

Comparative Analysis of Thesis Similarity in the Governance Institute of Home Affairs: A Study of Praja from Batches XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX Using Turnitin Software



Analisis Perbandingan Kemiripan Skripsi di Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri: Kajian Praja Angkatan XXVIII, XXIX, dan XXX Menggunakan Software Turnitin

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Abstract

Background: Plagiarism is a significant global issue in academic papers, specifically in higher education. Despite the presence of numerous anti-plagiarism tools, such as Turnitin software, the associated subscription costs remained relatively high. Furthermore, software may not consistently deliver precise results and students exploit the vulnerabilities of students through deceptive tactics. **Objective:** This study aimed to investigate the effects of Turnitin software on the assessment of similarity in theses of praja at the Governance Institute of Home Affairs (IPDN). **Method:** A descriptive qualitative method was used. **Result:** The results showed that use of Turnitin in the library reduced the level of similarity in praja theses by 39.01%, 29.63%, and 36.70% for Batches XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX, respectively. On average, praja required 7-10 check before similarity scores met the requirements. **Conclusion:** Use of Turnitin software at IPDN was very effective, specifically in assessing similarity in theses over the last three years.

Keywords: Academic Integrity; Turnitin Use; Similarity Check; Governance Institute of Home Affairs Praja Theses

Abstrak

Latar Belakang: Plagiarisme adalah masalah global yang signifikan dalam makalah akademis, khususnya di pendidikan tinggi. Meskipun terdapat banyak alat anti-plagiarisme seperti Turnitin, biaya berlangganan terkait masih relatif tinggi. Selain itu, perangkat lunak mungkin tidak secara konsisten memberikan hasil yang tepat dan siswa mengeksploitasi kerentanan siswa melalui taktik yang menipu. **Tujuan:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh software Turnitin terhadap penilaian kesamaan skripsi praja di Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri (IPDN). **Metode:** Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. **Hasil:** Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan Turnitin di perpustakaan menurunkan tingkat kemiripan praja skripsi masing-masing sebesar 39,01%, 29,63%, dan 36,70% untuk Angkatan XXVIII, XXIX, dan XXX. Rata-rata, praja memerlukan 7-10 pemeriksaan sebelum skor kemiripan memenuhi persyaratan. **Kesimpulan:** Penggunaan software Turnitin di IPDN sangat efektif, khususnya dalam menilai kesamaan skripsi selama tiga tahun terakhir.

Kata kunci: Integritas akademik; Penggunaan Turnitin; Pemeriksaan Kesamaan; Skripsi Praja Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri

I. INTRODUCTION

Background. The field of education is characterized by continual progress and constant innovation. This advancement is exemplified by the proliferation of original and exceptional scholarly writings, which are the results of new studies or unpublished thoughts. The writings are produced from a wellspring of creativity and originality, cultivated through rigorous study and thoughtful contemplation. These include academic articles, papers, theses, dissertations, or books discussing new and unique studies or thoughts. Furthermore, the writings are a product of personal creativity and originality and do not infringe on copyright or commit plagiarism. In the precincts of academic field, the contributions are highly regarded and hold a distinguished status in increasing knowledge (Mahyuni, 2021). However, it is essential to directly or indirectly consider established theories, ideas, and concepts from existing sources, when composing scholarly works. To avoid violating academic writing norms, citations should be accompanied by proper references. This violation is commonly referred to as plagiarism, signifying the act of intentionally or unintentionally reproducing another work without proper attribution.

Plagiarism is a matter of serious concern due to its implications for academic integrity and educational accomplishments. The act manifests in various forms, including the direct replication of text, the subtle manipulation of texts while retaining another person's ideas, or use of another work without proper attribution. Additionally, instances of unintentional plagiarism may transpire when individuals are unfamiliar with the protocols for citing sources appropriately. The effects on education are detrimental, including compromising academic integrity, reducing an individual's academic achievements, and tarnishing the reputation of others. These extend beyond the individual, adversely affecting educational institutions and learning quality. To prevent plagiarism, teachers, professors, and educational institutions need to ensure that students understand the definition and consequences. Some methods to prevent the act include providing education on copyright and proper source citation, using software like Turnitin to check content originality, and imposing strict penalties. Plagiarism level varies depending on academic culture and the cultural respect for copyright. However, in recent years, the act has become a major concern for many educational institutions and the government. Some universities in Indonesia have implemented software like Turnitin to check the content originality in assignments and theses. To address the issue, the government has also issued copyright regulations and imposed sanctions on violators (Ministry of Education Regulation No. 17 of 2010 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Plagiarism in Higher Education). Additionally, Copyright Law No. 28 of 2014, Article 40, paragraph (1), explains the protected creations in science, art, and literature, consisting of 19 points for books, scholarly works, and other written creations.

