



ISSN: 2663-8118 (Online) | ISSN: 2074-9554 (Print)

Journal Of Al-Frahedis Arts

Available Online: <http://www.jaa.tu.edu.iq>

**Asst.Professor. Hashim
Saadoon Salim ***

E-Mail: hashemsaddona@tu.edu.iq
Mobile: 07717003949

**Professor.Dr. Ali
Sulaiman I. Al-Dulaimy ¹**

E-Mail: dr.alisulaiman@tu.edu.iq
Mobile: 07706644446

*
Department of English Language
College of Education For Humanities
Tikrit University
Nineveh / Mosul
Iraq

¹
Department of Translation
College of Arts
Tikrit University
Nineveh / Mosul
Iraq

Keywords:

- Paraphrasing
- Summary
- Note-taking
- Plagiarism
- Rewording

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received : 10/05/2019
Accepted : 25/06/2019
Available Online : 23/07/2019

Why and How to Paraphrase

A B S T R A C T

Specialists in the field of paraphrasing assure that awkward paraphrases often raise problems for readers and listeners in understanding what has been written or said in the original text. Such problems emerge when the paraphraser fails to convey the exact meaning of the source text. Anyhow, bad paraphrasing changes and damages the real meaning of the source text. Any increase or decrease in paraphrasing will affect negatively the meaning of the main text. In other words, bad paraphrasing affects negatively the receptor who can easily see the semantic differences between the paraphrased text and the source one .

The procedure to be followed in this paper is presentation of the available literature relative to the subject of paraphrasing. The researchers have put their own views and comments on the subject. Besides, the available literature which has strong relationship to paraphrasing, such as plagiarism, note-taking, summary making etc. is presented with conclusions arrived at listed by the end of this study.

This study is anticipated to be of use to researchers, scholars, teachers of English, i.e., the significance of this paper is clearly manifested in its advantage for teachers and researchers for pedagogical purposes in their instructional duties. The researchers of this paper, however, believe that the subject of paraphrasing is a significant one which deserves the effort exerted on it .

The aim of this study is to supply the reader with a convenient and detailed insight into the subject "paraphrasing" with relative topics mentioned previously and to offer solutions to the difficulties which face the scholars and the researchers .

© 2019 JOFA, College of Arts | Tikrit University

* Corresponding Author: Asst.Professor. Hashim Saadoon Salim | Department of of English Language / College of Education For Humanities / Tikrit University | Nineveh – Mosul / Iraq | E-Mail : hashemsaddona@tu.edu.iq / Mobile: 07706525797

1 Introduction:

Reliable information on linguistic matters manifests that writing anticipates the process of paraphrasing in history. Man first has learned how to write the language before making attempts to reword a source text. Writing is older in appearance than paraphrasing. Man has started to paraphrase after the skill of writing has been established. Anyhow, we cannot paraphrase a text without being written or said already. In this case, if we intend to paraphrase a text, information about the rules of paraphrasing should be studied and briefed on by any paraphraser. The material of this topic has been collected from various sources and it is put under expansion and comment.

The reason which has driven the researchers to put this subject under study is that such a topic is essential in several fields of work, especially in the fields of education and media. In this respect, the investigators can guess that there is a growing demand for the topic under study because it is strongly required in the fields mentioned previously. Scholars, researchers and others can get advantages of this study by knowing the necessary rules of paraphrasing. To be outstanding in paraphrasing, you should have a deep look at the rules found in the body of the paper.

The body of the research starts with definitions of paraphrasing which means the process of rewording the source text by using a different style, i.e., the paraphraser uses his/her own words, but the same ideas of the original text should be kept. Effective techniques of good paraphrasing have been put under explanation and effective strategies of paraphrasing which imply learning and acquiring the skills of summarizing and note-taking are important to be known before trying to paraphrase. The paraphraser should also have a great storage of synonyms. Paraphrasing and summarizing are different skills. These differences are shown inside the research. Learning how to organize summaries comes as a first step before paraphrasing which requires a high degree of mastering a language. Thoughts on influential paraphrasing are mentioned as well in the research. Such thoughts are useful to correct and good paraphrasing. Concluded results arrived at are listed at the end of the research.

Many expressions and styles are suggested by Mr. Ibrahim M. A. Mustafa, the instructor in the Department of Translation, College of Arts - Tikrit University, who has been especially generous with his time and efforts for his valuable contribution, suggestions and comments on the subject; so a substantial debt of gratitude should go to him.

