

Linguistic analysis of the citation styles used in the theses of linguistics and literature

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to analyze the citation styles. Citations are the most important part of research works and very helpful in finding the original sources of the cited works. There are different citation styles which are used in research works such as Chicago, APA, and MLA. The purpose of the study was to analyze the citation styles whether they are being used accordingly or not. The researchers wanted to explore that to what extent these styles had been used accordingly in the previous theses of M. Phil Linguistics and Literature of a public sector university. The study was an attempt to know the difficulties which became the main cause of incorrect use of citation styles. It was a mixed study in nature i.e. quantitative and qualitative. The research tools for the present study were questionnaire and content analysis. The researcher developed a questionnaire consisting of 47 items including 3 open ended questions. Quantitative data was analyzed in SPSS while content analysis by theses reading. The researcher selected research participants of English department of a public sector university for quantitative study while theses of the same department for the content analysis randomly. The findings show that majority of the respondents do not give any importance to the citation styles. They lack proper understanding of citation styles and consequently face much difficulty in using correct citations in their research drafts.

Keywords: Citation styles, APA, MLA, Chicago, research techniques, use of references, writing skills

1. Introduction

There are over 100 citation styles but some have achieved important place in the field of research such as Chicago/Turabian, American Psychological Association (APA), and Modern Language Association (MLA). These styles are frequently used in social sciences. We usually use APA in Linguistics and MLA in Literature. The researcher's focus is on MLA and APA. Due to lack of knowledge and citation practice, university scholars mingle these styles in one work. Citation is the soul of research procedure. As research is important in the field of education similarly citation is also necessary for research. Without proper use of citation a scholar cannot achieve success in his/her research project. In the beginning, there was not a proper system of citation. With the passage of time as the other world has grown up, citation and its styles have also grown up. There are a number of variations and modifications in citation styles. The study of citation analysis gives interested and valuable information (Harwood, 2009) ^[11].

A citation is a way to tell others about the cited works. It is the way of giving credit to others. It also provides necessary information to the readers to find out the sources again. Citation is the only way to protect the scholar from the charge of plagiarism. It is the source of giving strength to scholar's works. Without citation it seems that someone's work is not original. They have used citation analysis for different type of works. They have done citation practices in humanities and other subjects to show the particular characteristics of citation, such as they cited monographs and other book format resources (Nolen & Richardson, 2016) ^[16].

Thompson (2002) ^[20] citation is considered as the backbone of research. Without the correct use of citation, research objectives cannot be achieved. If a scholar does not use

citation or use it incorrectly, he or she can be charged of plagiarism. Scholars quote others' works to strengthen their own work because without the use of citation a work is seemed as not original. So, quotations are not possible without the correct use of citation and its styles. Researchers are studying the citation patterns of humanities but there is a clear majority of citations in book publications. The most important factor of humanities publications is the wide variation of titles (Collier *et al.*, 1999) ^[4].

There have been conducted a number of studies on citations. Research is considered the other name of intellectuality. It is more important in every field of education. It is the way knowing the hidden things. It was at the beginning when the importance of research was increasing among research scholars. They began to take interest in the field of research. It was in no time when there were a number of scholars and research discoveries. At that time there was a problem of quotation and crediting to others. There was not any proper way to cite and credit others. There was a need of such tool through which these problems could be solved. The issues of acknowledging the original work had flourished. In order to solve this problem some intellectuals sat together to discuss the problem under the supervision of National Research Council (NRC). The intellectuals introduced citation and its styles with simple rules of quotation. They found a way of crediting others works. The experts developed the crediting sources such as citation styles. Citation studies of the marvelous articles have encouraged the subsequent literature. These studies illustrate the importance of citation. Landmark articles influence the subsequent literature in every discipline (Quental & Lourenco, 2011; Zhou, Zinf, Liu, & Xing, 2014) ^[17, 24].

