

TURNITIN

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Turnitin is a software used to compare the similarity of a text with others published on the Internet. In other words, if a text is entered into said software, it compares said text with others existing on the Internet. Those that are outside the Internet, that is, those texts that, whether physical texts, such as books, magazines, among others, or virtual ones, such as pdf's, word's, among others, are not published on the Internet, are not recognized by the software.

For example, a text called *Alternative Tales of Oz* that was published as a physical text, which was then digitized and posted on some web portal, will be recognized by the Turnitin software. Another example, a text called *Mandram's Alternative Tales*, which is found as a physical text in a library and has never been digitized or posted on any Web portal, is not recognized by the Turnitin software. Furthermore, a text called *Jicunda's Alternative Tales*, which has been digitized but belongs to some person or organization that has not posted it on the Internet, will also not be recognized by the Turnitin software.

If text snippets from the texts listed above are found in some texts on the Internet, it is obvious that they will be recognized by the Turnitin software.

Therefore, Turnitin is a software that does not measure any plagiarism; just similarities of texts, between one found in the software and the others found on the Internet. The Turnitin measurement is expressed as a percentage of similarity.

As Turnitin is a software that does not measure plagiarism, unfortunately there are unscrupulous people who can consider texts not found on the Internet and claim authorship, with or without citations. For example, if a physical text called *Perico el Jericó* is not found on the Internet, and an unscrupulous person digitizes it and claims ownership, and someone cites a portion of that text, Turnitin will never have recognized the plagiarism regardless of what was cited. .

Therefore, the Turnitin software is not used to measure plagiarism, only matches, similarities.

On the other hand, for any text, no matter if it is quoted verbatim or paraphrased, the Turnitin software does not serve to recognize said quote in the first instance, since the citation would have to have been written in such a way that, when applying filters, such as exclude citations and exclude bibliography, among others, the Turnitin in something may or may not recognize the similarity, but never determine any plagiarism.

On the other hand, two or more people can structure the same idea using the same words and ordering them. If one of those ideas is written as a text, the Turnitin software will erratically compare it to perhaps one or more other completely identical texts and give a similarity reading that, if you attribute this to plagiarism, you are dead wrong. It is just a similarity, a coincidence, and nothing more.

It may be the case that a text is misquoted, either accidentally or intentionally, and the Turnitin software detects it as a similarity to another text on the Internet that references its actual author. It is in this case that it could be affirmed that the Turnitin software would have detected plagiarism, but this is not the function of the Turnitin software, since the texts would have to be compared "manually" to verify the real authorship. Therefore, plagiarism detection will always be a "manual" process, in the sense of "not automated". If the citation was mistakenly made by chance, the Turnitin software will have served as support to restructure it properly, that is, to mention the correct authorship, which is generally composed of the author's last name and the year of publication of the text, since placing the page number can be optional.

In many countries, the Turnitin software is mistakenly attributed as an "anti-plagiarism" system, and this has led to the particular harm of diverse thesis students. To avoid taking the trouble, which should be mandatory, of verifying whether the texts of a thesis or thesis project have the corresponding citations, many people in charge of using Turnitin, especially in various universities, simply enter the text in the mentioned software and they refer only to verifying the

percentage of similarity to make the decision whether or not to accept the work. Even in their profound ignorance, lack of judgment or lack of scruples, many such managers of the use of Turnitin dare to mention the existence of plagiarism, when it is not true at all. What can be affirmed, in this case, is the existence of a lack of knowledge of the real functions of Turnitin and a lack of its correct use.

Many thesis students, due to an incorrect management or interpretation of the Turnitin results, are seen or forced to “paraphrase”, “reparaphrase” and “re-reparaphrase” until achieving the lowest percentages of similarity, so that the product of their research is just accepted by the educational institution.

The representatives of the academic institutions have a certain short-sightedness -or they may not have it, but they appear to be- in warning that a text paraphrased to the highest degree can assume different authorship from the text that served as the basis for such paraphrasing. Therefore, if a text is paraphrased in such a way that it reflects more the ideas of the one who paraphrased than the one who originally wrote it, it can easily even be said that the authorship represents the one who paraphrased. Today there are thousands and thousands of publications of scientific articles and theses with paraphrased citations. Turnitin software can be very supportive of those unscrupulous people who "take other people's texts" and paraphrase them in such a way that they seem completely distant from the original wording of their true authors, and then such unscrupulous people claim authorship. In this way, many can even create digital books with their authorship, when, in reality, the texts were obtained from other authors; and Turnitin software supported them for such criminal acts. In this case, the Turnitin software is a great ally for plagiarism and an eminent danger for the academic and scientific community.

For all of the above, it can be said that the Turnitin software is not anti-plagiarism software, but rather, it can be the best ally for the finest and most perfect plagiarism.

Quote as:

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