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## EXPLORING STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE ISSUE OF PLAGIARISM

(A qualitative study conducted at English Department in UNG)

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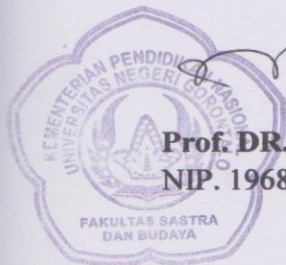
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## ABSTRACT

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This study sets out to examine students' perception on the issue of plagiarism, and explores how their perceptions influence the ways they approach their writing. As there is minimal research has been conducted in Indonesia regarding the issue, this study contributes to portray the phenomenon of students' plagiarism issue and what are the difficulties they encountered to, through exploring students' perception on the issue and to what extend it applies into their writing practice. This area of research has great potential to make a significant contribution to whole components in the level of tertiary study in general, and in Gorontalo state University and English department in particular. Being able to mapping students' view on plagiarism issue and their difficulties to write and cite their sources correctly are beneficial for improving the qiality of students' competencies in English productive skills.

Data of this research collected through interviews and observation with 6 classes of the semester 5 with total of 150 students of English department. Then in depth interviews were conducted to 40 students out of the 150, exploring the students' perception on issue of plagiarism within their learning context, and then scrutinizing to what extend their perceptions have influenced their writing practice. Data from the observations of the students' written work used to not only explicate and interpret interview and questionnaire materials, but also to portray students' perceptions on the issue. The data obtained from questionnaire materials were also useful to both shows the amount and the proportion of those issues explored and further used to explicate and enhance the analysis.

The result of this study highlights several key points. First, there are two significant viewpoints emerged, that is students with optimistic views (eleven out of forty students) who are more likely able to face limitations and barriers in their learning context, and there are those (twenty nine out of forty students) who see the limitations and barriers in pessimistic way, when the two group perceiving issues of plagiarism related to studying environment, rules, that is reward and punishment, self-reliance, and access for the practice. Second, the students with optimistic views tend to show they have worked hard and put efforts to be involved in the process in order to help themselves to better performances in their writing exercises despite the limitations, challenges and hardworking they have face with. In contrast, students with pessimistic perceptions demonstrate a less sense of agency and empowerment in dealing with a range of limitations and challenges which are both derived from themselves and from their academic environment. Third, there are some similar issues raised by all the participants that have a great impact on their writing exercise in their learning context such as assignment workload from lecturers of various subjects with the time constraints for the datelines but the two groups with different views came across with the issues in a dissimilar way. The fluidity of the students' responses contextualized or crystallized in their written work. Fourth, some strategies and ways are offered to be implemented and applied in classroom, the English department, Faculty and the university in order to come out with the solution concerning the issue of plagiarism and its practice within their context. They consist of several things such as providing a good role models to bring change and facilitating a range of sufficient information and regulation regarding the issue including establishing a clear guidelines of punishment and reward on the



issue. Some outdoor activities such as poster competition and anti plagiarism campaigns are enormously useful and beneficial to create and improve academic people awareness on that issue. A wide range of related activities, procedures and innovations in relation to improving students' writing skills, and students' motivation to be active followers in fighting with the plagiarism practice are necessary in order to diminish and ban the plagiarism practice within the students' academic life and environment.

This study is enormously instigated the larger research for what further actions can be taken and conducted to stop students plagiarizing others' work and empowering themselves to become highly confident as independent learner and writer.

### **Key Words:**

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Students' Perception, Plagiarism, Writing Practice, Strategy Used



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