A citation is a reference to a published or unpublished source. It has several important purposes, to upload

intellectuals' honesty or avoiding plagiarism. It is considered the backbone of research. There are a number of intellectuals who did marvelous researches in their fields. So, citation is the only way to give them tribute for their diligent works. Our legend researchers have done unique researches in their respective fields. The upcoming researchers will take a lot of benefits from their discoveries. So, old researchers have done their best. It is necessary to give them tribute by citing their works with proper citations. Research is the foundation of every subject. It has developed with the passage of time. Research culture has spread all over the world. Citation and its styles are also the part of this culture. Now, the use of citation and its styles is very common in every field of education all over the world. It is considered as the certificate of the original work. Any work without citation is considered not original. Research works are not valuable without citations. Citation is the tool of good quality of research work. The citation behavior of experts and students has been explored in different studies; the doctoral students' citation behavior is not investigated (Fazel & She, 2015) ^[8].

1.1 Statement of the problem

Most of the scholars of English discipline of universities do not give much importance to the citation styles. They do not read the concerned citation style manuals before working on their dissertations. For the correct use of citations it is necessary to read carefully citation style books. The scholars of English discipline do not know the correct use of citation styles. They use citation styles incorrectly and mingle different styles in one work. They do not have the sufficient knowledge of APA and MLA citation styles. They do not cite according to the APA and MLA manuals in Linguistics and Literature dissertations. There are big gaps between actual desired levels of citation styles. Their citations and references are not given accordingly in dissertations. The incorrect use of citation styles creates an uncertainty for readers. The main purpose of citation is to provide accurate information to the readers. But the incorrect use of citations does not provide the required information to the readers. The purpose of citation is to provide useful information and source to the readers. But the incorrect use of citation is not helpful for the readers. The researcher assumes that these gaps can be reduced to a large extent by preparing an easy way of developing understanding about the citation styles.

1.2 Research questions

1. What is the role and scope of citation styles in research writing?
2. What type of citation styles are used in Linguistics and Literature theses at M. Phil level?
3. What are research scholars' perspectives and understanding of APA and MLA citation styles?
4. What are the suitable suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of citation styles during thesis write up?

2. Literature review

Citations are "words or lines taken from a book or a speech" (Turnbull *et al.*, 2010) ^[21]. It is the way of crediting others' works and a source of acknowledging researchers. When a researcher writes a journal or an article he or she needs to quote others' works. It is necessary to cite the intellectuals' previous works. It is the only way to strengthen one's work. Cited research papers, theses, or any piece of writing are

considered genuine works. It is the parameter of quality works. It is a reference to a published or unpublished work. It has many other purposes in the field of research. It also provides a shelter to the researcher to be charged by plagiarism. When a researcher uses some other person's words in his or her work, it is ethically necessary to give credit to the original writer. The process of crediting the original writers is called citation. A citation is a way through which you tell your reader that the specific source is come from some other work. Citation is "an act of quoting" (Mish, 2004) ^[15]. Scientific knowledge is the presentation of researchers' accomplishment. A critical part of the writing is helpful for readers to understand the context.

2.1 The origin of citations

Citation is the most important part of research. It reduces the chances of stealing or plagiarism. The global village has developed only due to the advancement in research. The research field is very vast. So, with the development in research, researchers took more interest in this field. With the rise of researchers and scholars in every field of education, there rose the issue of plagiarism.

To solve the problem of plagiarism scholars and other intellectuals invented citation and its different styles to credit others and reduce the charge of plagiarism. It was in 1929, the psychologists, anthropologists, and business managers sat together for the solution of the quotation problem. They talked on this critical issue and invented citation for crediting sources. This meeting was conducted under supervision of National Research Council (NRC). The member of this group sought a reliable way, a simple set of styles or rules to enhance the importance of reading and writing comprehension. They sought a way to codify the scientific knowledge. The psychologists and other members were not only in the invention of this marvelous thing. There were also other scholars from social science and behavioral sciences and so on (Declene & Fogo, 2012) ^[5].

2.2 When to cite?

Cite others work when you are influenced by their idea, theories, and thought. It is helpful for your own writing. When you quote the work which is done by someone else, it means that you are influenced by that work. When you cite someone's work it means that you have read it yourself. The purpose of citation is to provide a support to your work. The main intention of a scholar behind citation is to get attraction the readers. So, citation is the only way of crediting the original writer. If we do not cite or tell the original writer of some piece of writing, it will be charged with plagiarism. This act will show your bad intentions. There are some reasons to cite:

1. To compromise praise to others 'effort and thoughts, whether you agree with them or not. When you use their arguments, you need to give them tribute by using both quotation marks and citations.
2. To show scholars the resources on which your study is based, or your assumption.
3. To guide readers to the resources you have used so they can inspect it for themselves. Their curiosity might be to check your work, to test it, or simply to discover it further (Lipson, 2011) ^[14].

