

MISINFORMATION CONTAGION: TECHNOLOGY'S ROLE IN THE YOUTH'S SPREAD OF HOAX NEWS

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Abstract

The rapid growth of communication technology has revolutionized the way society interacts and accesses information. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, and others have become indispensable tools for the delivery of information. However, this ease of access and speed in sharing information has led to both positive and negative impacts on society. This study investigates the detrimental effects of hoax news, which are false and deceptive information disseminated through various communication channels. Hoax news profoundly influences an individual's psychology, shaping their personality and social groups. The proliferation of untrue information, often lacking proper filtration, can lead to the formation of negative beliefs and attitudes. As a result, individuals and communities may experience feelings of worry, anxiety, and threat, ultimately leading to negative self-images and financial losses. The term "hoax" refers to deceit or deception, encompassing information that deviates from the truth. While fake news has existed in various forms throughout history, the advent of social media and mobile technology has exacerbated its spread. Fake news can be disseminated with lightning speed on social media platforms, often without proper verification or fact-checking. This lack of information literacy within the community contributes to the circulation of uncertainty and unrest. Addressing the dangers of fake news is crucial, and the responsibility falls on the youth as the nation's future leaders. Several initiatives, such as the implementation of the ITE Law and efforts to combat cybercrime, have been undertaken to counteract the negative consequences of fake news. However, further education and awareness are necessary to equip the community with the tools to discern between reliable and false information from mass media and the internet. This research aims to shed light on the impact of hoax news on society and emphasizes the importance of cultivating information literacy and critical thinking skills among the youth. By understanding the dangers of fake news, the community can become more resilient to its negative effects and uphold justice in the face of misinformation.

Keywords: communication technology, social media, hoax news, fake news, information literacy, critical thinking, ITE Law, cybercrime, information dissemination, youth empowerment.

1. Introduction

The growth of communication technology has both positive and negative impacts on society [1]. The delivery of information is so fast and easy through social media that is often used, such as Facebook, Instagram, Line, WhatsApp, Telegram, Mechat, Hago, and so on, and is not filtered correctly [2] [3].

Hoax news received from social media powerfully shapes a person's psychology so that a person's personality or social group is formed. It's sad if the information received is doubtful or called fake news (hoax) and has a news theme that affects and brings someone into negative news [4] [5]. The negative report usually contains untrue information that spreads divisions, causing a person or causing a person's psychology to feel worried, anxious, and feel threatened so that it can cause someone or related parties to be published in hoax news resulting in a negative self-image and making financial losses.

Hoax means deceit or deception, false news, and false information. Incorrect information is information or news whose news content is inaccurate from the existing truth (materially waarheid) [6] [7].

Untrue news is used to live amid society, and we often hear it in our ears; we often get fake news on social media; fake news or hoaxes are "A fake news is an attempt to deceive or outsmart the reader/listener to believe something, even though the creator of the news The fake person knows that the news is fake. One of the most common examples of fake news is claiming an item or event with a different name from the actual item/event" [8] [9].

There are many hoax news circulating in the community. Meanwhile, the community does not have a solid ability to sort information. The growth of technology in this era makes it easier for fake news to spread through communication technology tools. In the past, fake news could be known by the general public published in print media and by word of mouth, then the emergence of social media and through mobile media. With lightning speed, even in seconds, fake news can be easily spread on social media. Uncertain fake news is easily disseminated, causing unrest in the community. Therefore, the youth want to educate the community in accepting false news obtained by the community via mass media and the internet [5].

Our country has firmly eradicated fake news, from the formation of the ITE Law to the existence of cybercrime. Therefore, millennials have a responsibility in carrying out the ITE Law. Millennials are the nation's next generation in upholding justice. By looking at the problems above, researchers are very interested in examining the dangers of fake news or hoaxes in the community [10] [11] [12]. **2.**