Numerous open-source applications aimed at augmenting the originality of scholarly work are produced as a direct result of the advancements in the fields of science and technology. Among these software solutions are prominent names such as Plagiarium, Viper, and their analogous counterparts. John Barrie developed Turnitin while working as a professor at the University of Berkeley, California. Barrie introduced software in 1997 to help educators check the originality of their students' scholarly works. This has evolved into a prominent technology company and is globally renowned as the foremost plagiarism detection application, pioneered by iParadigms, LLC. Furthermore, iParadigms, LLC was established in 1999, with its headquarters located in Oakland, California, United States. The software serves as the flagship offering from iParadigms and has garnered widespread preference for verifying the originality of their scholarly works. iParadigms has also

ventured into the development of other products, including WriteCheck and iThenticate. The software focuses on anti-plagiarism technology development and promotes academic integrity and creativity. Despite the proliferation of numerous competing applications, Turnitin has consistently gained popularity. Software remains highly regarded for its capacity to facilitate comparisons across diverse sources and provide insights into areas of text requiring revision.

Turnitin is connected to over one million universities and 20 million students in 126 countries, with an additional database of 250 million scholarly works. A total of 190,000 new titles are added to the scholarly work database daily. The statistics collected from the service have permission to access 24 billion internet domains. This expertise can assist educators in assessing the originality of students' work, specifically when checking for similarity (Brennan, 2015). Moreover, it serves the purpose of imparting an understanding of the correct procedures for citation and source acquisition (Indriati, 2016). There are several tools available in Turnitin application to assist students and lecturers in improving the quality of scholarly works and preventing plagiarism. These tools include the Originality Report, Similarity Report, GradeMark, QuickMarks, Bubble Comments, Inline Text Comments, ETS e-rater Marks, Strikethrough Marks, Grading Form Marks, and Peer Reviews Created (Napitupulu et al., 2020). Turnitin is used as an educational tool to enhance the quality of learning and academic outcomes, including preventing plagiarism, assessing the writing quality, and improving learning (Afwadzi et al., 2022). Meanwhile, web-based application detection is more effective than manual methods (Pambayun, 2018). This is because a score is used to measure similarity level between the submitted document and sources available in the database. The score is provided as a percentage, with a score of 100% indicating that the document is identical to other available sources (Sagita Putri, 2020).

Currently, universities can use Turnitin by paying an annual subscription fee. This software offers various subscription packages designed to meet the needs of different schools, universities, and companies. The subscriptions can range from a few hundred per year for small schools or universities to thousands of dollars for large universities or big corporations. These fees include access to the features and services, such as anti-plagiarism check, feedback, and accessible user accounts. Governance Institute of Home Affairs (IPDN) subscribed to Turnitin in 2013, with the Library as the leading sector in similarity check. In 2013, only a limited number of lecturers used software to evaluate the assignments of praja, including the examination of theses, and this process lacked comprehensiveness. However, Turnitin became an integral tool for scrutinizing praja theses without any exceptions. From 2016 to 2020, the examination was conducted with similarity threshold not exceeding or equal to 40%, based on the Circular Letter from the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. The Rector's Decree No. 7 of 2021 on the Applied Bachelor Degree Theses Writing shows that praja at the final level of bachelor degree programs should ensure the similarity check for their theses does not exceed 30%.

Problems. The proliferation of plagiarism cases in scholarly work creation, specifically in higher education institutions, has become a national issue. The advancement of information technology and easy access to millions of freely available information on the internet has made it easier for praja to engage in copy-paste practices when creating scholarly papers. Turnitin has become increasingly popular as an anti-plagiarism tool in Indonesia, but the subscription cost is considered relatively high. Furthermore, universities with limited budgets may need help paying the annual subscription fee. The subscription at IPDN provides limited user access, with only 1,000 student accounts. The

number of praja can reach up to 2,000 in certain batches, which becomes a challenge for the IPDN Library.

The results of Turnitin are not entirely accurate even though software can detect plagiarism. The software has the potential to erroneously identify certain sections as plagiarism and may fail to detect substantial content alterations. Additionally, it may not always distinguish between properly cited text and plagiarism. Software primarily focuses on the proportion of text similarity rather than enhancing users' writing skills. Turnitin compares uploaded content with an extensive database containing papers, journals, websites, and other materials. Plagiarized material may go undetected when excluded from the database.

Another pertinent concern pertains to the substantial dependence of Turnitin on internet speed. In cases where a university is constrained by inadequate bandwidth, software may experience reduced efficiency due to slow loading times. Additionally, Turnitin does not possess the capability to identify image files in JPG or PNG formats and the availability of online resources to circumvent plagiarism check has led certain individuals to select these methods.