2.3 The Basics of citation

It is necessary to acknowledge your sources where from you

get. It means that cite your sources properly and honestly. There are different styles of citation and they are used in different subjects. The researcher is bound to use proper citation style in his or her respective subject. To know that which citation style can be used in your specific subject, it is necessary to read the citation guide or consult supervisor. The research supervisor may guide you better about the citation styles. After consulting the supervisor researcher should follow the suggested citation style. There are some citation styles which are used in different fields of education all over the world:

- Chicago (Turabian) is widely used in many fields.
- MLA is used in the humanities.
- APA is widely used in social sciences, education, engineering, and business.
- CSE is used in biological sciences.
- AMA is used in biomedical sciences, medicine, and nursing.
- ACS is used in chemistry.
- AIP is used in physics.
- AMS is used in mathematics and computer sciences.

2.4 What is a citation worth?

Citation is widely used in the field of research and intellectual writings. It is observed that citation trend is increasing rapidly with the passage of time. The universities are intended to make their students research literate in their respective fields of education. The use of citations is valuable for research works. The students who are taking part in research works are very competent and intellectuals. Citation has a worth in the field of research. Citing the works of scholars is considered a value of research paper. A research paper holding a maximum number of citations is a good research paper (Knieval & Kellsey, 2005) ^[12]. The use of citations in research papers and other writings is a positive thing. A research work which contains less or no citations does not have any worth. The use of citations is necessary in research works. Quoting their works is a positive thing for the upcoming researches. Citations are the quality of research works (Diamond, 1986) ^[6].

2.5 Citing unevaluated and unreachable sources

There are a number of citations in researcher works but their quality is not good. Most of citations are not taken from the standard sources. Such type of citations are not helpful rather harmful for readers. Scholars should select an appropriate source for citations. Reliability and quality of the cited works is important. Those citations which are taken from good ways are very helpful and time saving. There is the only safeguard for cited works which is a peer-review procedure. Researchers should follow this process for the quality and safeguard of citations. Through this way, readers can have a good quality of cited works. Citations taken from websites are reasonable but to some extent. Researchers should provide or include reliable websites. The main problem is that, at one side citations are very helpful for researchers and on the other side they create an uncertainty. It is very common for researchers that they quote unpublished papers. Most of the researchers cite house-papers and internet sources in their works. It is not appropriate to cite such kind of sources which are very difficult to find. Authors should cite those sources which can be found easily. Those sources which are taken from the weak sources should not be cited. Such type of sources

creates ambiguity (Knieval & Kellsey, 2012) ^[13].

2.6 Citing without reading and overuse of citations

Scholars cite without reading the original sources or papers. It is very necessary for authors and scholars to read the original sources. This practice is growing rapidly in every field of research. It is very mandatory for the authors and researchers to read and evaluate the sources which they intend to cite. Weak citations are not accepted. Most of the scholars provide a false long list of references to strengthen their works which is not appropriate. There is no need for long list of references. Good quality research papers and books do not contain numerous references. Citations should be given in precise way. Much use of citations can damage the base of the article or any writing (West, Stenius, & Kettunen, 2004) ^[23].

2.7 Chicago (or Turabian) citation style

Chicago is one of the citation styles. It has great importance in the field of research. It is based on a respected Chicago manual of style. This manual is in the fifteenth edition now. It is one of the best citation styles. It is considered as the bible in the field of research and for scholarly works. This style of citation is used frequently in the several fields of education all over the world. Due to the effectiveness and reliability, it has the position of bible in students' research papers and other writings (Eric, 2005) ^[7].

The notes of Chicago style come into two flavors:

- i) A complete first note + short follow-up notes.
- ii) Short notes only + bibliography.