Literature Review

2.1. Fake News (Hoax)

Information and communication technology (ICT) develops following the times with the existence of various media including online media. The ease and efficiency offered by online media in its use makes this media a medium for disseminating information that is very influential in the community. Online media not only changes the way information is delivered but also changes the way people consume the information. Currently, the dissemination of information or news through online media is not only carried out by news sites that are already known to the public, but by anyone who uses the internet can play a role in the dissemination of information. There is a lot of information or news that is spread individually or in groups that cannot be justified or is indicated as a hoax. Hoax is information or news that contains things that are not certain or which really are not facts that happened. In this era of social media, the spread of hoaxes has become something very serious. News seen from language has several definitions. Reports of events (facts) or opinions (opinions) that are actual (current), interesting and

important. There are also those who interpret news as new information presented in clear, actual and interesting reading/writing. Another source defines news as a report or notification about the occurrence of an event or condition that is general and has just happened which is conveyed by journalists in the mass media. Factors events and circumstances become the main trigger for the occurrence of a news. In other words, the events and circumstances are facts or conditions that actually occurred, not the fiction or fiction of the author. [6] News is the main presentation of a mass media in addition to views (opinions).

Hoax is news, information, fake news or lies. While in the KBBI it is called a hoax, which means fake news. Hoax is a negative excess of freedom of speech and opinion on the internet. Especially social media and blogs. Meanwhile, according to wikipedia, a hoax is an attempt to deceive or trick the reader/listener into believing something, even though the creator of the fake news knows that the news is fake. Hoax aims to create public opinion, lead opinions, form perceptions, as well as for fun that tests the intelligence and accuracy of internet and social media users.

Hoaxes are made by a person or group with various purposes, ranging from just playing games, to economic (fraud) and political (propaganda/public opinion formation) or agitation (sedition) purposes. Hoaxes usually appear when an issue comes to the surface, but many things have not been revealed or become question marks. According to the Press Council, in Indonesia the rise of hoaxes is also due to a crisis of trust in the mainstream media so that the public throws it at fake media.

The characteristics of hoax news are as follows: 1) distributed via email or social media because the effect is greater, 2) contains messages that make readers anxious, panicked, 3) ends with an appeal for the reader to immediately forward the warning to a wider forum. . Hoax takes advantage of the reader's good faith, so that the reader of this email without first researching the truth of the news, immediately spreads it to a wider forum. As a result, the traffic of data circulation on the internet is increasingly congested with untrue news, 4) usually the identity of the original sender of this hoax is unknown.

2.2. Young Generation

In the Indonesian vocabulary, youth are also known as "the younger generation" and "youth". Often the terms youth, youth, or youth have various meanings. Youth is an individual who when viewed physically is experiencing development and psychologically is experiencing emotional development, so that youth are human resources of development both for now and in the future. The younger generation in a general sense is a group of people aged 0-35 years. Sociologically and practically, members or individuals who belong to the group have the same experience, especially major events that are experienced simultaneously by the whole community, such as the generation of development. Understanding youth can be seen in various perspectives, namely in terms of biology, culture or function, law, psychology and culture, workforce, human resources, political ideology, and age. The essence of youth can be viewed from two main assumptions, namely as follows. First, the appreciation of the process of human development is not as a continuous continuum, but fragmentary, fragmented and each fragment has its own meaning. Youth is distinguished from child, parent, and each fragment of its development represents its own value. Second, the main assumption that is in addition to the assumption of life insight is the position of youth in the direction of life itself. Classical interpretations

are based on the assumption that life has a more or less certain pattern and is determined by thinking that represents the older generation hidden behind tradition.

Meanwhile, in a sociological-anthropological perspective, youth is defined as a group that is learning to adapt, socialize, and integrate with their community. With such a learning process, it is hoped that youth can carry out their role as creators of bright ideas in people's lives. Finally, from an economic point of view, youth are represented as a group of human beings who have the potential to be developed into reliable and quality human resources, both physically and mentally, as well as their monumental works.

2.3. Social Media

Social media is an online medium, with its users being able to easily participate, share and create content including blogs, social networks, wikis, forums and virtual worlds. Blogs, social networks and Wikis are the most common forms of social media used by people around the world. As internet and mobile phone technology advances, social media also grows rapidly. Now to access Instagram, for example, it can be done anywhere and anytime using only a mobile phone. How quickly people can access social media has resulted in a major phenomenon in the flow of information not only in developed countries, but also in Indonesia. Because of its speed, social media has also begun to appear to replace the role of conventional mass media in spreading news.

