

## REASONS OF PLAGIARISM IN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC WRITING AND BENEFITING FROM TURNITIN

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### **Abstract:**

Plagiarism detectors are beneficial in both detecting and preventing plagiarism in addition to providing useful and effective feedback to students from several sources. This study aimed to model how to incorporate Turnitin into undergraduate academic writing classes as a tool to provide feedback from several sources. The incidents of plagiarism in undergraduate academic writing in the English Language Teaching Department of Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey in the last four consecutive years were considered. 881 students in the Advanced Reading and Writing Skills course between 2010–2011 and 2013–2014 academic years participated. The results indicated that by the implementation of Turnitin, the students started to plagiarise less. Later, the study focused on plagiarism incidents in 2013–2014. 28 students were accused of plagiarism and interviewed by the lecturer to reveal their reasons of plagiarism. They were instructed how to benefit from digital feedback, a fairly new term proposed by the researcher with reference to plagiarism detector reports. They revised and resubmitted their papers. 17 of them managed to submit plagiarism-free assignments. Although the results indicated a decline in the number of plagiarism incidents after the implementation of Turnitin; precautions should be taken to encourage students to prepare plagiarism-free assignments and to submit them since the implementation of plagiarism detectors increases the number of non-submitted assignments.

**Key words:** academic writing; anonymous peer review; digital feedback; multiple types of feedback; Turnitin

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