According to Cole and Cole (1967) ^[3] the main purpose of a citation is to credit the sources of others. It is a tribute to the original writers for their contribution. Chicago style gives two types of information to the reader. There is given full information about a book, article, or any other scholarly writing. The subsequent information of the item is briefly given. There is no need of bibliography because all the required information is given. On the other side, there is no full information of the item given in the second note of Chicago. There are given only short notes and full information of the sources is in bibliography. It means that there are three ways to cite any work in Chicago style of citation.

- A. Full first notes.
- B. Short notes.
- C. Bibliographic entries.

There is another style described in Chicago manual which is author-date system. In this style the information is given in parenthesis in the text. This style is similar to APA style in nature (University of Chicago Press, 2010) ^[22].

2.8 MLA citation style for the humanities

MLA citation style is developed by the Modern Language Association. It is one of the important and frequently used citation styles in the field of research. As the researcher has thrown light on the importance of citation styles earlier, it is used in humanities. It does not include any type of footnotes or endnotes. Like other citation styles it also gives in-text information of the sources such as (Richard 103) ^[18]. Full information of the sources is included in bibliography. It tells the important things in-text citations like author, date, and publication data. Bibliography has different names in

different styles of citation. MLA style contains "Work Cited" instead of bibliography. There is an example of a cited book in MLA work cited list. There is a book of Fouad. Ajami. The full information of this book in work cited is like (Ajami, Fouad. *The Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation's Odyssey*. New York: Pantheon, 1998.) In MLA citation titles are given underlined instead of italics. In-text citations of MLA are very brief in nature. In order to cite an entire book, the researcher should insert (Ajami) at the end of the sentence. If the scholar wants to insert page number too, insert as (Ajami 28). If the researcher thinks that there are a number of books by the writer, insert (Ajami, Dream 12).

MLA citation style is very reliable and helpful in research works and scholarly papers. In order to cite the online documents MLA provides another guideline for the convenience of the researcher. It is obvious that there are no page numbers in online works. In this case the researcher can add the paragraph number in the in-text citations such as (Padgett, sec. 9.7) and in works cited list. MLA citation style is used worldwide. It is very helpful and easy to use. Usually we give citation at the end of the sentence following a punctuation or period. In this style the researchers may use footnotes and endnotes but just for partial tenacities. This style has a complexity in it. We can give sources in detail and in short form too. In case of short information we can compress the authors, publishers, and other information. For example Princeton University becomes Princeton UP; the University of Chicago Press becomes U of Chicago P. For this purpose the information such as month names are also abbreviated.

In case of electronic information MLA throws brevity. It includes all information in citation given online. It also includes the extra information given on the web site. If the citation works are originally printed, it includes all the printed information. In this case you are supposed to write: Encyclopedia Britannica Online. 2004. Encyclopedia Britannica ... Or CBSNews.com. 5 Jan. 2004. These works are cited and the repeated names are the names in the sponsoring organization. If the information is taken from the online site, there we need to cite the author and the title of the web page or site. There is required all the web information such as the date, it was updated and the URL. It makes a long list. This style is mostly used in humanities. There are citations in poems, plays, paintings, and films (Gibaldi, Achtert, & America, 2003)^[9].

2.9 APA citation style for the social sciences, education, engineering, and business

American Psychological Association (APA) is widely used all over the world. It is well known citation style among the researchers, scholars, and famous writers of the world. It is very reliable and easy to use. This style is modern and accurate according to the present age. APA is frequently used in psychology, education, engineering, and social sciences. It is also in-text citation style like MLA. It also uses footnotes but only in analysis. It does not use footnotes in citations or references. This style is very charming and liked by the researchers. It is an author date citation style. It gives more importance to the publication date. The publication date comes immediately after the author name. Publication date is very necessary to know because through which we can know that the research was published before or at what time. The empirical social sciences also give

importance to the publication date. APA does not quote the month of publication but the year of publication is included in the citation (American psychological association, 1994).

