

The Philosophical Thinking which is about the Information Pollution — — The visual Angle is Academic Cheating †

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Abstract: At present, information pollution is becoming more and more serious. Among them, the false information produced by the academic cheating is the worst. The philosophical roots of academic cheating has three: It is contrary to the principle of good faith; The pursuit of individual interests is too much to deviate from the academic value; For being out of the basis which include the free information and self information, the new information of scientific innovation is pseudo regeneration information essentially.

Key words: Pollution; Academic cheating; Morals; Value; Information

1. Information Pollution

Information world has been polluted seriously. If the sources of pollution are confined to the range of unvaluable or erroneous information, which is narrow sense information pollution. Among them, information garbage has more kinds. Information garbage includes redundant information, obscene information, false information, distortion information, wrong information, outdated information, etc. Among them, the content of redundant information and outdated information has no additional harm; Obscene information has been highly regarded by society; False information, distorted information and wrong information are untrue information, but there are some differences between them essentially: false information is caused by somebody intentionally, distorted information and wrong information are often caused by objective factors. Therefore, the key point of purifying information ecology should be false information, and one of the sources of false information is academic cheating.

2. Academic Cheating

2.1. The Connotation of Academic Cheating

The meaning of academic cheating is the fraudulent practices in the process of research, and some false information is contained in the results.

2.1.1. Copy and Plagiarism

The meaning of copy and plagiarism is taking other's results for granted. Among them, copy is using the whole or part of the results of others, and do not indicate the source. Obviously, copy is the most direct occupation, and most likely to be found. therefore, the phenomenon of copy in large units is becoming less and less, but the copy in small units is difficult to be found, and has turned into a form of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a more subtle form of copy, that is, by changing the outside only, some one misappropriation of other people's ideas, language as their own achievements, and do not indicate the source. So the plagiarism is

cryptic stealing and an upgraded version of copy, and it's hard for us to find an effective way to deal with it. Hence, the plagiarism is not only a major "landscape" in the academic field, and it will last for a long time.

2.1.2. Counterfeit

The meaning of counterfeit is fabrication or tampering in the process of academic research, and one of the most common is the falsification of data, especially in the field of natural science. For example, some scientists assume the desired conclusion firstly, then deduce the ideal data, and tamper with the raw data, modify and select it further, or even invent new data. Besides, fabricating scientific facts is more common too. For example, at 1970s, researchers at the Sloan Caitlin Institute for cancer research in the United States painted skin white mice with black to prove the experiment was successful.

2.2. The Harm of Academic Cheating

The production of copy and plagiarism is redundant information virtually, which affects the amount of pollution source, and has relatively small destruction; The production of counterfeit is false information, which affects the quality of pollution source, and is of destructive mostly. In the progress of natural science, the descendants of the results are based on previous knowledge, and the sharing degree of knowledge of natural science is also the highest. hence, if false information appears in the field of natural science, it's harm will become more prominent.

Supposing that one scientist counterfeits one information X, so the number of scientists which researching on the base of X may be N at the same time, and all these scientists need some expense to buy equipment, materials and so on. The best result of which is that, over a period of researching, as one of these scientists, scientist A has found the researching failed to be pushed forward, and the root cause is the problematic X, and promptly announced his doubts, and the rest scientists, which amount is N - 1, obtained the information of scientist A for the first time and stopped using X. But now, valuable time and a lot of money of all these scientists have been wasted.

The worse results are: (1) Scientist A find the research could not be pushed forward, and abandoned the research, and the result of which is that, waiting the presence of scientist B, who has found and announced the problematic X; (2) All of these scientists have abandoned research in this field, but they neither questioned X or published the results of the query. The sad thing of which is that, although a large number of cost has been paid, but the false information X is not exposed, and more scientists which are not belong to the number of N will be harmed by X still; (3) In the process of research which done by these scientists, X does not stop research, the only effect is the accuracy of the results. Although the development of natural science has the mechanism of self correction, it does not mean correction timely. In this way, this error may be passed on from generation to generation, and the number of scientists which be affected is several times of N.

3. Philosophical Reflection on Academic Cheating

3.1. Morality

The basic meaning of morality is the principle of being responsible for things and not harming others. It represents the positive value orientation of society. And one kind of moral standard which are the most universal and primordial is the integrity, its basic request is the information reality, and doing not deceit. As academic is the essence of culture and the soul of supporting the healthy development of society, scholars should be the banner of the ideological field, act as a model in the field of morality, and do things according to facts. In addition: (1) Only honesty can make academic innovations, especially in the field of natural science; (2) The high degree of professionalism in the academic field makes scientists more likely to be good caregivers of advanced learning. However, academic cheating violates the internal requirements of academia, and lose the integrity too.

3.2. Values

The values is people's overall view of things, which includes: (1) Value orientation, value pursuit, and condense into a certain value goal; (2) The criterion of value, which can be used to judge whether something has value or not, and to judge it is honor or shame. Because the correct goal of academic research is the pursuit of truth and the sense of responsibility to society, the basic orientation of academic value should be academic. However, the academic goal does not exclude other objects of the subject, especially in the contemporary era of academic professionalism, and academic people should receive various reports such as wages, bonuses and so on. Of course, academic goals is fundamental and personal goals are subordinate. However, in reality, some academic people pay more attention to self-worth, which makes academic goal becomes a tool for themselves to get personal goals contrarily. Especially for some others made false achievements for personal goals, and completely deviated from their academic goals.

3.3. Information

According to the theory of information philosopher Kun Wu^[1], information is the philosophical category of indirect existence of signs, and is the self display of the existence and the state of matter (direct existence), and which include: (1) Free information is the sign of objective and indirect existence, and the original form of information that has not yet been recognized by the subject; (2) Self information is the primary form of subjective indirect existence, it is the free information that the subject intuitively grasps; (3) Regeneration information is the advanced form of subjective indirect existence, the creation of information subject and the conscious activity of human being. Among them, the free information is the source of self information, and the self information is the basis of the regeneration information. The mission of natural science is to transform free information into self information, and then change it to regeneration information. Therefore, in the final analysis, the new information of scientific innovation is the regeneration information, and which is obtained by the thinking of scientists. Among this process, the free information is the object, Self information is the intermediary.

References

- [1] Kun Wu. *Information Philosophy*. commercial press: Beijing, China, 2005; pp. 47-57.