Previous Literature Review. This study on Turnitin is grounded in a well-established body of prior results. Furthermore, it draws inspiration from several antecedents, including the investigation conducted by Alua et al., on students' comprehension of plagiarism. The study assessed the influence of anti-plagiarism software on the development of academic writing skills using a survey-based methodology (Alua et al., 2023). A subsequent analysis by Suwondo focused on the patterns of use among academic community at Diponegoro University using a descriptive qualitative method. The results showed that the number of scholarly papers uploaded to Turnitin had significantly increased over the years with a decreasing similarity percentage. Users often use the filter menu available in software (Suwondo et al., 2022). A similar study on the analysis of written work plagiarism among students was conducted at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Riau, using a qualitative method (Hasan, 2021). Furthermore, another result on use of plagiarism detection systems using turnitin® in student journals at Dian Nuswantoro University was conducted by Manunggal and Christiani in 2018 (Manunggal & Christiani, 2018). Lidwan et al. also examined the role of the tool in promoting high-quality scholarly work using a similar qualitative method (Lidwan et al., 2022). Arce's study was focused on use of software to identify essays written with artificial intelligence tools using an essay-based method (Arce, 2023).

Wajnah et al. conducted a study related to the role of Turnitin in promoting high-quality scholarly work through Zoom-based delivery methods (Basiran et al., 2023), Muslim et al. on training in preparing plagiarism-free scholarly works (Muslim et al., 2022), and the socialization of the application usage among faculty members (Manullang et al., 2021) focused on effective plagiarism avoidance methods, with the tools being introduced as a prevention measure. The latest study by Nketsiah through a survey method found a significant relationship between students' perception of plagiarism and use of Turnitin (Nketsiah et al., 2023).

State of The Art. This study is both intriguing and distinct from previous results. Furthermore, there has been an absence of studies focusing on the use of Turnitin for the evaluation of scholarly contributions. IPDN praja possess characteristics that are quite different from students at other universities. They are educated in a full boarding school environment, exhibit high discipline, and tend to be reluctant to violate institutional rules, including plagiarism, categorized as a serious offense with consequences such as dismissal and the termination of their candidacy as future civil servants.

Purpose. Use of Turnitin to check similarity of praja theses at IPDN is important. Therefore, this study serves as a valuable source of learning for higher education institutions in Indonesia and other parts of the world, particularly those with boarding school student characteristics.

II. METHODS

A qualitative descriptive method was used with a case study model. Furthermore, the field study was conducted over approximately 6 months, from January to June 2023, including a total of 3 librarians serving as Turnitin administrators and 10 praja who were specifically selected. The data collection procedure was carried out through interviews. Meanwhile, the selection criteria for key informants from the internal group were based on their experience of approximately 5 years as Turnitin administrators at the IPDN Library, controlling the account management of lecturers, similarity check, and reporting. External informants were randomly sampled from the number of praja who conducted Turnitin check at the IPDN Library. The observations were conducted in a participatory manner, with direct inclusion of the individuals under scrutiny or their use as sources of data for the studies. Document collection was used as a supplementary method for gathering data on use of software (Miller & Brewer, 2003). The collected data were analyzed narratively, including an understanding of the stories or narratives. The patterns and narratives were also synthesized and identified (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015).

