Academic dishonesty, alienation to university and anomie: Are they related anyway?

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Abstract:
This research study aims to investigate academic dishonesty tendency, alienation to university and anomie of pre-service English language teachers studying at a state university in Turkey in the 2017-2018 academic year. In this study, academic dishonesty is supposed to include the acts of cheating and plagiarism (Roig & DeTommaso, 1995), alienation is the state of psychological estrangement from a culture with feelings of powerlessness, normlessness and social isolation (Seeman, 1991), and anomie is the individual's lack of integration in social life (Srole, 1956). Although they are limited in number, there exist some previous studies on alienation and anomie in relation with academic dishonesty at educational context. To illustrate, if students are more alienated, they are found to be more likely to cheat (Whitley, 1998). In another research study related to the impact of anomie on academic dishonesty with the university students of the business school, a correlation is found between anomie and cheating (Caruana et al., 2000). In order to define the perspectives of participants Academic Dishonesty Tendency Scale (ADTS) by Eminoğlu (2008), Alienation Scale by Dean (1961) and Anomie Scale by Srole (1956) are used. Any possible relationship between scores of ADTS and alienation as well as between scores of ADTS and anomie are examined as two presumptive reasons for academic dishonesty behavior. Collected data are analyzed for normality, then descriptive and correlation statistics are taken into use in order to obtain the result of research. Lastly, limitations related with participants and data collection procedure are stated and ideas for further studies are suggested. Upon the limited number of research studies on alienation and anomie in relation with academic dishonesty, this study intends to contribute to the current literature with the results of psychometric instruments.

Keywords: Academic dishonesty, alienation, anomie, pre-service teachers of English.