

The Importance of Literacy to Avoid Indonesian Younger from Hoaxes Spread

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ABSTRACT

Developments in the field of information technology are one of the scientific and technological advances that are developing quickly in the globalization era. This growth should be capitalized on, particularly by the younger generation as a contender for the nation's successor, in order to promote the country. However, because to the ease of access to social media, hoaxes are becoming increasingly common in many sectors of life, particularly among the younger generation (almost all social media users are young people). Hoaxes are becoming more common as a result of young people's tendency of drawing conclusions from news headlines without first confirming the legitimacy and accuracy of the material. Furthermore, the lack of literacy knowledge in obtaining clarification about a hoax has resulted in the rapid development of hoaxes. The problem faced by Indonesia is the low literacy mastery as evidenced by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey. As a result, it is worthwhile to address the role of reading literacy in conquering critical thinking to prevent the development of hoaxes in Indonesia. The younger generation need critical thinking skills to weed out false information. Literacy must be instilled as early as possible since it is the key capital in achieving an educated and cultural nation. The writing takes a normative approach, with reading materials drawn from respectable journals, books, and online sites on the subject.

Keywords: Critical Thinking, Hoax, Reading Literacy, Young Generation.

INTRODUCTION

The development of information technology in the millennial era makes people able to access information easily and quickly without time limit. Generations born in the millennial era regard technology as a primary need. They are inextricably linked to information and communication technologies. The term "millennial generation" or "generation Y" first appeared on the editorial pages of major American newspapers in August 1993. This generation makes extensive use of instant communication technologies such as email, SMS, instant messaging, and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter; in other words, the millennial generation is a generation that grew up during the internet's heyday. (Putra, 2016)

Each person (millennial generation) has unique features, such as a distinct place of residence, economic strata, family status, and communication habits that are more open than the preceding generation. Furthermore, because they are avid users of social media and are affected by advances in information and communication technology, the millennial age is more open in political and economic perspectives. They appear to be extremely sensitive to changes in their surroundings. Digital natives are those who are accustomed

to jumping up and down cognitive structures, able to perform several activities at the same time (Istiana, 2016). This digital native generation is prone to being incited to be extreme and intolerant by digital hoaxes propagated through social media. Everything got easier, cheaper, and faster when the digital era arrived. People's communication and interaction styles are evolving because of social media. The government is powerless to stifle its citizens' freedom of expression. The primary benefits of social media above other technologies are hyper-actuality and interaction. Almost everyone now has access to information technology, which is becoming increasingly inexpensive.

The advancement of technology toward cyber or the Internet of Things (IoT) opens the door to the worldwide flow of information and communication; it is now possible to get information from the outside world immediately through various international media (Charles H. Davis and Debora Shaw, 2011). People are being dragged into the flow of globalization in all fields, and cultural exchange is one thing that the community can easily accept. Technological advancements have also resulted in a bad phenomenon, notably the problem of misinformation. Disinformation is the result of spreading bogus news online in cyberspace. In general, the public finds it simple to absorb information since misinformation spreads quickly and easily. Outbreaks of ignorant issues, these phenomena may nevertheless have an effect on people's social conduct. Therefore, it is critical for the public to discern between the sorts of information that might lead to misinformation and to investigate the reasons for its development and dissemination. Disinformation in the community is caused by individuals being readily trusted with information acquired without seeing or checking again from where the source of the information helps.