It is an author-date citation. The name of the author and the year are given in parenthesis following a comma. If the author name is the part of the citation or text, it comes out of the parenthesis and year inside the parenthesis. APA gives the other information in the reference list. APA calls "Bibliography" as "Reference List". It is known in Chicago as "Bibliography", in MLA as "Work Cited", and in APA as "Reference List". APA manual is the need of the present research like other styles such as Chicago, MLA, and so on. APA should be kept in the public libraries too. It emphasizes the author-year citation. All the entries are given in the citation by following the year. If there are two books in the same year, there is a way to cite correctly in APA. In case of two books the citations will be given alphabetically like (2004a) and (2004b). APA also emphasizes on alphabetization in the citation. It gives the first letter capital. If there is a colon in the text, the first word will be capital after the colon. Proper nouns are also capitalized as they are in common sentences. In APA style, there is given single author proceeding co-author. In case of more than one authors the other authors are separated by the ampersand (&) rather than the word "and".

In APA the in-text citations, the authors' first names, are always given in initials. There are not given any page numbers in-text citation. The page numbers are necessary in the direct quotations like this ("p" or "pp"). It makes this style different to the other styles. It uses commas in parenthesis to separate author and year. When the works are cited in the APA citation, it includes author name and year like (Ali, 2005). APA style is mostly used in social sciences, engineering, psychology, education, and business. It is more useable citation style in theses, research papers, journals, and other research writings (Hacker & Sommers, 2011)^[10].

2.10 ACS citation style for chemistry

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a famous citation style which is used in chemistry. This style is developed itself by the chemistry experts according to their convenience. This style is unique to other styles. It has some different formats. The researcher needs to choose one format according to his/her convenience and follow till the end of the paper. To choose a format of the ACS citation style it is mandatory to ask your supervisor. The other thing is that chemistry journals also required one of the formats. There is a complete reference list at the end of the paper. The reference list contains all the information in it. Citations are alphabetized in the in-text and in reference list. The prescribed formats of ACS citations are given under.

- In this format citations are similar to APA or CSE style. This format contains an alphabetical reference list which is given at the end of the paper.
- In this format of ACS citations are numbered. The numbered citations are given at end of the paper same as given in-text.
- Superscript, such as 23.
- In the last format citations are given in parenthesis with numbers in italics, such as (23).

ACS citation style follows its own format. The author's last name is given first following a comma without a period. It gives pages like "p" or "pp" without period. The titles of

journals and books are given in italics. All references are given in italics and numbered in-text and in reference list at the end of the papers (Coghill & Garson, 2006) ^[2].

2.11 Bluebook legal citations

This is another type of citations. This style is known as legal citations which are used in law. Legal citations are developed on the basis of Harvard citation manual for law. It has developed another type of citations to cite in the text easily which is ALWD citation manual. Bluebook citations are very complicated in nature. As its name is so simple and seems too easy to use, it is very difficult to use. There are three different typefaces of Bluebook citations Roman, Italics, and small caps. There is an example to cite in this style. We cite like this in this style “Anne-Marie Slaughter, *Judicial Globalization*, 40 Va. J. Int’l L. 1103 (2000)”. It is not necessary for all journals to use these conventions but many use it. There is no reference list at the end of the paper (Richard, 2011) ^[18].

2.12 The Vancouver citation style

It is one of the citation styles used in research papers and other scholarly writings. The Vancouver is mostly used in biomedical sciences especially in dental medical sciences. It was developed in 1978 by the medical journal editors. They felt its need in their respective field of biomedical. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) is the maintaining authority of the Vancouver citation style. It is also known with another name which is (Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals). This style is mostly used at Vancouver in the field of dental sciences. There are in-text citations and a reference list at the end of the research papers. It also follows a numbering system. The in-text citations are given a specific number. The same number is given in reference list at the end of the paper. Vancouver style needs all information about the citation. It also needs URL and any information which is given (Style, 2009) ^[19].

3. Methodological framework

3.1 Research design

The most important part of research methodology is research design. The present study was an exploratory research in nature. It was a mixed research with qualitative and quantitative approaches. The researchers have collected both types of data, quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative data were analyzed through using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) while content analysis was undergone by exhaustive analysis of these reading.