The presence of the media with all its advantages has become a part of human life. The times have produced a variety of media, one of which is social media. Social media is media on the internet that allows users to represent themselves and interact, cooperate, share, communicate with other users, and form virtual social bonds. Social media is a digital medium where social reality occurs and the spacetime of its users interact. The values that exist in society and the community also appear in the same or different forms on the internet. Basically, some experts who research the internet see that social media on the internet is a picture of what happens in the real world, such as plagiarism.

The spread of social media sites that have emerged has benefited many people from various parts of the world to interact easily and at a low cost rather than using the telephone. Another positive impact of the existence of social networking sites is the acceleration of information dissemination. However, there are also negative impacts from social media, namely the reduction of direct or face-to-face interpersonal interactions, the emergence of addictions that exceed the dose, as well as ethical and legal issues due to content that violates morals, privacy and regulations.

Basically social media can be divided into six types, namely:

First, a collaborative website project, where users are allowed to change, add, or remove content contained on the website, such as Wikipedia.

Second, blogs and microblogs, where users have the freedom to express things on the blog, such as feelings, experiences, statements, to criticism of something, such as Twitter.

Third, content or content, where users on this website share multimedia content, such as e-books, videos, photos, images, and others such as Instagram and Youtube.

Fourth, social networking sites, where users obtain permission to connect by creating personal, group or social information so that they can be connected or accessed by others, such as Facebook.

Fifth, virtual game world, where users through 3D applications can appear in the form of avatars as desired and then interact with other people who take the form of avatars as well as in the real world, such as online games.

Sixth, virtual social world, is an application in the form of a virtual world that gives users the opportunity to live and live in a virtual world to interact with others. This virtual social world is not much different from the virtual game world, but more freely related to various aspects of life, such as Second Life. [15]

The characteristics of social media are as follows: 1. The submitted content is shared with many people and is not limited to one particular person; 2. The message content appears without going through a gatekeeper and there is no blocking gate; 3. Content is delivered online and directly; 4. Content can be received online in a faster time and its acceptance can also be delayed depending on the interaction time that is determined by the user; 5. Social media makes users as creators and actors who allow themselves to self-actualize; 6. In social media content, there are a number of functional aspects such as identity, conversation (interaction), sharing, presence (exist), relationship (relationship), reputation (status) and group (group).

3. Methods

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive design. Descriptive qualitative is a research design that is used to answer questions in the form of who, what, and when a phenomenon or experience occurs [16]. This qualitative research is to identify problems related to tourism promotion strategies through social media, especially Instagram media and their impact on people's incomes on the island of Pahawang after the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Results and Discussion

Social media should be used to socialize and interact and provide positive information, it is unfortunate that related parties use and provide negative information. If left alone, it is feared to damage the nation's shoots. Knowing this, there are several communities or groups that are very enthusiastic about calling for information to the public to be smarter in using social media. Government agencies are trying to minimize the spread of hoax news by making laws that regulate sanctions for internet users who spread negative information. Not only that, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology also educates the public to increase digital literacy so that they can properly sort out the news or information circulating, one of which is through "Mudamudigital". Mudamudigital is a means for the younger generation to share knowledge with digital literacy experts in Indonesia. Participants can also pour their hearts out to experts about what they are facing in the digital world in the "now". The main goal of Mudamudigital is to shape Indonesia's young generation to have a high level of digital literacy intelligence. So that it cannot be influenced by hoax news or information that can destroy the unity and integrity of the nation.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, hoax has the meaning of untrue news, news that has no source or unofficial news. In Silverman's book [17], hoaxes are a series of false news that are deliberately misled, but are "sold" as a means of truth. Werme [18] says, the definition of fake news or fake news is as untrue news that has information that intentionally confuses people's minds or is misguided and has

a political mission behind it. Fake news is not just misleading, the information contained in fake news or fake news also has no factual basis, but is made as if it were a series of truths or facts.

The rise of fake news circulating is becoming a very terrible main topic in social life. Ethnicity, Religion, Race and Intergroup (SARA) are the main issues so that it instills hatred and divides the unity and integrity of the nation. The government plays an important role in people's lives in overcoming the rise and horror of fake news or hoaxes by conducting socialization to the public to be able to find out which news is true and which is not true to the public.

