**Guidelines for Interpreting the Results of the Turnitin Originality Checking System**

First and foremost, it is important to clarify that originality or similarity detection software cannot directly detect plagiarism, as the definition of plagiarism may vary across disciplines. For example, in the case of an entirely original work (e.g., an original publication), copying entire paragraphs or longer sections is not permitted—even if the source is cited—unless placed in quotation marks (and even then, copyright issues may arise). However, in a doctoral dissertation, such practices may be acceptable when presenting the candidate’s own results, provided copyright considerations are addressed.

The software searches for verbatim matches with works already published and stored in its database, highlights these matches, and provides a percentage indicating the amount of similarity found in the text.

It is important to note that the percentage alone is **not a reliable indicator**: even 1% similarity may constitute plagiarism, while 20% may not necessarily be problematic.

Therefore, the correct way to evaluate the results is as follows:

* **Short sentence matches** may be general statements and do not necessarily indicate plagiarism. However, if multiple sentences match from the same source, this may suggest that the original text has been extended. In such cases, it is advisable to read the source and check whether it is listed in the bibliography and whether the student is among the authors.
* **Long, continuous matching sections** (with only minor differences) are always suspicious. In such cases, it must be verified whether the source (e.g., journal article) is listed in the bibliography and whether the student is among the authors. If not, it is considered plagiarism.
* In rarer cases, long sections may contain **fully matching sentences from multiple sources** (highlighted in different colors). This may indicate that the text is built sentence-by-sentence from various sources. This phenomenon can often be observed in the bibliography, where the system may recognize multiple sources.
* If **the bibliography shows continuous matches**, it may indicate that the bibliography was copied (e.g., from a review article). In such cases, it is strongly recommended to read the source publication.

Finally, it should be remembered that similarity detection systems are not effective at identifying translated content and only compare against sources in their own databases, which do not provide full coverage. Therefore, the absence of matches does not necessarily mean that no copied content is present in the dissertation.

**In summary**, the originality checking system helps identify potential plagiarism but does **not** determine it definitively.