

TURNITIN

Supporting academic writing process



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What is Turnitin

- Turnitin is a Internet-based similarity detection service which is integrated in Moodle. It compares the student's file in to a vast database in Turnitin (originality check)
 - Database includes scientific articles and papers, magazines and indexed Internet pages
- Teachers can use Turnitin as a guiding and an assessment tool on courses (no need for permission)
- As a result, Turnitin returns an Feedback Studio *report*, that shows
 - a percentage describing found similarity (match)
 - color-coded text and reference list of matches
 - Comments/grading by teacher

Why Turnitin is used

- The Turnitin check is obligatory on thesis works according to the decision of the Vice President of LUT.
- Turnitin can be used as a assignment for any written student work for checking the similarity
- It **helps a student to write the text in own words** (paraphrasing) that is based on references
 - The report shows *similarities* between the text and references
 - The report can be used for *feedback* to the students
 - Checking should be possible *from the beginning of the writing process*
- **Avoiding plagiarism** in LUT

What is plagiarism

- Plagiarism misconduct is defined: intentional plagiarism and blatant disregard of referencing practices, for example copying someone's text and representing it as one's own or complicated referring so that the real writer is not credited
- Plagiarism forms (Tuhkanen 2013*)
 - *"Word for word" / "Copy-and-paste"*: the original text is copied directly with or without referring
 - *"Trace hiding"*: modifying the text by using synonyms or changing the order of the sentences
 - *Quoting without referring*
 - *Self-plagiarism*
 - *Stealing a concept or an idea*: difficult to detect or prove
- Understanding of plagiarism should grow with the study years > the disciplinary measures will harden
 - The reason for plagiarism could be lack of skills -> guiding and correcting first
- In the end, the student is personally responsible for following the ethical guidelines

* Source: Tuhkanen 2013. Moodle-Turnitin - käyttöopas_opiskelijalle.pdf. TUT

How to use Turnitin

- In order to check the texts, the teacher must create a **Turnitin Assignment** in Moodle. If it does not exist, ask the teacher to create it.
- A student opens the assignment and My Submissions -tab, then browses the computer for the file and names it. A student must accept the copyright issues and give a permission for repositing
 - *By adding the work in the repository the students' copyright of the work will be protected!*
 - A student profile will be created during the first use and students must accept the user agreement.
- Similarity check will take many minutes (5-15 min) to be created, depending on the length of the work. It is recommended that **the figures and tables should be removed**, only text to be checked. This speeds the check up.

Similarity check

- By clicking the name of the work or percentage, the Feedback Studio report (showing similarity) opens
- Report has two services: Grading (teacher's comments) and Similarity
- **The results in the report should be interpreted together with the teacher**
- The similarity in the work is given in percentage number
 - It is relevant to the length of the work (short text -> big match)
 - No unambiguous limit for acceptable work
 - Quotes and reference list inflict similarity, they can be filtered out.
 - Zero matches can be difficult or impossible to achieve. *All matches are not plagiarism!*
 - *General information, vocational terms etc. can cause high similarity.*

Similarity report

- Case 1
 - Obvious plagiarism -> must be corrected (rewritten)

Refining¹ of chemical pulps is the mechanical treatment and modification of fibers so that they can be formed into paper or board of the desired properties. It is one of the most important unit operations when preparing papermaking fibers for high-quality papers or paperboards. The term "beating" dates back to the early days of papermaking when beating was affected by manually beating pulp with a stick, but has remained in use to this day to describe the mechanical treatment of wet fibers. The term was generally used earlier when the equipment commonly used in the process was Hollander beaters, but various refiners have now replaced beaters and the term "refining" is widely used.

Similarity report

- Case 2
 - Better than previous, but still needs rewriting. The matches are too big.

A food processing method, where ² food is packaged first, then heated for 20 minutes or longer at high temperature (116 - 129°C) in a large retort oven to sterilize it and make it safe to eat. This technique is ² normally used for metal and glass packaging. (Tetra Pak, 2006)

Similarity report

- Case 3
 - Minor similarities
 - Match due to general terms, which cannot be expressed any other way -
> *no need to correct*

Commonly used theories of adhesion are [2]:

- Mechanical interlocking
- Diffusion theory
- Electrostatic theory
- Adsorption theory
- Chemical bonding theory
- Weak boundary layer theory
- Acid-base theory



Similarity report

- Usually general texts, headings and footers in thesis works will show some similarity.

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- Quotes can be referred correctly

2.1 Palautteen määritelmä

1
"Palautteella tarkoitetaan opetuksessa sitä työskentelyä, koskevaa informaatiota, jota opiskelijat saavat opiskelustaan ja opettaja opettamisestaan." (Vuorinen 1998, 58).

How to write

- Read all the reference material first, make a list of key words and terms you want to use in your text.
- Combine words/terms with similar topics
- Write these key topics in to text paragraphs using suitable terms.
Remember to mark the references!
- If still some similarity is noticed, you can try to
 - change the order of the sentences
 - add parts of the sentences with own text, combine sentences
 - condense and sum up the text in the paragraph

Turnitin supporting the writing process

- Check your work early in the process, when you have your first draft. Don't check only the final version!
- Make changes immediately and check also the references if missing
- Ask the teacher for help on interpretation of the report
- High similarity percentages are not necessary serious, first filter out quotes and reference list (bibliography). Check if your text is not scientific enough ie. It has common phrases and terms, which may appear as matches.