compiled by J.S. Badudu and Sutan Mohammad Zain (2001), plagiarism is defined as the act of taking part or all of someone else's work and claiming it as one's own. Meanwhile, according to Hendry Sulistyo (2011), plagiarism constitutes a form of copying that violates copyright law. Normatively, the definition of plagiarism is also emphasized in Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010, which states that plagiarism is an intentional or unintentional act of obtaining academic credit or grades for a scientific work by quoting part or all of another party's work without properly and adequately acknowledging the source.

Plagiarism is one of the forms of academic ethical violations that continues to receive serious attention within the national education system. In the digital era, marked by rapid advancements in information and communication technology, access to various sources of knowledge has become increasingly easy and fast. Information can be obtained through newspapers, magazines, books, journals, radio, television, as well as the internet and other online media platforms. As stated by Syamsul M. Romli (2012), online media have become a primary source for obtaining information and knowledge. However, this convenience does not always

produce positive outcomes, as it also opens opportunities for the misuse of intellectual works through acts of copying without proper attribution.

Higher education institutions continue to witness cases of copying or plagiarism in written works and scientific publications. This practice persists over time, despite significantly hindering the advancement of knowledge. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, results in violations of copyright, legal norms, and ethical standards. Simply put, presenting another person's ideas or work as one's own without permission or proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered one of the most serious violations frequently occurring in today's world (Jyotindu Debnath, 2016). It has become both a problem and, to some extent, a culture among university students. With the advancement of technology, plagiarism has become increasingly prevalent in academic environments. In Indonesia, plagiarism has developed into a habitual practice and may even be regarded as a cultural phenomenon. Considering that a large portion of the population consists of students, there is growing concern that this practice has negatively affected academic achievement.

The phenomenon of plagiarism not only harms creators from moral and economic perspectives but also undermines the values of honesty and academic integrity that form the fundamental foundation of the education system. In the context of higher education, plagiarism is often committed to obtain academic grades, degrees, or scholarly recognition. Essentially, such conduct constitutes a form of intellectual dishonesty that contradicts the principles of originality, academic responsibility, and scholarly ethics. If left unaddressed, plagiarism practices can reduce the quality of graduates and damage the credibility of educational institutions.

Based on the foregoing explanation, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive study on how sanctions against acts of plagiarism are regulated and implemented from the perspective of the National Education System Law. This analysis is necessary to assess the extent to which existing regulations are capable of providing a deterrent effect, maintaining academic integrity, and realizing the objectives of national education as mandated by law. Therefore, the research entitled *Analysis of Sanctions Against Acts of Plagiarism from the Perspective of the National Education System Law* is both relevant and important in strengthening an education system grounded in honesty, integrity, and the rule of law.

Literature Review

Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the act of taking part or all of another person's work by quoting or rewriting it without properly acknowledging the legitimate source, and subsequently claiming it as one's own. In *Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia*, J.S. Badudu and Sutan Mohammad Zain explain that plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's work and recognizing it as a personal creation (Badudu & Zain, 2001). This definition emphasizes the element of unilateral acknowledgment of a work that is not the result of one's own thinking. According to Brotowidjoyo, plagiarism constitutes a form of intellectual piracy involving the unlawful appropriation of facts, explanations, expressions, or sentences belonging to others (Ridathillah, 2003). This view indicates that plagiarism is not limited to copying an entire work but also includes specific parts of scholarly writing, such as ideas and arguments taken without proper attribution.

Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that plagiarism is the act of taking or using another person's ideas, concepts, data, or written works, either partially or entirely, without honestly and properly citing the source, and presenting them as one's own work. Such conduct constitutes a violation of academic ethics and intellectual property rights because it contradicts the principles of honesty, originality, and scholarly responsibility.

Legal Sanctions

Soerjono Soekanto argues that law enforcement is an activity aimed at harmonizing the values embodied in established legal norms and translating them into concrete actions in order to create, maintain, and preserve social order and harmony (Soerjono Soekanto, 2010). In this context, legal sanctions become an essential instrument to ensure the effective implementation of legal norms. Sanctions are not merely understood as punishments for violations, but also as mechanisms to uphold justice, protect public interests, and ensure that every regulation possesses real binding force.