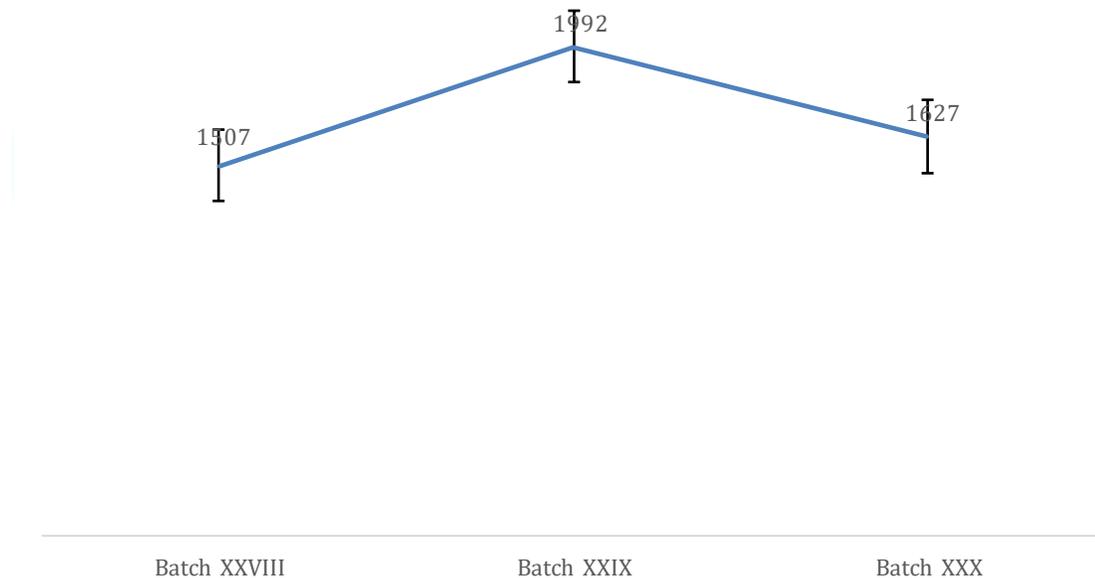
III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Turnitin Use at IPDN. This study focuses on Turnitin use for similarity check of praja theses from Batches XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX at IPDN. Similarity check is carried out on the mandate of Rector Regulation No. 7 of 2021, Article 15, point 1, letter b. Technically, this is regulated based on a Letter from the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, where praja independently perform check in training and final classes prepared by the library and connected to the IPDN Library's Turnitin account. Use of one account per praja class is a solution to address the shortage of student accounts subscribed by IPDN. The subscription is limited to a maximum of 1,000 student accounts per year, while the number of praja served exceeds 5,000 (Pambayun, Personal Communication, 2022). In the training classes, praja have the autonomy to perform check independently, with monitoring carried out through the IPDN Library's account. Additionally, they can view similarity percentages and download the examination result files before revising using the same technical procedure. Concerning the final full-text thesis examination, praja can only upload the file for library staff or librarians to validate the results. Therefore, praja whose work is deemed unsatisfactory do not receive validation, which is a requirement for the issuance of the Certificate of Library Clearance from the IPDN Library. During theses exam, certain examination concessions are granted, such as tolerance for direct quotations, using reference management tools for bibliography, and sentences or phrases detected as similar for less than 15 words.

To achieve a similarity percentage of less than or equal to 30%, praja are motivated to use Turnitin from the proposal preparation stage (Rahmadanita, Personal Communication, 2022). In addition to providing accounts to the lecturers, the IPDN Library also grants training class accounts for up to 7 classes, ranging from Training Class 1 to 7. Praja can view the results and make improvements at every thesis guidance session, conducting Turnitin check repeatedly. This differs from the final class, where submissions are only assessed by librarians. Similarity results in the training classes compared to the final theses (the last class to submit), which are directly checked by library staff or librarians, are one of the requirements for obtaining the Certificate of Library Clearance from the IPDN Library. The number of praja from these three batches is depicted in the following Figure 1.

Figure 1.

The examination of thesis similarity is mandated for praja hailing from Batches XXVII (graduated in 2021), XXIX (graduated in 2022), and XXX (graduated in 2023).

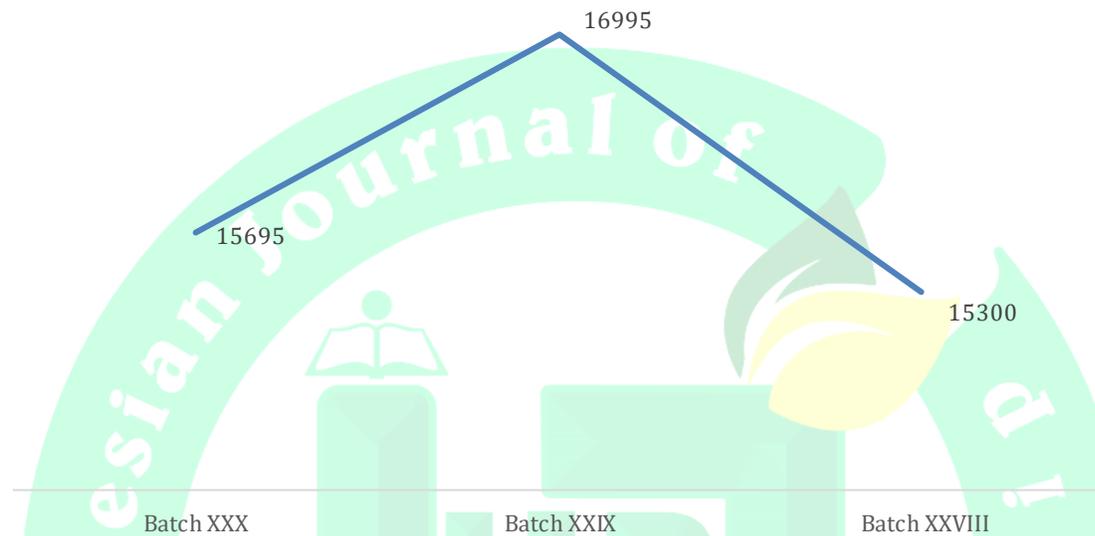


Source: IPDN's Praja Affairs Section, 2022

All praja, including Batch XXVIII (praja who graduated in 2021), XXIX (graduated in 2022), and XXX (graduated in 2023) were subjected to similarity check without exception. Batch XXIX had the most significant number of praja in the last three years. In 2022, the librarians extended their working hours to accommodate the individualized examination of theses, a task exacerbated by the simultaneous graduation of praja from the same batch, which resulted in a condensed assessment period. Additionally, similarity check was conducted for all praja per batch through the IPDN Library's accounts, with a total of 47,690 files successfully checked, as depicted in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2.

