



## Paraphrase Practices in Academic Writing of Nursing Science Study Program, STIK Bina Husada Palembang

Agus Wahyudi<sup>1\*</sup>, Arief Pamuji<sup>2</sup>

STIK Bina Husada Palembang

**Corresponding Author:** Agus Wahyudi [wahyudiagus.aw@gmail.com](mailto:wahyudiagus.aw@gmail.com)

---

### ARTICLE INFO

*Keywords:* Paraphrase,  
Academic, Writing

*Received :* 7 April

*Revised :* 18 May

*Accepted:* 26 June

©2023 Wahyudi, Pamuji: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



### ABSTRACT

Paraphrasing has two main purposes, namely to avoid plagiarism and to make ideas easier to understand. The purpose of this research is to answer the following questions: 1. How are the paraphrasing results of the students of the Nursing Study Program STIK Bina Husada Palembang?, and 2. What are their perceptions of paraphrasing?. This research was conducted on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, out of 38 students registered, only 34 students from the Nursing Science Study Program STIK Bina Husada Palembang participated in this research. The students were asked to paraphrase a text containing 119 words entitled "Why is the millennial generation vulnerable to smartphone addiction?" the participants were first shown the text and asked to read to gain understanding, then they were asked to paraphrase the paragraph. The results of this study indicated that the students of the Nursing Study Program at STIK Bina Husada Palembang are divided into 2 groups, namely: those who successfully paraphrase and those who fail, however, the limitations of the study should be noticed for further research. The results of this study have implications for teaching, bearing in mind that there are still students who avoid changing words and sentence structures when paraphrasing, this is due to limited vocabulary in making effective paraphrasing.

## INTRODUCTION

Writing skill is one of the essential core skills in various aspects of life, especially in academic and professional contexts. Malik (2006) stated that writing is an activity of conveying messages by using written language as a tool or medium. Writing is not only a way to convey ideas and information, but also a powerful tool to influence, inspire and share knowledge with others. Good writing skills enable us to communicate ideas effectively, organize thoughts clearly, and convey messages appropriately. In an academic setting, quality writing skills are the key to compiling research reports, essays, scientific papers, and other assignments. In the professional world, good writing skills will help us in preparing proposals, business reports, letters and other written communications.

As a skill, writing cannot be obtained naturally, but must go through a process of learning and practicing. Writing is not just writing, but an activity that combines intellectual knowledge and logical thinking which is then followed by selecting an effective and communicative language to be expressed in written form. Doyin and Wagiran (2009:12) stated that in writing activities, writers must be skilled at using graphology, vocabulary, sentence structure, paragraph development, and language logic. For this reason, writing is often considered more difficult than other language skills.

One of the writing skills that must be mastered by students is writing scientific papers. Writing scientific papers is different from regular writing. Writing scientific papers requires certain methods and writing techniques so that the results of the writing can be justified. Therefore, not everyone is skilled at writing scientific papers. Such a writing task requires students to make an incorporation of their own opinions "textually with existing knowledge from sources" (Shi, 2004, p. 171). Furthermore, Alwasilah (2005: 2), showed that 84% (168 million out of 200 million) of Indonesia's population are literate, but in Indonesia only 12 books are published per one million population per year. This is below the average of other developing countries which are able to publish 55 books for one million people per year or in developed countries which reach 513 books for every one million people per year. Thus, the data illustrates that the writing ability of the Indonesian population is still very low.

## METHODOLOGY

In scientific writing, the ability to rephrase text by using different words but still retaining the same meaning is very important. This process is known as paraphrasing. Paraphrasing has a significant role in scientific writing, not only as a tool to avoid plagiarism, but also to improve the clarity and quality of writing. In the current information age, where access to various sources of information is very easy, the risk of plagiarism is getting higher. Therefore, the ability to use paraphrasing correctly becomes a crucial skill for scientific writers.

Plagiarism and paraphrasing are two concepts that are closely related in writing. Plagiarism is the act of taking or using another person's work, ideas or language without providing proper credit or credit. Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of ethics and academic integrity, and can have serious legal and academic consequences.

On the other hand, paraphrasing is the process of re-expressing a text or expression using different words but still retaining the same meaning. Paraphrasing can be used to avoid plagiarism by quoting or presenting information from the right sources accurately, but using different words and sentence structures. In paraphrasing, it is important to maintain intellectual integrity by properly acknowledging the original source through appropriate citation or citing of the source.