Law enforcement also encompasses preventive aspects through regulation, public education, and the strengthening of law enforcement institutions in order to foster a high level of legal awareness (Elma Nur Islamiyah, 2025). Thus, legal sanctions function not only to create a deterrent effect for offenders but also to prevent similar violations in the future and to provide a sense of justice for injured parties.

Method

A study cannot be considered scientific research if it does not employ a clear and systematic research method (Koto & Faisal, 2021). A research method is a structured process of collecting and analyzing data to achieve specific objectives, whether through quantitative or qualitative approaches, experimental or non-experimental designs, as well as interactive or non-interactive methods (Koto, 2020).

This study applies a normative juridical method, which is a type of legal research conducted by examining library materials or secondary data as the primary sources (Koto & Zainuddin, 2022). The data obtained are analyzed qualitatively in accordance with the research problem through an in-depth and holistic approach in order to produce a comprehensive understanding (Rahimah & Koto, 2022).

Result and Discussion

The phenomenon of plagiarism undoubtedly damages the image of the educational world, which prioritizes intellectual ability and competence in advancing knowledge. It is undeniable that the advancement of information technology has also played a role in the development of plagiarism, particularly within higher education institutions and among students (Aditya Pratama, 2018). Acts of copying or plagiarism often occur through simple copy-paste practices in scientific writings, such as undergraduate theses. This condition leads students to become less motivated to think critically and has the potential to hinder the development of an academic's intellectual capacity (Putu A & I Wayan P, 2019).

Sanctions for plagiarism do not originate from a single regulation, but rather from various legal instruments. Undang-Undang Nomor 28 Tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta, Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010 concerning the prevention and handling of plagiarism, and Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional all regulate sanctions for acts of plagiarism, either explicitly or implicitly. In general, plagiarism

may occur in all forms of work, whether scientific or non-scientific, academic or non-academic. It is not limited to the higher education environment but also occurs outside university settings.

Within higher education institutions, many students fail to properly cite the references or sources used in their writing in order to make their work appear original as if it were entirely their own ideas. According to Hendry Sulisty, there is an assumption that by not mentioning citation sources, a person will be perceived as highly competent for having produced a scholarly work rich in substantial ideas. In fact, such conduct constitutes dishonesty and neglects the intellectual integrity that should be upheld by academics. On the contrary, intellectual honesty demonstrated through proper citation does not diminish the quality or value of a scholarly work (Hendry Sulisty, 2011).

In cases of plagiarism occurring within universities, whether committed by students or lecturers, the government through Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010 stipulates that sanctions range from the lightest form, such as a warning, to the most severe sanction, namely the revocation of an academic degree (Usman Alfarisi, 2017). In instances where plagiarism in scientific writing has been legally and convincingly proven, the perpetrator (plagiarist) may be subject to administrative sanctions in accordance with Chapter VI on Sanctions, particularly Article 12 paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) of the regulation.

Sanctions for plagiarism within higher education institutions are comprehensively regulated under Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010.

1. Sanctions for Students

Based on Article 12 paragraph (1), sanctions for students proven to have committed plagiarism as referred to in Article 10 paragraph (4) are imposed progressively, from the lightest to the most severe, namely:

- a. Verbal warning;
- b. Written warning;
- c. Suspension of certain student rights;
- d. Cancellation of grades in one or more courses obtained by the student;
- e. Honorable dismissal from student status;
- f. Dishonorable dismissal from student status; or
- g. Revocation of the diploma if the student has already graduated from a program.

