



Dr Ting Shu Hie

Plagiarism serious offence in academia — Dr Ting

KUCHING: More than 40 people including university lecturers, school teachers, students and writers had a better understanding on academic integrity and plagiarism during a talk held at the State Library yesterday.

The speaker Dr Ting Shu Hie, who teaches English at the Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, presented several papers to examine the notion of academic integrity in the conceptualisation, implementation and reporting of research.

In the world of research knowledge is advanced through findings of various studies in different disciplines from all over the world.

Scientific misconduct in research and publication jeopardizes developments in the field.

Unethical research practices involving clear cut and grey areas in plagiarism were also addressed during the talk to highlight the adverse impact arising from the violation of ethics of publication.

Participants were exposed to information on detection of unethical practices in publications and responses of the research community and the institutions to which the authors were affiliated.

“Plagiarism is a serious offence. It is an academic theft and is treated as an ethical crime in the academic community.

“Plagiarism in academic papers is using someone else’s ideas of words and representing those as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness. It means omitting credit sources when quoting directly or paraphrasing, includes ideas, figures and tables,” Ting explained.

According to her, students guilty of this offence will not only fail the assignment but the course as well. In some universities, the guilty students are expelled.

For lecturers guilty of this offence, they could face a lawsuit, be demoted in their position, or sacked from their job.

Students and academics who plagiarise have cheated themselves out of the experience of being responsible members of the academic community.

Besides, they cheat their classmates, colleagues by pretending to contribute something original, which is, in fact, a cheap copy.