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The Most Important Ethical Concerns in Science

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ABSTRACT

The most unethical behaviors in science are of falsifying data and stealing ideas from previous investigators. But for publishing papers with high similarity and editing papers with coercion, it is necessary to carry out a concrete analysis case by case.

1. INTRODUCTION

The ethics in science are usually classified as: 1) publishing papers with high similarity; 2) falsifying data; 3) stealing ideas from previous investigators; 4) editing papers with coercion.

2. DISCUSSION

The problems by using the similarity software to evaluate the quality of scientific papers are as follows. 1) For the classic laws, theorems [1, 2], and rules [3], it is not allowed to change even one word. 2) In contrast, by using different words with essentially the same contents or ideas as the classic ones, so as to claim new findings or discovery. Unfortunately, the similarity software is unable to detect this kind of cheating behaviors. 3) In many music tunes composed by Bach Johann Sebastian and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (two of the most productive and influential composers for all time), their similarities are extremely high, but their tunes have been highly appreciated until now and even forever. Therefore, the practice of using the computer program to examine the quality of scientific papers must be rescinded or voided.

"Falsifying data" is a typical cheating, and so is "Stealing ideas from previous investigators". However, for the case of editing papers with coercion, the editor should be highly admired if he or she has found that some authors, by using different words with essentially the same contents or ideas to steal the credit from the previous investigators.

3. CONCLUSION

It is unethical in science to falsify data and steal ideas from previous investigators. But for publishing papers with high similarity and editing papers with coercion, it is necessary to carry out an analysis case by case.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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