In using social media, disinformation is used in various needs. The existence of cybertroops or cyberarmy is the most important factor in the war of communication and information, finally people are easily carried away, their emotions are touched and involved in communication wars. The largest group of fake news is misinformation, disinformation and malinformation. Misinformation is false or false information that is conveyed either intentionally or unintentionally. Meanwhile, disinformation is deliberately creating false information or fake news and has a specific purpose. Very different from the previous two groups, in the malinformation group the news or information conveyed was news or information with correct information content, but was deliberately disseminated by certain parties with bad intentions and purposes. An example is news about someone's privacy.

Below is a classification of misinformation and disinformation:

1. Satire is the content of news or information that is presented to express criticism on a person's personality, community organizations, government agencies, or the public by using parody, irony, or sarcasm.
2. False Connection This news attaches a theme, photo, or description that has absolutely nothing to do with the actual content of the news.
3. Misleading Content Misleading content or information is the use of information to frame a particular issue or individual.
4. Information Content with the wrong Context (False Context) This information content contains accurate or true information presented in the wrong context.
5. Contents of Counterfeit Information (Imposter) This disinformation class is information content that is presented resembling its authenticity and has the intention of deceiving the reader.
6. Manipulated Content This type of content comes from original content which is then manipulated, either just for fun, to provoke readers, spread propaganda, or become political interests.
7. Fake Content (Fabricated Content) In this type, fake news is really genuine deliberately made to deceive readers.

Tempo magazine quoted [20], the characteristics of fake news or hoaxes:

1. The content of the news reported is not true or false;
2. The incident was reported in exaggeration or certain parts were omitted;
3. The writing in the news or text does not match the events and photos;
4. The title does not match the content of the news;

5. Repeatedly presenting events or events that have been around for a long time and seem to be made into new or actual events with the intent and purpose of agreeing on issues or news that are trending topics in the community;

6. Deliberately displaying pictures of other events that have been changed or edited in such a way as to support issues or news that are trending topics in the community.

Information dissemination is growing faster and harder to prevent. The existence of communication tools, such as mobile phones, is also a major factor in the emergence of various types of social media. Not only that, online news portals have also mushroomed. In every day there is always news that circulates freely without having restrictions in accessing the news. News that is the topic of conversation for a number of individuals or groups in providing information. Now the spread can be done anytime and anywhere with social media, and adequate internet connectivity. In fact, social media was originally a tool to facilitate someone's access to social interaction. Now its function is only as a means of spreading lies, namely in the form of hoax information.

Some things that can be done in anticipating the circulation of hoax news are as follows:

1. Get used to the internet well. It's easy to browse social media, it doesn't mean we can freely spread fake news. Moreover, abusing the language function.

2. Improve self-quality. The young generation is said to be an agent of change in the development growth of our country. The younger generation must always hone their quality through science. Through this knowledge, it is hoped that it can become the basic capital not to think negatively.

3. As an Information Filter. The means of disseminating information is a language, but it does not rule out the possibility of containing a truth that is in accordance with the actual facts. The information presented may be incorrect. The younger generation is expected to be able to filter information for the general public who is wise and intelligent, so that they are able to distinguish which information is not true and which is true so that people can receive information or news properly.

The impacts that arise from hoax news greatly affect people's behavior, namely:

1. The effect is normal because so far the urban village community here is not affected by the news or false information that is spread on Facebook.

2. Generating anxiety and worry and hatred towards a person or government institution with other people or other institutions.

3. Depending on the type of hoax. In particular, in the Paniki Dua sub-district, the effect of the hoax is less pronounced in the community because of the role of the media.

4. Bringing positive effects because people can be more careful in viewing news and spreading news on Facebook social media. Through fake news, we can meet each other with neighbors or friends

5. It can have negative effects on mentally immature children.

6. Make people more careful in viewing the news and also in using social media.

7. The effect is the existence of public deception in the realm of social networking and the effect can threaten the togetherness of life.

Based on the seven effect points, we know that the effects or consequences of hoaxes contain two important elements, namely positive elements and negative elements.

The positive element is that through fake news or hoaxes on Facebook, people can be more careful in using social media and can also develop in terms of social relations because the elements that become obstacles to the use of social media are the increasing individuality of humans and reduced social relations, but through the presence of hoax, people can be provoked to communicate with each other with others.