3.2 Participants of the study

Population of the present study was the scholars and theses of Linguistics and Literature of M. Phil from a public sector university of Pakistan. The researchers selected scholars from the English department who were working on their respective research projects. The researchers selected 40 theses of Linguistics and Literature and 20 scholars of both disciplines of M. Phil to gather relevant and related data. Data collection instruments are very important part of any research. The researchers used questionnaire and content analysis in this study as research tools. There were 47 items in questionnaire including open ended questions while content analysis was done by theses reading. The questionnaire was developed, piloted and finally

administered by the researchers after taking active consent from the participants.

4. Discussions and findings

Findings of the study are the most important part of any research. It gives the information about the whole research and its outcomes. There are given findings in two parts i.e. content analysis and questionnaire.

4.1 Findings of the content Analysis

4.1.1 One work by one author

MLA contains three essential pieces of information about each item: the author, title, and publication data. Titles are underlined. To cite the entire book in text, just insert the author’s last name in the parenthesis at the end of the sentence or author and page number. It gives the full information in “Works Cited”. It gives the last name at first and the first name at last separating by a colon in works cited. “Works Cited” list is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data. On the other hand APA also contains three essential pieces of information about each item: the author, title, and publication data. Titles are given in Italics. To cite the entire book in text, just insert the author’s last name, year, and page number in the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. If the author name is part of the sentence, insert year in parenthesis. It gives full information in “Reference List”. The first name of the author is reduced to initials and last name is given at first. “Reference List” is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data.

4.1.2 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study revealed that most of the scholars did not know the correct use of citation styles. There were 11 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations in “one work by one author”. The in-text citations were not according to the MLA style. The author’s full name was given in the in-text citations and the date and page numbers were not given according to the MLA style. Similarly there were 10 out of 20 scholars who used APA in correctly in their dissertations in “one work by one author”. The in-text citations were not according to the APA style and the date was not given in the parenthesis.

4.1.3 One Work by Two Authors

To cite the entire book in-text in MLA style, just insert the author’s last name separating by the word “and” in the parenthesis at the end of the sentence following page number. It gives the full information in “Works Cited”. In case of two authors it gives the last name of the authors separating by the word “and”, and titles are underlined. “Works Cited” list is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data. On the other hand to cite the entire book in-text in APA style, just insert the author’s last name, year, and page number in the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. If the author’s name is part of the sentence, insert year in parenthesis. If the citation is outside the parenthesis, separate the name by the word “and”, and in case of inside the parenthesis, separate the name by using ampersand (&). Titles are given in Italics. It gives full information in “Reference List”. The first name of the author is reduced to initials and last name is given at first. “Reference List” is

arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data.

4.1.4 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study perceived that most of the scholars did not know the correct use of citation styles. They did not follow MLA rules during thesis writing. There were 14 out of 20 scholars who used incorrectly MLA in their dissertations in “one work by two authors”. The in-text citations were not according to the MLA citation style. Author’s full name was given and the date was not according to the MLA style while there were 9 out of 20 scholars who used APA incorrectly in their dissertations in “one work by two authors”. The in-text citations were not given according to the APA citation style and the date was not given in the parenthesis.

4.1.5 One work by multiple authors

To cite the entire book in text in MLA, just insert the first author’s last name following *et al.* and page number. It gives the full information in “Works Cited”. The titles are underlined. Works cited list is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data. On the other hand to cite the entire book in text in APA, just insert the first author’s last name following *et al.*, year, and page number in the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. If the author’s name is part of the sentence, insert year in parenthesis. Title is given in Italics. It gives the full information in “Reference List”. The first name of the author is reduced to initials and last name is given at first. Reference list is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data.

4.1.6 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study revealed that most of the scholars of English discipline did not give importance to the citations. There were 13 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations in “one work by multiple authors”. The in-text citations were not according to the MLA style and multiple authors were quoted in the in-text citation instead of writing first author following the term *et al.* while there were 16 out of 20 scholars who use APA incorrectly in their dissertations in “one work by multiple authors”. The in-text citations were not according to the APA citation style and multiple authors were quoted in the in-text citations instead of writing first author following the term *et al.*

4.1.7 Use of Italics and underline in bibliography

MLA uses underline for titles in the bibliography and in the in-text citations. It calls bibliography “Works Cited”. Bibliography is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data. On the other side APA uses Italics for titles in the bibliography. It calls bibliography “Reference List” or “References”. It gives the full information in reference list. It is arranged alphabetically by the author name. It contains full information about book, author, and publication data.