Number of Submissions by praja from Batches XXVII, XXIX, and XXX at IPDN.



Source: IPDN Turnitin Statistical Data, 2023

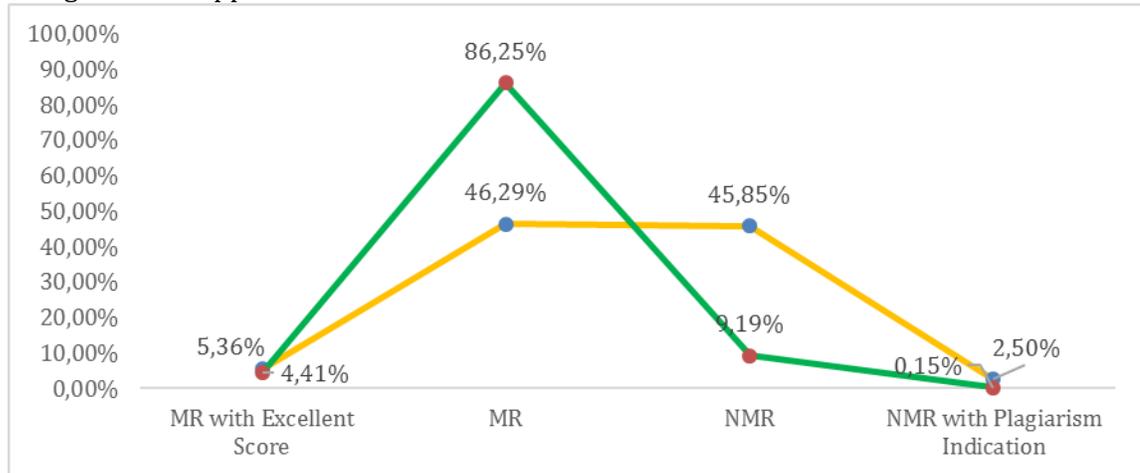
Based on Figure 2, Batch XXVIII submitted a total of 15,300 files to Turnitin, with 1,507 praja. Therefore, the praja were subjected to similarity check approximately 10 times each through class accounts or directly checked by IPDN librarians. For Batch XXIX, there were approximately 16,995 submissions, averaging around 8 per praja. Batch XXX with 1,627 praja and 15,695 files averaged 9-10 similarity check per praja. Figure 2 reported that Prajas' theses were checked multiple times and were subjected to revisions several times.

In this study, the results of Batches XXVII, XXIX, and XXX were compared with the initial and final similarity check using Turnitin conducted by IPDN Library. This comparison gained a general overview of similarity application benefits in checking Prajas' theses over the past 3 years, particularly by analyzing the indicator of the decrease in similarity percentage.

The interviews with the Head of the IPDN Library divided Turnitin similarity check results into 4 categories, including Low (with the predicate **MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS WITH A EXCELLENT SCORE**, which means a percentage below 20%), Average (With the predicate **MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS**, with similarity percentage between 20% to 30%), High (with the predicate **DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS**, with similarity percentage between 30% to 70%), and Very High Similarity (with the predicate **DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS WITH A HIGH PLAGIARISM INDICATION**, which means similarity percentage of more than 70%) (Pambayun, Personal Communication, 2022).

The results can be depicted by comparing the initial and final similarity check results for Batch XXVIII, as shown in the following Figure.