Disinformation in society must be dealt with correctly so that individuals, particularly the millennial generation, may be even wiser in using and conveying information received in the twenty-first century. Literacy is required to combat the issue of misinformation. Literacy is more than just the ability to read and write well; it may also refer to literacy in technology, politics, critical thinking, and environmental sensitivity (Irianto, P.O. and Febrianti, L.Y, 2017). The importance of literacy awareness really supports a person in dealing with various problems. Someone who has literacy skills will gain knowledge and document experiences that will be a reference in the future.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Hoax

Hoax is information that is engineered to cover up real information. In other words, hoax can also be interpreted as an attempt to distort facts using information as if it was an idea but cannot be proven true (Nasrullah, 2015). Hoax can also be interpreted as an act of seeking true information, by

flooding the media with the wrong message to cover up the true message. The purpose of hoaxes is to make people feel insecure, uncomfortable, and confused. In confusion, people will take decisions that are weak, not easy, and even wrong. The development of hoaxes on social media was originally carried out as a means of bullying. However, in subsequent developments, political spin doctors saw the effectiveness of hoaxes as a black campaign tool at democratic parties that influenced voter elections (Mendidik, 2021)

From these findings, we can underline that the main way to anticipate hoaxes is to build public competence in dealing with the flood of information. Efforts to build public competence as contained in the body of writing, can be done through media literacy. Through various methods, the public must be introduced based on basic estimates of information, the consequences related to the spread of information, awareness of the forms of information technology that can affect them, to methodical knowledge, how or to verify what they will consume. Media literacy methods, of course, can be done in various ways. To deal with the digital native generation built with digital technology in hand, of course new strategies are needed. However, no less important is the exchange of information related to hoaxes, discussions so that they can build a community that is resistant to hoaxes.

Literacy

The word "literacy", which means the ability to read and write, is slowly expanding its meaning with the development of media technology into the digital era. W. James Potter mentioned that the expansion of the meaning of literacy from what was originally only reading literacy, became visual literacy (referring to television and film) and computer literacy. All three, synonyms for media literacy, but only components that stand alone. Media literacy combines all these specific abilities and grows as something more general. The concept of literacy, which was initially only complex with the media, became more complex with the term media literacy because it is related to processing information, describing meaning, and constructing meaning from media (Potter, W. James, 2001).

Through this definition, media literacy according to Potter's version is defined as the ability to interpret the meaning of messages that require a knowledge structure in the form of expertise as a tool, as well as a wealth of information as the material. Furthermore, Potter explained that the information in question is multi-dimensional information. Not only in the form of facts that can be accessed through books, newspapers, and magazine articles which are then referred to as cognitive information, but also other types of emotional information, aesthetic information, and moral information (Potter, 2004).

With the development of the digital era, the term digital literacy emerged, which is further interpreted as the ability to understand information based on digital formats such as words, sound recordings, and images that are fused into one. These combination materials, which are often termed "multimedia", are not new, but they are the ingredients that come together in a new way. It is possible for Netizens to change, reformat, transform images, sounds, and words freely (Lanham, 1995)

Post Truth Era

Talking about digital literacy cannot be found in the post-truth era. The post-truth era exists because of growth polarization, economic growth inequality, belief in science, and the fraction of the media landscape. The transformation of the media landscape that occurred in the new media era indirectly became one of the causes of the emergence of the post-truth era. The correlation between the rapidity of the media and all its dynamics to the heated discussion about post-truth is motivated by several reasons (Lewandowsky, Stephan, 2017), namely:

First, the flexibility and fraction offered by social media allows people to choose what they prefer (echo-chamber) so that most of the information they access fits with existing views. Consequently, it is possible to form false beliefs when relevant evidence is misunderstood. Custom-deliver content that aligns with user preferences and behaviour, quickly creates alternative epistemic realities, or what is commonly referred to as "filter bubbles" (Grizzle, A., Wilson, C., Tuazon, R., & Cheung C.K, 2011).

Second, the variety of choices results in a large heterogeneity in the degree of misinformation on important issues. In this case, the tendency of the media that is accessed by the audience reflects their interest in the issue so that there is a neglect of many more important issues.

Third, the psychological distance in online discussions which are full of freedom of speech and is closely related to the impression of impoliteness, triggers the formation of group polarization. There are negative interpersonal interactions and the occurrence of social chaos due to the internet troll phenomenon (people or message content that aims to evoke emotional responses from other users).