4.1.8 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study showed that most of the scholars did not pay any heed to the citations. There were 17 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations. Works cited list was not according to the MLA citation style and titles were

not underlined and works cited list was not indented while there were 15 out of 20 scholars who used APA incorrectly in their dissertations. The reference list was not according to the APA citation style and titles were not given in Italics which were not according to the APA citation style.

4.1.9 Use of direct quotations in text

MLA uses quotation marks for the direct quotations following by the author and page number. It uses lowercase letters in the in-text quotations even for the first word whereas APA uses quotation marks for the direct quotations following by the author, year, and page number.

4.1.10 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study explored that most of the scholars did not know the correct use of citation styles. There were 12 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations and citation starts with the uppercase letter which was not according to the MLA style. On the other hand there were 14 out of 20 scholars who used APA incorrectly.

4.1.11 Use of long quotation comprises (40) or more words

MLA uses a freestanding block of text and omits the quotation marks. It maintains double space and ½ inch indent from the left margin. It starts such a block quotation on a new line. APA uses a freestanding block of text and omits the quotation marks. It starts such a block quotation on a new line and indent the block about a half inch from the left margin (in the same position as a new paragraph).

4.1.12 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study revealed that most of the scholars did not show any interest in citations. There were 7 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations in case of long citations comprising (40) or more words. It was not given in a freestanding block. There were used quotation marks for the long citations comprising more than (40) words. In case of APA there were 11 out of 20 scholars who use APA incorrectly in long citations.

4.1.13 Use of the names of the authors’ in the in-text and reference list

MLA uses the second name of the author with page number in the in-text citations. It uses the full name of the author in the “Works Cited” list. It uses the second name at first and first name at last. APA uses the second name of the author with year in the in-text citations. It uses the full name of the author in the “Reference List. It uses the last name at first and the first name is reduced to initials. Titles are given in Italics in the reference list.

4.1.14 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study presented that most of the scholars did not have sufficient knowledge of citations. There were 6 out of 20 scholars who used MLA incorrectly in their dissertations. The scholar used full name of the author and date in the in-text citation which was not appropriate. The author and date were not given according to the MLA style and works cited list was not according to the MLA rules. Titles were not underlined. On the other hand there were 14 out of 20 scholars who ignored the APA rules. There was given the full name of the author following by the initial in the in-text citations. The year was not given according to the rules.

APA gives year in the parenthesis. Reference list was not according to the APA style and titles were not given in Italics.

4.1.15 Use of capitalization in direct quotations

MLA and APA use lowercase letters in direct citations.

4.1.16 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study presented that most of the scholars did not pay any heed to the citations. There were 13 out of 20 scholars who used capitalization incorrectly in the in-text citations. The scholars used uppercase letter in the direction quotation. In case of APA there were 11 out of 20 scholars who did not know the correct use of capitalization in the in-text citations.

4.1.17 Accuracy of references

All the in-text citations are presented in the works cited list in MLA. It is mandatory to give citations in the works cited list so that readers can have the access to the original source. Works cited list is very important in MLA citation style. In case of APA all the in-text citations are presented in the reference list. It is also mandatory to give citations in the reference list as in MLA. Reference list is very important in APA citation style.

4.1.18 Wrong use of citations by the scholars

The study revealed that most of the scholars did not know the correct use of citation styles. There were 15 out of 20 scholars who did not give the citation sources in the works cited list. There were a number of quotations in the works cited list but were not presented in text. Similarly there were a number of citations in text but were not presented in the works cited list whereas there were 17 out of 20 scholars who did not give the citation sources in the reference list. There were a number of quotations in reference list but were not presented in text.

4.2 Findings of the questionnaire

The study shows that majority of the respondents gave a positive response about the statement that their purpose of coming into M. Phil was to get a higher degree. One third respondents gave negative and two third natural responses about the statement that their purpose of coming into M. Phil was to get financial assistance. The study also explored that majority of the respondents gave highly positive response that research plays a vital role in M. Phil degree.

