

Using Quotations Properly

In this document I will show you how to do quotations properly, and also how I will use iThenticate to catch cheats. If you have read and understood this document properly, there will be no problems!

Using Direct Quotations

Here is a sample of text quoted exactly (= copied and pasted) from my paper in *Japan Forum*, “Taiga dramas and tourism”.

Sustained attention over such a period of time maximizes the numbers of people who come into contact with the drama. The status of Taiga dramas as arguably *the* flagship event of the Japanese television drama year means that the subject matter of the next drama series is announced to national fanfare, and the actor or actress in the leading role is instantly catapulted to national fame.

What happens when I put this into iThenticate? Answer: It gets highlighted. This means we can see where somebody has copied and pasted.

If there are quotation marks and an in-text citation near to the section of quoted text, this is not a problem. Note the two ways of doing this:

Method 1:

“Sustained attention over such a period of time maximizes the numbers of people who come into contact with the drama. The status of Taiga dramas as arguably *the* flagship event of the Japanese television drama year means that the subject matter of the next drama series is announced to national fanfare, and the actor or actress in the leading role is instantly catapulted to national fame.” (Seaton 2015, p. 83-84).

Method 2:

As Seaton (2015, p. 83-84) has stated, “Sustained attention over such a period of time maximizes the numbers of people who come into contact with the drama. The status of Taiga dramas as arguably *the* flagship event of the Japanese television drama year means that the subject matter of the next drama series is announced to national fanfare, and the actor or actress in the leading role is instantly catapulted to national fame.”

For a long quotation (in English this means a quotation of more than 40 words), it is common to have an indented paragraph without quotation marks as follows.

Sustained attention over such a period of time maximizes the numbers of people who come into contact with the drama. The status of Taiga dramas as arguably *the* flagship event of the Japanese television drama year means that the subject matter of the next drama series is announced to national fanfare, and the actor or actress in the leading role is instantly catapulted to national fame. (Seaton 2015, p. 83-84)

Plagiarism = Deception

However, note that iThenticate is also picking up other words and phrase in this document which it thinks have been copied from somewhere. It has found a paper title and also the section of summary I will mention below. Often, these little fragments of text can be ignored because we can easily see they are not plagiarism. Using common phrases in the same way as someone else is normal and unavoidable. However, sometimes these fragments show us where people are actively trying to cheat by changing the text slightly!

Remember that the important characteristic of plagiarism is that *you are trying to deceive other people by making their words look like your words*. The simple rule is as follows:

When you are using somebody else's words, ideas, or data, you must always indicate it with an in-text citation and list the source in your bibliography.

Summary and Rephrasing

However, note that you do not need citation marks "... " if you have only summarized the passage or rephrased it. An example of summary or rephrasing would be as follows.

Taiga dramas are broadcast over a long period of time. This means that many people come into contact with the drama. The topic of the next Taiga drama is announced to national fanfare and the leading actor or actress becomes instantly famous.

In this example it would be wrong to use quotation marks, but you must use an in-text citation because the content is clearly the same as in Seaton's paper "Taiga dramas and tourism". The appropriate way to do this is as follows:

Taiga dramas are broadcast over a long period of time. This means that many people come into contact with the drama. The topic of the next Taiga drama is announced to national fanfare and the leading actor or actress becomes instantly famous (Seaton 2015, pp. 83-84).

Note that for direct quotations, summary and rephrasing, you should usually give the exact page numbers in the original text.

Mentions

The final form of reference is a mention. Here you do not discuss the other person's work. You are merely telling the reader that such research exists. In such circumstances, you do not usually need page numbers. Here is an example:

There have been many studies about Japanese television dramas (for example, Seaton 2015).

Finally ...

iThenticate also gives us a rough idea of how much of your writing has been taken from each particular source. If there is a very high percentage coming from one source, then that is a sign of over-citation, i.e. too much reliance on one source. A paper that is clearly your own work will have a wide range of sources, each accounting for only a small percentage of the words in your paper.