The post-truth era can be called a specific social shift involving the mainstream media and opinion makers. Facts compete with hoaxes and lies for the public to believe. The mainstream media that used to be considered one of the sources of truth must accept the fact that the boundaries between truth and lies are getting thinner, honesty and deception, fiction and non-fiction. In simple terms, post-truth can be interpreted that people are looking for justification rather than the truth.

METHOD

The paper was normative legal research. It contained reviews, summaries, and thought authors about several library resources (articles, books, information from the Internet, etc.). National and international journal publication papers with the topic of Literacy, Hoaxes, Law of ITE, education method, and other relevant topics were also discussed in this paper.

In this research, the data taken is data from literature study, by collecting techniques by reading, reviewing data from various books, laws, regulations, documents, reports, or various other sources relating to this problem.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Factors Caused Hoax

After the 1998 reformation, freedom of expression developed, resulting in changes in communication patterns that may be seen in today's culture, where internet has succeeded in developing a new style and pattern for communicating and sharing information. People utilize

information technology extensively in their daily lives, and they use it for a variety of personal, social, educational, and business tasks, as well as to pass the time (Rahmatullah, 2018).

Cybercrime is defined as a crime committed across national borders by a perpetrator with a broad and well-organized network of criminals. It's considered a white-collar crime. Furthermore, there are two sorts of cybercrime criminalization: crimes that use computers as a means and crimes that use computers as targets. The spreading of fake news is then classified as cybercrime (Setiawan, 2019).

Then there are several factors that encourage the spread of hoax news, including:

(1). Politic

Political events, such as the activities of politicians seeking popular votes, usually convey arguments and policies if a leader is elected. Regional head elections, parliamentary elections, and presidential elections were all held through campaigns. It is acknowledged that not all political venues are completely free of corruption. This experience will elicit a variety of responses, including Positive and Negative Responses. The positive reaction is to build a good image for supporters and for campaign participants in order to establish harmonization for the general public. Despite the negative reaction, some politicians run black campaigns to gain support. Through slander in the form of fake news, the black campaign aims to bring down political opponents and gain many supporters. As a result, the political factor can be considered a major factor (Setiawan, 2019).

(2). Business

The producer's skill in promoting a product or service is what creates interest in that product or service. Promotion is a strategy for making things more appealing to customers. However, not all business actors are equally effective at marketing a product. Some businesspeople don't just do promotions; they also do things like spread hoaxes to get a lot of people excited about a product (Setiawan, 2019).

(3). Education

The level of intelligence and stupidity, education is something that is still frequently used in the spread of hoaxes. A person's genius will believe that he is more powerful than someone who is still low in thinking or whose level of education is still low. As a result, there are indications that the perpetrator in spreading the hoax is someone capable of thinking and education in comparison to the victim's education. The act of someone sharing news with his friends then indicated that his desire to look educated in comparison to his friends was a practice through which the hoax was spread.

Based on research conducted by Ruri Rosmalinda, there are several factors that cause the emergence of hoaxes (Rosmalinda, 2017), including:

- People currently have sophisticated and inexpensive communication methods, making public access to information search media simple.

- People who are easily swayed by unclear issues that have not been verified and confirmed the truth of the information, causing them to take immediate action to share information that is not yet clear.
- Due to a lack of interest in reading, people are more likely to analyse news that isn't based on factual data and instead relies on recollection or ambiguous sources.

Legal Sanctions for Hoax Performers

Positive law in Indonesia is controlled in the formulation of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions with relation to fake news propagating on social media (the ITE Law). According to Article 28 paragraph 1 of the ITE Law, anyone spreading inaccurate and misleading news knowingly and without rights causes losses in electronic transactions. Then, according to Article 28 paragraph 2 of the ITE Law, "any person purposefully and without rights disseminates material targeted at inciting hatred or animosity toward particular individuals and/or community groups based on ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group".