2 Definitions of Paraphrasing

The researchers try to write down what prominent writers say about paraphrasing:

Brown, N. (2011:97) marks that "paraphrasing is restating what has been said, without repeating the same words in order to give the speaker your understanding of what he/she said."

Coyer, M. and Anderson D. (2004:72) assures that "paraphrasing is not simply repeating back what is said, but rather it is a rephrasing of what we heard. It is not only helping us to clarify conversation but also affirming that the person sharing his/her worth understanding."

Lester, J. (2010: 162) clarifies that "using one's own radiation or interpretation or rewording of essential information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form."

The researchers comprehend from the aforementioned definitions that the task of the paraphraser lies in rewording the original text maintaining all its ideas and indications, without losing any aspect of the source text because expressing any sort of redundancy or absence in the ideas of the original text on the part of the paraphraser will deform and mar the whole operation of paraphrasing. In other words, paraphrased meanings and ideas which are not inclusive in the source text don't stand for the original text and represent the paraphraser's dishonesty in his task. Such a case shows the paraphraser's poorness in his work. Another definition of paraphrasing is suggested also by the researchers of this paper as the process of expressing in full the meaning of the original text or the spoken message using a different style of wording to fulfill total clarity. Paraphrasing, indeed, includes the following features:

1. It is the process which is done within the same language.
2. It is a process of rewording the source text.
3. It is the process of equal meaning transfer between the paraphrased text and the source one.
4. Paraphrasing is used to simplify and clarify the meaning of the source text.
5. Keeping all the ideas of the source text unchanged.

3 Effective Techniques of Good Paraphrasing

Any researcher who intends to paraphrase a text using his own words should have mastery over the whole meaning of it. Paraphrasing often reflects the researcher's ability of expressing the ideas found in the source text in different way of wording and this again reflects the character of the paraphraser and his intelligence.

Some techniques are to be offered below to produce good paraphrasing:

1. Using different word form

Ex. Iraqi economy development is ...

Paraphrased to When Iraqi economy develops ...

2. Using different word order

Ex. The complex holds married and single soldiers with their families.

Rewritten into Married and unmarried soldiers with their families are housed in the complex.

3. Replacing a word or a phrase with a synonymous one which has a similar meaning and using comparisons and cause and effect clauses.

Ex. Lovely girls are chosen to be fashion models these days.

Restated as Lovely girls are selected to work as fashion models at present.

4. Utilizing opposites and negatives that do not affect the meaning of the original text.

Ex. Man can live on earth. **Reworded as** Man can't live on the moon. Or Man can't live underwater.

5. Keeping the conceptual words, special terms and proper names unchanged.

Ex. After several scientific attempts, Edison succeeded to invent electricity which is useful for mankind. **Paraphrased to** Edison was successful in 1879 in inventing electricity which always has a beneficial effect on human beings after a number of scientific experiments.

6. Changing passive voice to active voice and vice versa, and moving phrases and modifiers.

Ex. One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas. **Rewritten into** One morning, an elephant was fired at by me while I was wearing pajamas.

Another example on the same point cited below:

Ex. He had left a will leaving his assets for his three sons. **Restated as** A will had been left by him giving up all his properties to his three sons.

3 Important Strategies of Paraphrasing

Connolly, S. (2004: 33) proposes some strategies of paraphrasing which assist the researcher to use them in order to produce correct and good paraphrases; these strategies are cited below:

3.1 The Concept of Doing Summaries

Some believe that "paraphrasing" and "summarizing" are interchangeable terms. In fact, they mean about two different techniques. Summarizing is the process of stating the main points or ideas of a text. Summaries are usually shorter than the original passage, whereas

paraphrasing is a way of rewriting the original text fully in one's own words.

Learning how to summarize is definitely considered as a supportive factor which helps make correct paraphrases. Both skills, paraphrasing and doing summaries, are highly interrelated activities. The researcher should learn how to summarize a passage then move to do paraphrasing. Learning how to organize summaries helps the researchers do paraphrasing with easiness. The researchers should read the whole passage and draw a picture in his/her mind about the topic. Then, he/she can start his/her duty of paraphrasing.

3.2 Note-taking Activity

The researcher should be intelligent at having notes through a short-hand technique which help review entirely the whole lecture or what has been said in a text. Specialists in the process of teaching activity can identify the researcher's degree of understanding in a single session. Recording information can be regarded as a study guide for the researchers.