Paraphrasing activities for Nursing Study Program students, STIK Bina Husada Palembang are very important activities in improving their academic writing skills and avoiding plagiarism.

### **Paraphrase**

Paraphrasing is a linguistic term which means rephrasing a concept in another way in the same language, but without changing its meaning. Bhagat and Eduard (2013) stated that Paraphrases are sentences or phrases that convey the same meaning using different wording.

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, paraphrasing is a way of expressing what other people have written and said by using different words to make it easier to understand, or in other words, quoting done in paraphrasing is quoting using your own words to express the same idea, or used to maintain the coherence and integrity of the flow of writing.

OWL Purdue paraphrasing is defined (1) a person's ability to rewrite other people's ideas or ideas in their own words and display them in a new form; (2) is a legal and legal way of self-borrowing and presented in a new form; (3) a restatement that is more complete and detailed than a summary.

### **Purpose of Paraphrasing**

Paraphrasing has two main purposes, namely to avoid plagiarism and to make ideas easier to understand.

#### **1. Avoid Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is an activity of plagiarizing and violating copyright rules. This activity can also be categorized as theft and forgery of other people's work. Paraphrasing will help the writer to get caught in plagiarism. By presenting the idea of the creator of the work in his own language, he must still write down the main sources of ideas written in the bibliography,

#### **2. Make Ideas Easier to Understand**

Paraphrasing is conducted so that the ideas conveyed are easier to understand. Paraphrasing can help redistribute source information in easy language so that it is more understandable to many people.

### **Paraphrasing Method**

The following are some of the methods commonly used in paraphrasing:

#### **1. Changing Words and Vocabulary:**

- Replace words with synonyms that have a similar meaning.
- Changing nouns into verbs or vice versa.
- Using equivalent phrases or idioms.

#### **2. Changing Sentence Order:**

- Change the order of sentences to give different emphasis to the information conveyed.

- Using different conjunctions to set the relationship between sentences.
3. Changing the Form of the Tenses:
    - Change the tense of the verb to suit the new context.
    - Using appropriate time conjunctions to maintain continuity in time.
  4. Using Synonyms and Antonyms:
    - Replace words with synonyms that have the same meaning.
    - Using antonyms to express the opposite meaning.
  5. Summarize and Combine Ideas:
    - Rearranging interrelated sentences to produce more compact and structured sentences.
    - Combining several sentences into one more unified sentence.

The purpose of this research is to answer the following questions: 1. How are the paraphrasing results of the students of the Nursing Study Program STIK Bina Husada Palembang?, and 2. What are their perceptions of paraphrasing?.

As many as 38 students of the Nursing Study Program at STIK Bina Husada Palembang participated in this study. The students were asked to paraphrase a text containing 119 words entitled "Why is the millennial generation vulnerable to smartphone addiction?" the participants were first shown the text and asked to read to gain understanding, then they were asked to paraphrase the paragraph.

## RESULTS

This research was conducted on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, out of 38 students registered, only 34 students from the Nursing Science Study Program STIK Bina Husada Palembang participated in this research activity until it was finished.

The first question of this research is how are the results of the paraphrasing activities of the students of the STIK Bina Husada Palembang study program, the analysis of the results of the paraphrasing activity shows very good results, and can be categorized into two groups, the first group is categorized as a group that is able to paraphrase well and other groups experienced problems in paraphrasing and did not change the paraphrased text properly.

For students who are able to do paraphrasing well, using synonyms is an activity that is often done by students when they are doing paraphrasing activities. Table 1 shows some words that are paraphrased using synonyms.

Table 1. The examples of Words that Have Been Successfully Paraphrased by Using Synonyms

<b>Original word</b>	<b>Paraphrased word</b>
Kajian Literatur	Studi Pustaka
Kecanduan	Beresiko
Kultural	Budaya
Smartphone	Telefon Cerdas/Gawai
Riset	Penelitian

Another technique carried out by the students is to change the form of words, whether nouns become verbs, adjectives become adverbs or vice versa. Table 2 shows the examples of a change of word type.