The findings of the questionnaire spectacle that majority of the respondents gave negative response about the statement that if they have read any book of APA citations. They did not read any book, article, or any piece of paper on APA citation style. It also shows that majority of the respondents gave positive response about the statement that the date follows the author and is in the parentheses. It further discovered that majority of the respondents were in the favor of the statement that the author's first name is spelled out and last name is reduced to initials in APA citation style. The study shows that majority of the respondents were neutral about the statement that APA is widely used in psychology, social sciences, and education. They have not any idea if APA is used in above domains. It further shows that majority of the respondents gave positive response about the statement that APA citation style is used in Linguistics. The study shows that majority of the respondents gave the neutral response about the statement

that APA give full information in the reference list. The study displays that majority of the respondents gave negative response about the statement that APA reference list is alphabetically organized. It also explored that majority of the respondents gave neutral response about the statement that they had read any book on MLA citation style. They have not read any piece of paper or book on MLA citation style. The study further shows that majority of the respondents gave positive response about the statement that author's full name, last, and first is spelled out.

The study shows that majority of the respondents gave a positive response for the statement that all major words in the title are capitalized and the title is underlined in MLA. It also shows that majority of the respondents gave a negative response about the statement that MLA uses the last name of the author and the page number. Respondents were not well aware of the MLA citation style. The study explored that majority of the respondents gave a neutral response about the statement that MLA does not use commas to separate the material.

The study indicates that majority of the respondents gave a neutral response about the statement that MLA style is widely used in the humanities. It also shows that one third respondents were in the favor of the statement and two third gave a neutral response that MLA is used in English Literature at the university. The study further displays that majority of the respondents gave a positive response about the statement that MLA provides full information about each item in the bibliography. The study indicates that majority of the respondents gave a positive response about the statement that MLA stands for "Modern Language Association".

The study explores that majority of the respondents gave a negative response about the statement that MLA style emphasis author and page number in the (in-text) citations. It also discovers that majority of the respondents gave a positive response about the statement that supervisor consent was not difficult. The study further indicates that majority of the respondents felt that finding literature review was difficult. The study shows that majority of the respondents felt that finding references was not difficult. They said it was an easy task to find references.

The study shows that majority of the respondents felt that understanding citation styles was a very difficult task. It also shows that majority of the respondents felt that data analysis was a difficult task. The study further explores that majority of the respondents sensed that arranging references was not difficult. The study specifies that majority of the respondents felt that seeking help from the seniors was easy. The study indicates that one third respondents knew about the term *ibid* rarely and two third responses were not at all. So some of the respondents knew the use of *ibid* rarely and according to some they did not know about the term. It also shows that majority of the respondents knew about the term *et al.* to some extent. The study further indicates that majority of the respondents said that they knew about the term *ampersand* rarely.

The study shows that majority of the respondents response was they knew about the term *sic* rarely. It also shows that majority of the respondents response was they knew the use of term *ellipses* rarely and to some extent. It further indicates that majority of the respondents response was they knew the use of brackets rarely and to some extent. The study explores that majority of the respondents response

was they knew rarely and to some extent about the parentheses.

5. Conclusion

The findings of the current study indicate two different areas of the study. According to the findings of the content analysis the scholars do not have any interest in citation styles at all. It show that majority of the scholars are not well aware of the citation styles. They do not read properly thesis writing guides before starting their theses. According to the findings some of the scholars knew some basic things about the citation styles. Findings of the content analysis show the inefficiency of the scholars in using citation styles. On the other hand findings of the questionnaire are somehow different than content analysis. The findings of the questionnaire show highly positive and negative responses about the statements. There were such statements which were given highly positive response in the questionnaire but were found negative in the content analysis. It may be possible that scholars know APA and MLA citation styles well but they do not apply it in their writings. The study shows that most of the scholars of Linguistics and Literature do not have sufficient knowledge of the citation styles. There was asked a question about the usage of citation styles in Linguistics and Literature. Majority of the scholars gave a negative response. The study shows that citation styles are very difficult to understand and use. So, in the light of the findings of the study we can conclude that majority of the students confront difficulties in understanding and using citation and referencing in their research manuscripts.

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