3.3 Gradual Steps of Paraphrasing

The researcher must consider carefully the whole information in the text and identify the main ideas and supportive details; then the researcher can move to state down what he/she has understood from the source text in his/her own words.

3.4 Vocabularies:

The researcher should have a big storage of synonyms and adequate knowledge of understanding the important words because doing paraphrases always requires these linguistic qualities.

4 Kinds of Paraphrases

There are several categories of paraphrasing, the most important among them are:

1. Mechanical Paraphrasing

In the process of mechanical paraphrasing, the words in the original passage are substituted by their synonyms and in some cases by similar equivalents. In this type of a paraphrases, the paraphraser tries to keep the original structure intact and unchanged. Syntax is also maintained as it is in the source text.

Ex. "Because of the intensive air-strikes, all the houses were completely destroyed in the town and people fled to remote places."

The mechanical paraphrase of the above sentence would be:

Due to the tremendous attacks, all the homes were totally ruined in the town and the citizens ran away to far places.

2. Constructive Paraphrase

All the ideas should be retained by the paraphraser in this type. The subject-matter or the content of the original text should totally be altered but the same ideas should be dealt with. The ideas in both texts should be identical although they are expressed totally in different wording.

Ex. "Because of the intensive air-strikes, all houses were completely destroyed in the town and the people fled to remote places."

The constructive paraphrase can be done as follows:

The enormous attacks by warplanes were the reason behind devastating totally all homes in the town from which the citizens ran away to distant and safe areas.

3. Translation Paraphrasing

Translation paraphrase is the process by which the original text is rewritten into another language. In a broader sense, all kinds of translation is a sort of paraphrasing for the original text with a special specification that is translator sticks to original text in terms of meaning and even the size of the text. Translation is an exact copy to the source text. The following English sentence is translated into Arabic by keeping the meaning of the ideas.

Ex. "Because of the intensive air-strikes, all houses were completely destroyed in the town and the people fled to remote places."

تم تدمير كل البيوت بالكامل للبلدة وهرب الناس الى أماكن بعيدة بسبب الغارات الجوية المكثفة.

4. Comprehension Paraphrases

Comprehending paraphrases aim at clarifying and explaining a certain subject in the paraphraser's words. In fact, the paraphrases of comprehension are utilized to explain some particular topic in words of the paraphraser. The whole process in this type is a matter of explaining and clarifying a complex topic.

5 Advices on How to Paraphrase

The following are important points to learn about how to paraphrase:

1. Look up for the meaning of the difficult words in a dictionary. You may get simpler words for the ideas expressed in the text. Dictionaries usually offer explanations and synonymous words for the words and phrases used in the passage.
2. Read the text to be paraphrased carefully for several times. In so doing, the meaning of awkward words and phrases will be understood and clarified from the context.
3. Paraphrase the ideas one after another due to the fact that paraphrasing by idea is essential whether the idea is expressed by a single phrase or in some sentences in the main passage.
4. As you state down your paraphrases, the original text should be left a side and without being looked at. In this way, you will learn if you have

understood the ideas of the source text or not. Word for word paraphrases here and there will not generate good paraphrasing.

5. Sometimes you need to change the order of ideas expressed in the main passage. Hence, the change of thoughts order may help you use your own wording to produce correct paraphrases.
6. When you have reached the end of your paraphrase, start to compare it with the original text to see whether you have the satisfaction about the accuracy and adequateness of your paraphrases or they need certain corrections and linguistic changes.

6 Differences and Similarities Between Paraphrasing and Summarizing

Dymer (2008:237) denotes that there are points of similarity and difference between the two skills, they are:

1. Both activities put the writer or the researcher under a state of disorder and confusion.
2. The paraphrasing process can be done by more words than that of the original text while summarizing can only be fulfilled in a small number of words in comparison with the source passage.
3. The clearest similarity between the two processes is that the researcher usually uses his/her own vocabulary and sentence structure.
4. The aim of paraphrasing is to supply the reader with rewording the original text rather than shorten it.
5. Shortening the text and making it concise are the aims behind writing summaries.

7 Paraphrases Used as Indirect Quotation

Putting an author's literal words, i.e., word for word between inverted commas is something more formal technique than anything else. Paraphrasing is done by using different style and it is usually referred to as a type of indirect quotation in different wording. Citation, however, requires to be put between double quotation marks because stealing other's materials is a banned process. To quote legitimately is the healthiest way to make you get rid of being accused of scientific theft. The researcher has not got the permission to use other's exact information without prior consent. Rewriting other researchers' thoughts in different style and words is the correct way in writing. Paraphrases are a legitimate and honest way of authorship.