The negative element is that facebook hoax news raises anxiety and concern as well as hatred between a person or government institution/organization with another person or government institution/organization; affect mental, thought patterns and action patterns, especially for children who are not yet mentally mature; and the existence of public deception in the realm of social networking and its effects can threaten the togetherness of life.

Some elements of the effect of fake news when connected with the results of the documentation study, are closely related to the opinion of Ibrahim Ratih [9] who said that the impact was increased hatred, suspicion, hatred, hostility, and violence. And also decreased trust, respect, appreciation, openness, honesty, compassion, understanding and equality and purpose.

5. Conclusion

The word hoax or fake news is no stranger to cyberspace or social media. It is easy to spread hoax news or information, the easier it is for us to access that information. Only seconds and even minutes can be said and shared hundreds of times or even thousands of times by social media users called netizens. As a result, people who do not want to find out the truth are more easily provoked, which can lead to riots. Being an intelligent and responsive audience, all news and information circulating must be filtered or filtered first, not swallowed raw, must be filtered first. If we don't want to be consumed by fake news.

Recipients of hoax messages have the same mindset (support) with the sender of the message. They are also part of the supporters of certain parties who are contrary to the hoax object. This can be seen from their presence in cyberspace in social media groups and participating in spreading hoaxes or giving negative comments. The results of this study illustrate that hoaxes are produced to harm certain parties with hatred and hostility. The medium used in the hoax case in this study is a social network that was formed because of the similarity of the goals of the sender and recipient of the message. While the social characteristics that are built in it are forming a network between users, both knowing each other, or not knowing each other, but are brought together in a common social characteristic.

Five ways to deal with hoax news are:

1. Beware of Instigating News Titles

Usually fake news or hoaxes use news topics that are sensational in nature and incite or provocative. News content can be obtained from news that has official news links, but there is some news content that has been replaced in order to match the thoughts desired by the hoax maker. Therefore, before being influenced by the title and examining the content of the news, it is better for us to look for the same news from the official media as a comparison. Then compare the contents of the two news stories, whether they are the same or contradictory. If the result is different, it can be ascertained that it is fake news.

2. Check the Truth of News

How to spot fake news? The trick is to find out the truth. Look for the source or origin of the information circulating, whether the source is official or unofficial. If the perpetrator is a political person, we should not easily believe the news or information. Pay attention to balance by looking for the same news so that it can be compared with other news. Then examine the news that is read, whether made based on facts or just opinion. Facts are events or events that occur and have strong evidence and witnesses, while opinion is the opinion of a news writer so that news is more subjective.

3. Researching the Authenticity of Photos

The contents of the news are not only in the form of text but are also attached with several photos and even videos to support the validity of the news. Now technology is increasingly sophisticated, especially the sophistication of digital technology that is able to make photos and videos very much different from their authenticity and are intended to influence audiences.

4. Find out the Official Address of News

Many news that write the official address or news source site to make it look original to convince the audience. Do not immediately believe it, immediately find out the official address or official website of the news whether it has been verified by the press agency or not. Many websites that use unofficial blogs are played.

5. Joint Group on Social Media

What is the final step in dealing with fake news or hoaxes? What you have to do is join or join an anti-hoax group on social media, there are many groups on social media. For example, the group is on Facebook and on Whatsapp. In the group, there is a statement of error or clarification from someone or some questions from some information that we know.

If you receive fake news or hoaxes whose content is very concerning or very dangerous, immediately report it to a government agency. Every account on social media already has a feature to report news or content that violates the ITE Law. As in the Facebook social media account, there is a feature to report news content and the status of someone who violates the ITE Law. Google as a search engine for sources of fake news and true news also has an application or feedback feature to report sites from search results if they contain false information. Then on Twitter there is a Report Tweet feature to report negative tweets. Likewise on Instagram, there is a Report feature as spam or inappropriate content. Not only on social media, you can also make a complaint about news or negative content to the Ministry of Communication and Information. You do this by sending an e-mail to the address aduankonten@mail.kominfo.go.id. Readers must be smarter and selective in sorting out news content and not be easily influenced. If each individual applies it, then there is no more chaos caused by the spread of fake news

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