Table 2. The Examples of Word Changes Made by Paraphrasing

<b>Original word</b>	<b>Paraphrased word</b>
kecanduan	Tergantung/ketergantungan
remaja	Anak berusia muda
pengguna	Yang memiliki/dimiliki
mengganggu	Yang dapat mempengaruhi

While the second group, namely students who did not paraphrase properly or copied the original sentence or changed a few words, was carried out by as many as 4 people. Table 3 shows the example of poorly executed paraphrases

Table 3. The Example of Poor Paraphrased Text

Original text	Paraphrased text
Kajian literatur menunjukkan remaja berada pada masa perkembangan yang rentan terhadap kecanduan dan masa remaja berada pada tingkat risiko kecanduan yang tinggi secara kultural. Secara khusus, remaja telah diidentifikasi sebagai kelompok yang mengalami resiko utama dari kecanduan smartphone. Kecanduan smartphone merupakan perilaku penggunaan smartphone yang berlebihan dan mengganggu kehidupan sehari-hari	Tinjauan literatur menemukan bahwa remaja dalam masa perkembangan rentan terhadap kecanduan dan remaja secara budaya berisiko tinggi terhadap kecanduan. Secara khusus, remaja diidentifikasi sebagai kelompok risiko utama kecanduan smartphone. Kecanduan smartphone adalah penggunaan smartphone yang berlebihan dan mengganggu kehidupan sehari-hari.

Based on table 3, students only change a few words from the original text by using synonyms.

The second question of this research activity is to find out students' perceptions of paraphrasing, especially whether paraphrasing activities can improve academic writing and the obstacles faced when doing paraphrasing

Based on the results of interviews with students about how they perceive paraphrasing. In general, students answered that paraphrasing is an activity that can improve academic writing skills, make sentences more effective and efficient, further it avoids plagiarism.

The most common obstacles students face when paraphrasing are related to language-related problems. The students also revealed that the limited vocabulary and difficulty identifying the main idea in a paragraph as an obstacle in paraphrasing.

## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this study provide insight into the ability to paraphrase students of the Nursing Study Program, STIK Bina Husada Palembang. The results of this study provide an overview of language learning. The authors also suggest pedagogic implications for increasing the students' ability in paraphrasing.

For the students who do not do paraphrasing activities well, their work still resembles the original text both in terms of words and sentence structure, based on this it can be said that language skills will affect the ability to paraphrase.

Students who are categorized as students who are able to paraphrase well are students who make changes to vocabulary and sentence structure. The use of word equations is the most widely used technique by students. Kalikokha et al., (2009) stated that paraphrasing can help students to write essays because the evidence shows that first-year college students struggle with writing essays.

The failure of students to understand the contents of the reading text will have an impact on their success in paraphrasing. It is hoped that the teaching staff will later determine the level of difficulty of the reading text that will be paraphrased.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of this study indicated that the students of the Nursing Study Program at STIK Bina Husada Palembang are divided into 2 groups, namely: those who successfully paraphrase and those who fail, however, the limitations of the study should be noticed for further research.

The results of this study have implications for teaching, bearing in mind that there are still students who avoid changing words and sentence structures when paraphrasing, this is due to limited vocabulary in making effective paraphrasing.

## **FURTHER STUDY**

This research is still far from perfect, further research needs to be done on students' reading comprehension skills to improve the quality of paraphrasing.

## REFERENCES

- Ayulinda. 2009. Parafrese. <http://ayulinda.parafresa.blogspot.com/parafresa>  
Accessed on May 2nd, 2003.
- Alwasilah, A. C dan Alwasilah, S. S, (2005). Pokoknya Menulis. Bandung:Yrama Widya.
- Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia. 1996. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- Kalikorha, C., Strauss, P., & Smedley, F. 2009. The perceptions of first-year undergraduate Malawian students of the essay writing process. *Africa Education Review*, 6(1), 37-54.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/18146620902857277>
- Malik, A., Isnaini, C., dan Leo. 2006. Kemahiran Menulis. UNRI Press, Pekanbaru
- Rahul Bhagat, Eduard Hovy; What Is a Paraphrase?. *Computational Linguistics* 2013; 39 (3): 463-472. Retrieved from <https://direct.mit.edu/coli/article/39/3/463/1434/What-Is-a-Paraphrase>.
- Shi,1. 2004. Textual borrowing in second-language writing. *Written Communication*, 21, 171-200