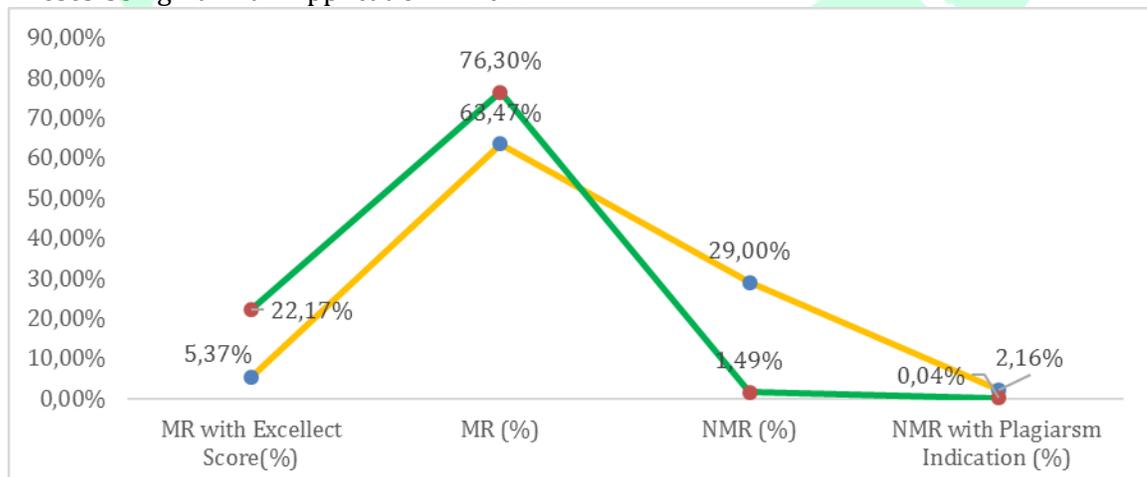
Figure 3.
Percentage Comparison of Initial and Final Similarity Check Results for Praja Batch XXVIII Using Turnitin Application in 2021



Source: IPDN Turnitin Statistical Data, 2023

Figure 3 shows that the percentage of those who meet the requirement (MR) in the initial similarity check for Batch XXVIII (who had not conducted Turnitin check before) was 51.65% (while those who did not meet the requirement were 48.35%). In the final similarity check, after praaja made several improvements, a result of 90.66% was obtained, with those who did not meet the requirement (NMR) within the specified time being 9.37%. The cumulative results indicate a significant improvement between the initial and final similarity check, amounting to 39.01%.

Figure 4.
Percentage Comparison of Initial and Final Similarity Check Results for the Batch XXIX Theses Using Turnitin Application in 2022

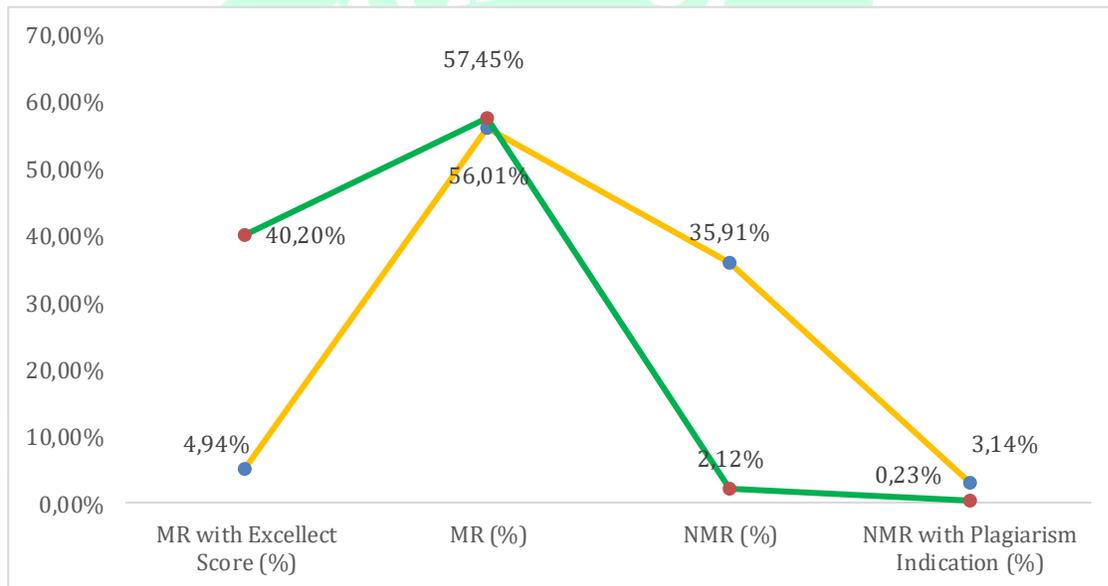


Source: IPDN Turnitin Statistical Data, 2023

Figure 4 shows that the percentage of those who meet the requirement in the initial similarity check for the Batch XXIX theses was 68.84%, while those who did not meet the requirement were 46.90%. In the final check, after praja made several revisions, 98.47% was obtained, with those who did not meet the requirement being 1.52%. The cumulative results indicate a significant improvement between the initial and final similarity check, amounting to 29.63%.

Figure 5.

