The Impact of The Behavior of Smartphone Usage on The Consumption of Fake News by Student

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Abstract

Abstract— The background of this research is the increase of the distribution of fake news in cyberspace to coincide with the 2019 general election (Pemilu) campaign in Indonesia. Undergraduate students in Indonesia, most of whom are beginner voters in the 2019 election, are one of the most important campaign targets calculated by each political party. Fake news produced massively and structurally by political parties to get support from voters can break the unity and the harmony of the nation. Students as young people whose mindsets are critical and have idealism in fighting for their ideas must be able to distinguish between true and fake news for the safety of their own insights.

The research method used is a quantitative method to understand the behavior of students in using mobile phones which is the fastest media for disseminating information through the internet. Understanding of these behaviors will provide an overview of the impact of the application or information channel most often opened by someone to their ability to distinguish true and fake news. This study aims to get a strategy that needs to be done to improve student behavior in using mobile phones, which will affect the quality of information obtained from the internet via mobile phones. So that young people who are productive and have the right insight are not easily provoked by fake news from the internet.

Keywords
students, fake-news, mobile phones, internet

1. Introduction

1.1.   Use of a Smartphone

Communication activities with devices are currently dominated by smartphone usage which is   a transformation from mobile phones. Smartphones that can provide more features and services than ordinary mobile phones are in great demand for use because of various variants and advantages in the operational system.[2]

The word smartphone is defined by the oxford dictionary as "A mobile phone that

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[2] Abram Karuniawan and Ika Yuniar Cahyanti, "Hubungan Antara Academic Stress Dengan Smartphone Addiction Pada Mahasiswa Pengguna Smartphone," *Jurnal Psikologi Klinis Dan Kesehatan Mental* 2, no. 1 (April 2013): 17.

performs many functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps."[3] This definition illustrates how diverse features can be utilized by users, it is no exception features to obtain news and actual information from various media on the internet, including instant messaging applications, social media, news portals, and others.

Data released by We Are Social regarding Indonesia's digital statistical indicators in January 2019 explained that of 265.4 million Indonesians, 177.9 million of them were mobile device users. With internet users as many as 132.7 million people, and 130 million people are active social media users. In more detail, the data shows that there are 60% of the total Indonesian adult population using smartphones.[4]

The explanation above shows that smartphones with internet connections have become a very important part of everyday life. in addition to using smartphones for daily utility purposes such as functioning alarms, checking weather, or taking photos and videos, smartphones are also widely used to socialize and exchange stories and news. Both through social media, as well as other online news portal sites.

1.2.   The Spread of Fake News

The development of communication technology and the increasingly massive use of the internet as a medium to disseminate information, have an impact on the freedom of everyone to express their opinions through the internet.[5] This makes the intensity of the news that someone receives from cyberspace increases.

The presence and progress of the internet also allows the exchange of information without being hampered by distance and time. all people connected to the internet can spread what is happening around them to the world very quickly. This fact then made the internet a new media used by non-journalist communities to freely publish news on the new media.[6]

Shayne Bowman and Chris Willis define citizen journalism from this phenomenon as "the act of citizens playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating news and information".[7] This understanding implies that now everyone can make and disseminate their own various information that they want.

But on the other hand, the opportunity for everyone to produce and spread the news makes control of the truth of the information fade. Moreover, a person can throw information digitally to an audience with an anonymous identity, so it is quite difficult to track where information originates.

This makes fake news spread widely among citizen. The impact of the circulation of fake information is the formation of public opinion which leads to the occurrence of excitement in the midst of society, uncertainty in information, and creates fear of the

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[3] https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/smartphone
[4] Digital in 2018 in Southeast Asia Part 2. We Are Social. January 29, 2018.
[5] Renny N S Koloay, "PERKEMBANGAN HUKUM INDONESIA BERKENAAN DENGAN TEKNOLOGI INFORMASI DAN KOMUNIKASI," *Jurnal Hukum Unsrat* 22, no. 5 (2016): 12.
[6] Yanuar Luqman and Nurul Hasfi, "Citizen Journalism," *FORUM* 2, no. 2 (October 23, 2010): 1–63.
[7] "We Media : Shayne Bowman Chris Willis : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming," Internet Archive, accessed March 28, 2019, https://archive.org/details/ShayneBowmanChrisWillis.

