



THE OMBUDSMAN FOR ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

REGARDING THE ARTICLE OF VIOLETA ŠLEKIENĖ AND LORETA RAGULIENĖ IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

17 May 2016, No. SP-13
Vilnius

The Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter - the Ombudsman), in accordance with Part 1 of Paragraph 18 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania and with the Resolution No. XI-1583 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 September 2011 “Regarding the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania and the approval of the provisions of the Office of the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania“ (hereinafter - the Provisions), by Subparagraph 1 of Paragraph 13, after examination of the complaint of R.V. (hereinafter - the applicant¹) received in the Office of the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter - the Office) on 5 April 2016 m. regarding the bachelor’s thesis and the coincidence of the article of Violeta Šlekienė and Loreta Ragulienė, and after evaluation of the material provided to the Office,

determined that:

The applicant indicated in his complaint that his bachelor’s thesis is literally translated into English and published (without quoting) in magazines on the name of other authors (without the thesis author's knowledge). In the complaint there are provided online links to three different electronic sources, in which the mentioned article in the English language is published.

The following is requested in the complaint: “to investigate the action of the authors of the publication and to adapt the appropriate penalties.”

The comparative analysis of the provided and defended (in 2010) bachelor’s thesis “Electronic Informational Education Tool „Fullerenes“ and the article of Violeta Šlekienė and Loreta Ragulienė “The creation of information website “Fulereness” as an education tool” (2011, in the English language) revealed that the article contains the literally translated sections of the bachelor’s thesis (see Annex to the decision). In the section of the Article “*Methodology of research. General background*” it is mentioned that the author of the bachelor’s thesis has taken an important task – to fill the gap in the information on „Fullerenes“ provided in the Lithuanian language. However, the surname of the author of the bachelor’s thesis is not mentioned in the list of

¹ “Applicant” in the text of the Ombudsman’s decision is given generally as a noun of masculine gender without linking it to the sex of the applicant.

references, also in the article there are no references or citations indicating the authorship of the author of the bachelor's thesis.

Paragraph 4.1 of the Code of Ethics of Employees and Students of Siauliai University² approved at the meeting of the Senate of Siauliai University on 7 April 2007 states the following: "Scientific activity is based on fair investigation and the pursuit of truth." Also, Subparagraph 4.1.5 indicates how this provision is violated, i.e. "plagiarism, i.e. "the presentation of the text, ideas or invention of the other person as your own." The literal translation of the other person's text into another language and presentation as your own is assessed as a violation of academic ethics.

On May 2016, the Ombudsman addressed to the magazine "Problems of Education in the 21st Century" regarding the declaration and the copyright transfer form which is filled at handling the article.

On 10 May 2016, the explanation was received from the magazine "Problems of Education in the 21st Century", that the authors did not submit the declaration and the copyright transfer form, because the Volume 37 of 2011 was published on the basis of the international scientific practical conference "Information & Communication Technology in Natural Science Education - 2011". All articles of the magazine of the Volume 37 were presented at a public conference, and the article of L.Ragulienė and V.Šlekienė was published according to the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.

In view of the foregoing, it can be stated that Violeta Šlekienė and Loreta Ragulienė violated Subparagraph 4.1.5 of the Code of Ethics of Employees and Students of Siauliai University because they did not indicate the surname of the author of the literally translated sections of the bachelor's thesis in their article "The creation of information website "Fulereņness" as an education tool".

After the analysis and evaluation of the provided information and its supporting documents as well as the legal regulation, and in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Article 18 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ombudsman

decided:

1. To inform Siauliai University and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania about the violation of the academic ethics of the employees of Siauliai University Violeta Šlekienė and Loreta Ragulienė determined by the Ombudsman.
2. To publish the information about the determined case of the violation of the academic ethics.

The Ombudsman's decision may be appealed in the order set by the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania.

² Modified at the meeting of the Senate of Siauliai University on 12 June 2012 and 18 December 2013.