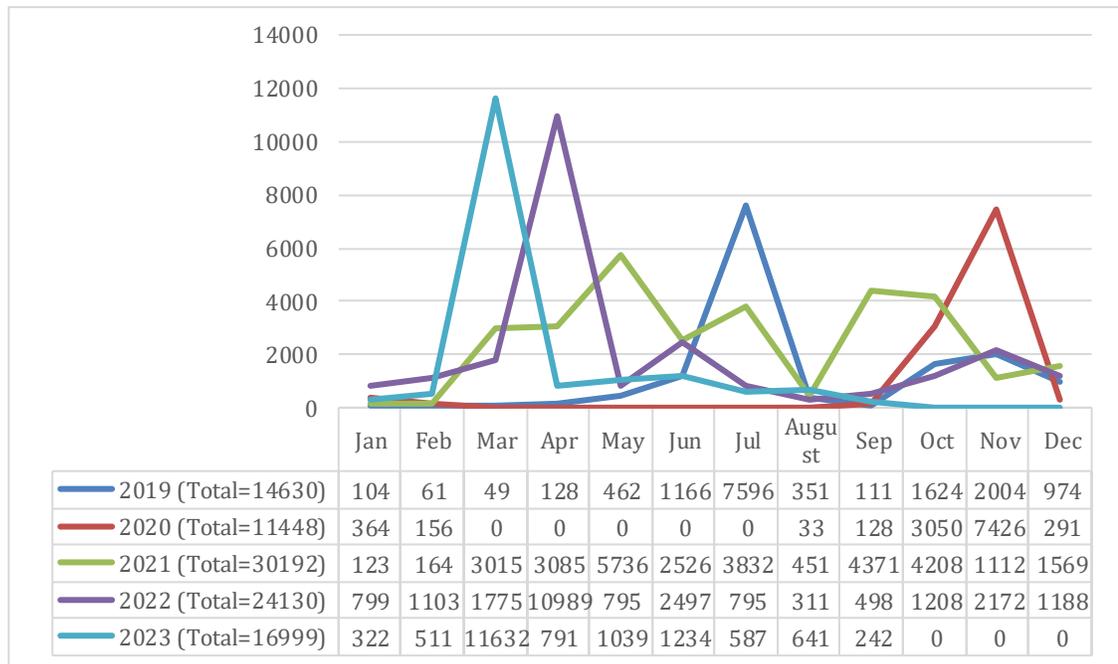
Percentage Comparison of Initial and Final Similarity Check Results for the Batch XXX Theses Using Turnitin Application in 2023



Source: IPDN Turnitin Statistical Data, 2023

Figure 5 shows that the percentage to meet the requirement in the initial similarity check for batch XXX theses was 60.95%, while those who failed to meet the requirement were 39.05%. After several improvements in the final similarity check, 97.65% was obtained, and those who did not meet the requirement were 2.35%. The cumulative results indicated a significant improvement between the initial and final similarity check, amounting to 36.70%. Turnitin use advanced algorithms to check for similarity between written work and other sources. The work contained plagiarism elements even with a low similarity score (Pambayun, Personal Communication, 2023). Therefore, lecturers and librarians encouraged praja to paraphrase and cite sources correctly. A high similarity score did not always mean that the work contained plagiarism. Other factors, such as proper citation usage and correct bibliography also influenced similarity score. Consequently, the written work was expected to meet academic ethical standards and not violate copyright laws.

Figure 6.
Total Turnitin Use at IPDN in the Last 5 Years (2019-2023)



Source: IPDN Turnitin Statistical Data, 2023

The highest number of Turnitin check was in 2021, reaching 30,192 files, while the lowest was in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The services were not available because the budget was allocated for the COVID-19 response from March to July 2020. Therefore, praja graduating in June 2020 during the pandemic were not required to conduct Turnitin check as a graduation requirement. In 2021, there was more check due to the mandate before the comprehensive exams, unlike the policies in previous and subsequent years (Pambayun, Personal Communication, 2023). Furthermore, 2022 became the second-highest year for check, with a total of 24,130, even though mandatory check in the library were only conducted once before the comprehensive exams. This was because the praja graduating, known as Batch XXIX, had the highest number in the last 5 years, totaling 1,992 praja. The highest number of check in 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 occurred from March to July because these months preceded the comprehensive exam sessions before graduation. In 2020, the highest number was in November because a preliminary check was conducted for these proposals submitted by praja to be graduated in the following year.

