Citation practices in academic discourse: The types of citation transformation in MA and PhD theses

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Abstract:
Plagiarism is an old problem in its new guise in academia, which may arise from lack of basic knowledge regarding citation transformations. The process of transforming the texts into writers' own texts seems to have an interesting complexity not only for native speakers of English but also for non-native speakers of English writers. An examination of the ways of citation transformations appears to be a concrete starting point in unravelling the complexity. Thus, the present study focuses on the ways of citation transformations preferred by both native speakers of English and non-native speakers of English writers (Turkish writers) and reveals the general tendencies of both groups of writers in the choice of the ways of transformation of citations, which in turn will contribute to the existing literature by shedding further light into the complexities of textual borrowing. The corpus consists of 34 theses, 17 of which Turkish writers' theses in English language including 10 MA and 7 PhD theses and 17 English L1 writers' theses comprised of 10 MA and 7 PhD theses. Taking the relevant literature in consideration, a rubric was prepared by the researchers in order to analyse the 34 theses in the corpus by means of content analysis. The findings show that Turkish writers experience some critical problems in the aspects of the way they integrate others' work into their texts than English L1 writers.). Given the Turkish academic writing context, there is almost no such study focusing on citation practices in native speakers' (English L1 speakers) and non-native speakers' (Turkish speakers) academic writings. Therefore, this study is assumed to be a well-tailored attempt to bring out citation practices of NNS of English writers (Turkish writers) and NS of English writers.

Keywords: citation, English academic writing, knowledge transformation.