Paraphrases show more elasticity in use than quotation and they are suitable enough to the paraphrased text; in other word, they go smoothly in your writing.

9 Outlook on Plagiarism

Before discussing the results of the research, a closely- related subject to paraphrasing must be dealt with in this section. Avoiding plagiarism is a perquisite to writing a research. The researcher must take

heed of this crucial point before starting his work. Plagiarism is something which cannot by no means denote the researcher's real capability in writing.

Plagiarism means using other writer's words and sentences without showing acknowledgement to them or without referring to the sources from which these words or sentences are taken or borrowed. We should stress that plagiarism is "illegal possession", which means stealing and publishing words, expressions or information of other authors' writings. Copying ideas from the original passage without mentioning the references is invalid conduct. The researchers should not claim that the stolen material is their own achievement. Plagiarism is either done deliberately or undeliberately (inattentively committed).

After this rapid survey for what is meant by Plagiarism, the following solutions can be used to avoid it:

1. Rewrite suitably.
2. Learn the skill of writing good notes.
3. Sum up in an effective way.
4. Put your sources in order.
5. Include your research good quotations.
6. Document your sources correctly.
7. Use common sense of knowledge.
8. Put your borrowed material in double quotation marks because Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty.

9 Conclusion

The researchers, who have offered some ideas of how to obtain the maximum advantage of the material posed in the body of the research and which are crucial for scholars and researchers, believe that they have treated the subject from all its aspects and this study is possibly among the most important researches on the subject. So following a profound investigation on paraphrasing, a number of concluded ideas have been reached:

1. The process of paraphrasing is a matter of natural disposition for native speakers, whereas the learners of a foreign language may encounter difficulties in expressing themselves because, in case of native speakers, they are innately endowed with the ability to express themselves easily in their own language.
2. Eminent scholars and researchers use this technique to serve their objectives in making researches and facilitate the affairs in their jobs.
3. This process reflects the paraphraser's character and manner because a certain style manifests a certain personality's form.
4. Paraphrasing shows the faculties of the paraphraser and his mastery of the language he uses, besides, it distinguishes between good paraphrasers from those who are poor in this skill on the basis of individual difference, and the degree of education obtained in this respect.

5. This process requires special qualifications on the part of the paraphraser who rewords a text or a quotation using different words in a greater detail than the original passage.
6. Preciseness of paraphrasing is relatively different from one person to another. And this depends also on the paraphraser's qualifications and ability.
7. This process can be used in many fields and different situations, such as lectures, seminars, reports, forums, review of books, political speeches etc. It can also be used on T.V. channels and radio stations. This process is essential locally and internationally.
8. Paraphrasing in its simplest meaning is practised in daily communication by laymen and not only by the specialists.
9. Scholars and researchers who rely on paraphrasing in their writings and researches via using different styles or different wording avoid the accusations of scientific theft from other writers.
10. Paraphrasing is not confined only to English or Arabic, but it is a universal phenomenon which can be used in any language all over the world.
11. Paraphrasing is an ancient activity used by specialists or laymen in daily communication to facilitate life affairs.

References

- 1- Abd, Fayyadh M. and Waseel Ibrahim Khalaf (2017) **A Road to scientific writing in Engineering and sciences. 1st. ed. Tikrit: Tikrit University printing.**
- 2- Brown, N. (2011) **Psychoeducational Group: Process and Practice.** Routledge : London.
- 3- Coyer, M and Anderson D. (2004) **The Race to Reach out.** Library of Congress.
- 4- Connolly, S.(2004) **Successful Strategies for Reading in the Content Area.** U.S.A : Springer.
- 5- Dymer,S. (2008) **Successful Strategies for Reading in the Content Area.** 2nd. Ed. Library of Congress.
- 6- Hamiton, C and Creel B. (2011) **Community For Success.** Library of Congress.
- 7- Housel, D. (2014) **Read & Succeed Comprehension Level 4: Paraphrasing passages and Questions.** Library of congress.
- 8- Heath, M. (2010) **MLA Made Easy : Citation Basics for Beginners.** Library of Congress.
- Lester,J. (2010) **Writing Research Paper.** U.S.A : Pearson.