Discussion of Research Findings. This study found that Turnitin check over the past 3 years reduced similarity rates of theses by 39.01%, 29.63%, and 36.70% for Batch XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX, respectively. Software contributed to improving the quality of praja's theses, as indicated by the decreasing similarity rates. In addition, the results were consistent with the results of Ismail and Jabri, which showed an 18.81% decrease in the average plagiarism rate (Ismail & Jabri, 2023). The reduction observed was quite significant, considering that IPDN's similarity check system allows for tolerances of less than 15 words, excluding small words. This decrease occurred during the study and thesis supervision period, which lasted approximately 6 months, starting from the initial Turnitin

check. On average, praja used the student account provided by the IPDN Library to check their work approximately 7 to 10 times until their results met the requirements specified in the regulations and the requirement for issuing the Certificate of Library Clearance. Turnitin compared texts with millions of other sources on the internet and public databases to determine similarity after submitting the manuscript. Consequently, many lecturers find detecting plagiarism in their students' work increasingly challenging. Greater difficulties were experienced after the development of AI technologies that facilitated writing and made plagiarism almost undetectable. Turnitin could only detect AI-assisted articles written in English, while those in Indonesian were not subject to the same scrutiny. This was consistent with the results of Arce, where AI made it more challenging to determine the originality of their students' work (Arce, 2023).

According to Manunggal & Christiani, Turnitin at IPDN is carried out through 3 methods, namely independently (through class accounts), direct check by library personnel at IPDN, and direct check performed by the supervising lecturers (Manunggal & Christiani, 2018). Turnitin has a significant impact as an institutional strategy to reduce similarity of praja's theses in line with Dawson et al., where software may be an effective component of institutional strategies to address contract cheating (Dawson et al., 2020). The library plays a crucial role in promoting academic integrity, and Turnitin use positively influences writing (Alua et al., 2023). Similarly, at IPDN, the primary component of plagiarism check is located in the IPDN Library. Antoroputri's study in the Faculty of Computer Science at Brawijaya University showed that Turnitin was often seen as a plagiarism detection tool required for completion and registration for thesis seminars. Consequently, students are more focused on achieving a low plagiarism percentage than on their work quality. This indicates that quantity can be prioritized over quality (Antoroputri et al., 2022). A similar situation is observed at IPDN, prompting the establishment of specific guidelines for similarity check. These guidelines include certain provisions, such as the exclusion of similarity comprising fewer than 15 words to streamline the process for praja. Conversely, Lidwan et al. found that Turnitin encouraged students to develop the analysis and discussion of their work, reducing elements of plagiarism and promoting the creation of high-quality scholarly work (Lidwan et al., 2022).

Discussion of Other Interesting Findings. The results of Turnitin similarity check have become one of the graduation requirements for final-year praja in several universities, including IPDN. Regardless of the technological advancements, there are inherent strengths and weaknesses. Users at IPDN have indeed experienced several advantages, such as the reduction of plagiarism by validating the originality of works and lowering the rate. Furthermore, the technology streamlines the process of assessing praja's work by furnishing easily comprehensible reports and facilitating comparisons with external sources. Software can be easily integrated with Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Blackboard, Canvas, and Moodle, facilitating teaching and learning. Due to the limitations of accounts, Turnitin can only be applied to a limited number of praja and has not been implemented for all at IPDN. It assists individuals in comprehending the correct citation and sourcing methods, which are integral to the processes of learning and instruction. Software furnishes comprehensive originality reports, elucidating the praja's work with external sources and fosters the cultivation of essential soft skills, such as critical thinking and citations and sourcing methods (Pambayun, Personnal Communication, 2023).

Turnitin also has many shortcomings, including having a powerful scanning system, but making mistakes and identifying original work as plagiarism. Researchers agree with Pambayun's findings that similarity test proportional are through software check combined with manual examination to minimize system error software (Pambayun, 2018). Turnitin also can be expensive for some schools and universities, specifically those with limited education budgets. In addition, it can only scan text already in the database, meaning newly plagiarized works are undetected. Since Turnitin only verifies originality, lecturers need to carefully check the work using a manual method (Pambayun, Personal Communication, 2023).

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Turnitin used at IPDN over the past 3 years was very effective, specifically in the context of checking similarity of batches XXVII, XXIX, and XXX at IPDN, with the leading sector conducted by the IPDN Library. The mandatory theses similarity check using Turnitin tools and subsequent revisions carried out approximately 7-10 times significantly reduced similarity rates, with fantastic results of 39.01%, 29.63%, and 36.70% for Batches XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX. Similarity scores should not be used as the sole indicator of the originality of a scholarly work. Therefore, repeated check by supervisors or library examiners were necessary and low similarity scores did not indicate high-quality work. Institutions should have refrained from implementing policies that exclusively prioritized reducing similarity scores, without evaluating the quality of the content.

Praja at IPDN were required to make different efforts to address plagiarism check. These efforts included using legitimate and reliable sources, such as journals and reference books, effectively paraphrasing content, correctly applying citations, and constructing accurate bibliographies. Additionally, praja were expected to produce original written work, incorporating unique analysis, and to refrain from using deceptive tactics to circumvent plagiarism check.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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