2. Sanctions for Lecturers/Researchers/Educational Staff

Based on Article 12 paragraph (2), sanctions for lecturers, researchers, or educational staff proven to have committed plagiarism as referred to in Article 11 paragraph (6) are likewise imposed progressively, from the lightest to the most severe, namely:

- a. Verbal warning;
- b. Written warning;
- c. Suspension of certain rights;
- d. Demotion in rank and academic/functional position;
- e. Revocation of the right to be proposed for promotion to professor/senior researcher for those who meet the requirements;
- f. Honorable dismissal from their position;
- g. Dishonorable dismissal from their position; or
- h. Revocation of a diploma obtained from the respective university.

Subsequently, the most recent regulation concerning violations of academic integrity in producing scientific works is stipulated in Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 39 Tahun 2021. Article 17 paragraphs (1) and (2) provide that violations of academic integrity as referred to in Article 9 are subject to administrative sanctions as follows:

1. Sanctions for Students

- a. Reduction of grades for scientific work;
- b. Suspension of certain student rights;
- c. Cancellation of certain student rights;
- d. Cancellation of grades in one or more courses;
- e. Dismissal from student status; or
- f. Revocation of a diploma, competency certificate, or professional certificate.

2. Sanctions for Lecturers

- a. Postponement of promotion in academic rank for a maximum of three (3) years;
- b. Demotion by one level in academic rank; and/or
- c. Dismissal from the lecturer position.

The procedures for imposing these administrative sanctions are determined by each respective higher education institution. Furthermore, Article 18 paragraphs (1) and (2) of Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 39 Tahun 2021 emphasize that:

1. Members of the academic community who, based on the results of an examination, are proven to have committed multiple forms of academic integrity violations as referred to in Article 9 shall be subject to the most severe level of administrative sanction.
2. If a member of the academic community who has previously been sanctioned for an academic integrity violation commits another violation, they shall be subject to a heavier administrative sanction than the last sanction imposed (the principle of aggravated sanctions for repeated offenses).

However, the latest regulation, namely Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 39 Tahun 2021, introduces significant changes in the regulation of sanctions against perpetrators of plagiarism. This regulation no longer includes minor sanctions such as verbal and written warnings as previously stipulated in Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010. In addition, the provision concerning the revocation of a lecturer's right to be nominated for promotion to professor has been removed, and at certain levels the sanctions directly lead to dismissal from position. These changes reflect a firmer stance in viewing plagiarism as a serious violation of academic integrity (Palandeng et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, the new regulation no longer provides a mechanism for restoring the reputation of individuals who are proven not to have committed plagiarism. Under the previous regulation, university leaders were obligated to rehabilitate the good name of members of the academic community who were found not guilty. The absence of such a provision may potentially reduce legal protection for individuals whose reputations have been tarnished by unproven allegations of plagiarism (Palandeng et al., 2023).

Thus, the regulation of plagiarism does not stand alone but is integrated into various interrelated legal frameworks. Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional governs the administration of the national education system, which upholds the values of honesty, ethics, and educational quality as part of the objectives of national education. Furthermore, Undang-Undang Nomor 28 Tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta regulates copyright protection as a form of legal protection for intellectual works, including scientific writings. At the higher education technical level, Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 17 Tahun 2010 specifically regulates the prevention and handling of plagiarism in universities, while Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 39 Tahun 2021

governs academic integrity in the production of scientific works along with its corresponding sanctions. Therefore, an analysis of sanctions against acts of plagiarism from the perspective of the National Education System Law demonstrates that the state considers plagiarism a serious violation of the fundamental values of education. The imposition of administrative sanctions, including the revocation of academic degrees, represents a form of protection for the quality, credibility, and integrity of the national education system.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that sanctions against acts of plagiarism from the perspective of the national education system in Indonesia are regulated comprehensively and in a layered manner through various statutory regulations, affirming that plagiarism constitutes a serious violation of academic integrity and the value of scholarly honesty. The imposition of sanctions, whether upon students or lecturers, is carried out progressively up to the most severe consequences, including dismissal and revocation of academic degrees. The most recent regulation even demonstrates a stricter approach by applying the principle of aggravated sanctions for repeated violations. Therefore, the enforcement of sanctions against plagiarism serves as an essential instrument in safeguarding the quality, credibility, and dignity of the national education system.

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