

The phenomenon of plagiarism and academic youth: A sociopedagogical study

This publication fits in with reflections on plagiarism in the field of social sciences. The starting point is a description of the fundamental changes in the functions of the university in recent decades.

The wider perspective of changes in students' attitudes towards the problem of plagiarism requires a presentation of six types of changes in contemporary society. The first concerns the status of knowledge and changes in how the modern university functions. The second relates to changes in the way young people learn, from the systematic and linear approach typical of the past, to a fragmented, mosaic approach. The third context is related to the transition from an evaluation system to "dispassionate" testing. The next context is the collapse of authority figures and the relativization of moral norms that encourage dishonest behavior, two processes characterizing contemporary society. The fifth context is internalized by many young people is that of an absolute orientation towards success. The final context concerns cultural change, and particularly the fundamental increase in popular culture's influence on young people's identity.

In the empirical part research findings are presented in the constructivist- interpretative paradigm, focused on the problem of how plagiarism is perceived by university students in terms of their experiences and socio-cultural changes.