masses. The bad impact of the spread of false information is not only directed at individuals, but also to government and private institutions.[8]

Fake news which widely known as hoax defined as a lie made intentionally to disguise the truth that exists.KBBI online defines hoaxes as: (1) incorrect, lying (about news, messages, etc.); (2) fake news. In its development, the term hoax refers to fake news or information that is intentionally created and disseminated to seek public excitement or lead opinion.[9]

fake news spread through the internet, especially social media proved to have been used as a means of black campaign to overthrow political opponents. This phenomenon can be seen from the election of the DKI Jakarta governor in 2012 which was then continued until the 2014 Indonesian President election.[10] Meanwhile, related to the 2019 presidential election, the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kemenkominfo) stated that there were more than 1000 news hoaxes that were distributed since the beginning of the campaign period until mid-October 2018.[11]

1.3. The Spread of Fake News Through Smartphone

The high number of internet users around the world makes the internet become a new media for political leaders and their success teams to campaign and persuade the wider community to be influenced to become voters in each political camp. The dominance of smartphones as the most widely used tool to access the internet has also made applications and frequently opened sites with smartphones such as instant messaging apps, news portals, and social media to be the most important media for propagating political interests.

The political campaign is carried out by conveying the vision, mission, and various programs that will be implemented if someone becomes a winner in the election. Unfortunately, dropping political opponents in a campaign by spreading false news is still common.

Students as part of the community whose intensity in using smartphones is quite high while still not having the identity in politics that is strong enough, become an easy target for political campaigns carried out through social media to achieve as many votes as possible. They are persuaded by information that is deliberately deflected to build a certain opinion. The opinion that was built can have implications in the form of support for one political camp, while also hating the stronghold of his opponent.

2. Methodology

This research was conducted with quantitative methods. Namely by making a series of closed questions in one questionnaire and distributing them to students of state and private universities in Yogyakarta for 7 days, starting from 15 to 22 March 2019. At the end of the

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[8] Ahmad Budiman, "BERITA BOHONG (HOAX) DI MEDIA SOSIAL DAN PEMBENTUKAN OPINI PUBLIK," *Majalah Info Singkat Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri Isu Aktual* 9 (2017): 4.

[9] Eric Kunto Aribowo, "Menelusuri Jejak Hoaks Dari Kacamata Bahasa: Bagaimana Mendeteksi Berita Palsu Sedini Mungkin," October 2, 2017, https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/5DBZH.

[10] Henri Septanto, "Pengaruh HOAX dan Ujaran Kebencian Sebuah Cyber Crime Dengan Teknologi Sederhana di Kehidupan Sosial Masyarakat" 5, no. 2 (2018): 6.

[11] https://news.detik.com/berita/d-4264513/kemenkominfo-ada-1000-berita-hoax-selama-masa-kampanye-pemilu

data collection, there were 124 respondents across study programs from 5 different universities. The respondents are students from semester 2 to 8 with ages ranging from 17 to 25 years. There were as many as 14 respondents whose data was not included because they did not include the university data.

Further, the data obtained is processed by correlational analysis methods that seek to find relationships or influences between two or more variables. In the context of this study, the relationship or influence that is sought is the behavior of gadget usage among students towards their responses and actions when getting news from a smartphone.

3. Findings and Discussions

3.1. The Proximity of Smartphones with Students

At present it is undeniable that smartphones have become an important part of everyday life, including students who in their activities always need speed, efficiency, and effectiveness at work. Smartphones that offer many features and daily utility services are certainly very suitable for students. This was proven by the presence of 42 out of 124 respondents (34.3%) who gave 8 on a scale of 1 to 10 regarding the influence of smartphones on their daily activities.

This fact is reinforced by the fact that almost half of the respondents took the time to open a smartphone, and use it for various purposes. More clearly, there were 50 (40.7%) respondents who claimed to take the time to open a smartphone.

