

Role of politics in academic plagiarism

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Azerbaijan



Baku – this is the place where decisions are made



This is what Azerbaijani officials like to drive



That's another one of favourite



Lifan – a car for officials, assembled and partially produced in Azerbaijan based on Chinese technology to save public money and prevent purchase of foreign cars, almost national brand, looking good is not it?



Lifan – a National Car, Unique Technology, Save of money

What do they say about it?

Said by owner:

“Do you Call this a car ? Since i got this **JUNK** and i have been allways in problems .. the car is full of problems .. i started to let the world see how junk car you sell to the public.. i wouldnt stop showing every one this junk car.”

Said by another owner:

“Well it is a 20-year-old Citroen ZX with the latest in Chinese styling and interior work. With that kind of **pedigree**, it’s hard to have too many expectations. Still, Chinese automakers who thought that success in foreign markets is as easy as improving crash test videos on Youtube should take note”.



Millions spent to build factory, purchase cars and spread them around state organizations.

Where are the cars now?

Garage



State officials keep driving cars!

Why?

- Lifan service could not manage with tsunami of technical errors
- Client contra-orientated customer service – decision made, cars purchased, public money spent
- No further development of technology and service, no market diversification approach
- Just uncomfortable
- There was no single independent test done
- Public was not involved into decision making process



Thanks God State did not restrict of using any other cars except Lifan

➔ **Otherwise we could turn to:**

Volga - the most popular car in USSR and one of allowed for state and public officials





Government of Poland decided to launch Central Uniform Antiplagiarism System

It will be:

1. Free of charge for universities,
2. Mandatory for all universities,
3. Connected to Central Database of students papers.



In Poland several antiplagiarism systems are available:

Plagiat.pl / StrikePlagiarism

OSA

Genuino

Turnitin

Public money spent to create another market player?

Market player and monopoly?

Another Lifan?

Politics playing significant role in Plagiarism

- There are a number of scandals in Poland, Romania and former USSR countries involving politicians plagiarised PhD dissertations.
- To be PhD is acknowledged in society
- PhD status recompenses financially
- Boosted career promotion
- Over bureaucracy and lack in transparency of process of dissertations defence (Higher Attestations Commissions, complicated procedures etc.)
- Universities and professors are connected to be paper mills
- Some ministries are avoiding of combat with plagiarism as find it controversial due to political reasons
- National of Science institutions are connected to paper mills due to close connection to politicians
- Rectors at many countries are nominated by presidents of state instead of elections that enables to control votes



State governments are trying to combat plagiarism in dissertations, students' papers are left with less attention

- Universities do not consider bachelors papers worthy to be analysed
- Some universities treat bachelors papers as Pandora's box, knowing those papers are full of plagiarism
- Saving money
- Afraid of loosing students they depend on
- Students are poorly informed about plagiarism and its outcome
- Professors do not want to time waste

Kazakhstan experience:

- ▶ MoES adopted a decree of mandatory verification of PhD and Master papers,
- ▶ Database of PhD dissertations created, closed for public,
- ▶ National Information Central created and granted monopoly right to verify all PhD dissertations – nothing mentioned of state tariff or who has to pay for verification, that's why its abused and paid by author
- ▶ Universities are widely using free of charge antiplagiarism systems faced by massive sale of students papers by local mills
- ▶ Most of universities are not using any plagiarism detection systems, and prefer to avoid this process among master and bachelor papers
- ▶ Lack of code of ethics and transparent procedures at universities

Ukrainian Experience:

- ▶ Legislative changes put in life by MoES, all dissertation are must to be verified over antiplagiarism systems
- ▶ All dissertations are posted at university websites within 3 months after defence
- ▶ Decision to create Central Database of Dissertations
- ▶ Universities gradually involved in adopting of academic codes of ethics
- ▶ National public procurement system is activated, to increase transparency of public money turnover
- ▶ Universities are widely adopting regulations similar to Polish ones
- ▶ EU programs of academic integrity launched

Romanian experience:

- MoES created a national e-platform – all PhDs are checked
- MoES issued criteria for recognized antiplagiarism systems
- Legal procedure for withdrawing PhD titles
- Most of universities adopted transparent procedures in plagiarism prevention
- Legislation is being debated, allowing politicians to avoid sanctions
- Universities prefer checking PhD dissertations only
- Paper mills are not seen as serious issue
- Many professors expect the antiplagiarism system to give a verdict
- Students are not well informed about plagiarism and consequences



Thank you! Děkuji!

Cristina Costiniuc
Ali Tahmazov