There are many activities that can be done with smartphones, but in general, users use them more for the purposes of socializing and exchanging information through the internet. Activities with smartphones are dominated by conversations through the 89 (72.4%) instant messaging app acknowledging that the main activity carried out with smartphones is communication with the chat application. as additional information, 101 (82.1%) respondents preferred to use Whatsapp as a chat application compared to other applications for reasons simpler and easier to use.

Socializing and seeking information through social media is also still in great demand. Seen from 74 (60.2%) respondents who use smartphones to access social media. This is not too surprising considering that for some people, social media can be a means of entertainment to escape from the fatigue of daily activities.

Of the 124 respondents who filled out the questionnaire, 43 (35%) used smartphones more than 5 hours per day for various purposes. Then, 33 (26.8%) used smartphones for 3 to 5 hours, 26 (29.3%) used for 1 to 3 hours, and only 11 (8.9%) claimed to use smartphones for no more than one hour per day.

3.2. Smartphone Use Behavior and Its Impact on Information Dissemination

In this study, smartphone usage behavior as the basis for comparison with other variables surrounding the spread and consumption of false news is the duration of smartphone use in a day, and the initial assumption of information obtained through the chat application.

Respondents in this study, in relation to the duration of smartphone use in a day, were divided into 4 groups. The first group is those who use smartphones for more than 5 hours per day, the second group is those who use smartphones for 3 to 5 hours per day, the third group is those who use smartphones for 1 to 3 hours per day, and the last is those in a day, using a smartphone less than one hour.

In this grouping, communication through chat applications is still dominant compared to other interests they do through smartphones. In each of the groups above, the use of smartphones to chat through applications is in the number 69 to 83.3 percent. In more detail, users of smartphones with duration of less than 1 hour have the highest percentage of chat application usage, namely 83.3% of respondents. This shows that those who use smartphones less than an hour are more focused on using devices to just communicate with friends or business relations.

The results also show that many smartphone users use these tools to read news from chat applications, as well as online news portals. The percentage of smartphone usage to read the news is higher compared to accessing social media in smartphone user groups for 0 to 5 hours a day.

The most significant difference is that the smartphone user group is less than one hour a day. Only 27.3% use smartphones for scrolling down social media timelines. Meanwhile, more than half (54.5%) use smartphones to read the news.

Meanwhile, in the user group of more than 5 hours per day, the activity of opening social media to see the latest updates was higher (70.4%) compared to the news reading activity (60.5%). Regardless of the difference between using to open social media or reading news, the explanation above shows that among students, the activity of reading news and seeking information with smartphones is still far above other activities such as playing games.

In this study, we also divided respondents into three groups based on their initial assumptions about the truth of the news they received from smartphones, especially through the chat application. The results of data retrieval show that the more someone does not trust the news he gets from smartphones, the lower the possibility of disseminating that information to others.

As many as 81.1% of respondents said they were doubtful about the news they got from group chat. Then 9.8% claimed to believe immediately, and the remaining 9% did not believe the news they got from group chat.

As many as 8.3% of respondents who immediately believed in the news they received, claimed to have shared the news with others, even though 83.3% of them checked the truth of the news before sharing it. Then, only 4% of those who doubted the news from the chat group who participated in forwarding the news to others, and 94% of them, checked the truth before continuing. And the rest, respondents who did not believe at all with the news they got from the chat group chose not to share the news they got. And in a forced state, all respondents who do not believe, really ensure the truth of the news or information that will be forwarded.

4. Conclusions

Smartphones that have become an integral part of the daily activities of smartphones are proven to be still and proven to continue to be the easiest tools to get the latest news and information from various parts of the world on various topics.

This study is limited to discussions about how to use smartphones, and refutes about one's attitude in information obtained through smartphones. In future research, it will be very good to discuss about the content that is submitted to the trust in any information or news obtained.

And in the end, technical knowledge deals with methods to distinguish between false news and can really avoid the younger generation from misleading information and improper public opinion formation efforts.

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