Violate the provisions of Article 28 of the ITE Law, may be liable to the penalty outlined in Article 45A of Law Number 19 of 2016. As previously stated, perpetrators of propagating false news are subject to criminal penalties under Article 28 paragraph 1 of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning ITE and Article 45A paragraph 1 of Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning ITE. The application of these articles is legal if all the requirements are met, and the perpetrator can be condemned to a crime (Setiawan, 2019).

Hoax Spread Target

According to the expert staff of the Minister of Communication and Information, Henry Subiakto (Jemadu, 2019) there are four groups of people who are frequently the target of the transmission of fake news, including the majority community, because the majority community's emotions are simple to manipulate in terms of issues, allowing hoaxes to spread. Then there are urban areas, where individuals have more money to spend on cell phones and have easier access to the internet. Not only that, but today even highly educated people are victims of frauds. The more educated a person is, the more critical his intellect will be. When continuously confronted with information that contradicts the truth, however, a critical mindset can develop.

The Importance of Literacy in Protecting Indonesian Youth from The Spread of Hoax

The use of social media to spread hoaxes is quite effective. The use of social media to promote hoaxes, on the other hand, demonstrates the growth of reckless attitudes. People who lack the bravery and strength to confront a certain individual, society, environment, or issue are said to be perpetrators. Nonetheless, social media platforms such as WhatsApp and others encourage 'losers' to promote and spread fake news.

It is not easy to spot hoaxes. The data obtained can be eaten whole. This is related to a lack of critical thinking about new things. It all depends on the education that is supplied. To address this, educators must play an important role. Educate the youngsters how to learn critically (critical reading). So, it

is not only a matter of reading the text; it is also a matter of comprehending the complete content of the reading. The ability to understand the implied meaning of a reading is known as critical reading. This necessitates the ability to think critically. In critical reading, the reader examines the reading material critically. Critical reading is reading that seeks to discover the facts contained in the text and then evaluates those facts. The reader does not simply absorb what is presented; he and the writer consider the issue at hand (Palupi, 2020).

Even though the ITE law has implemented sanctions for spreaders, hoax spread cannot be prevented or completely eradicated. As a result, the attitude toward hoaxes must be carried out by educating the community of social media users, particularly Indonesian youth, who are the most active and largest users, so that they do not become victims of hoaxes. There are several ways to combat hoaxes, including increasing social media literacy and visual literacy for Indonesian youth.

Media Literacy

Media literacy is defined as a level of awareness about the challenges that young people confront and how to respond to them. More specifically, media literacy is a public attitude of worry about media's harmful effects (Hana Silvana, & Cecep, 2018). One of the expected consequences of media literacy is a decrease in a person's negative individualistic attitudes. Increased individualism, the potential for criminality through the media, and excessive communication are all examples of negative consequences.

The goal of media literacy is to teach people how to understand and analyse the messages they get from the media. Then media users are supposed to be able to examine who is responsible for the message or idea that has implications for that message or image, as well as what the commercial and political purposes are behind the image or media message (Hana Silvana, & Cecep, 2018).

There are numerous instructive points in media literacy, but its application necessitates the assistance of skilled mentors. Young people's communities are clusters of youth activities that could benefit from media literacy education and training. The nooks and crannies of these activities also serve as a space for appreciating and concocting the sophistication of digital media.

Visual Literacy

Maria D. Avgerinou identifies 11 visual literacy competencies based on her research, including (1) understanding visual vocabulary, (2) having knowledge of mutual agreement on a visual, (3) the ability to think visually, and (4) the ability to present a visualization, (5) have a coherent logic of thinking in interpreting a visual, (6) is capable of critical thinking, (7) is capable of distinguishing the character of a visual stimulus, (8) is capable of performing a visual reconstruction of an original visual presentation, (9) is capable of identifying the associative meaning of a visual, (10) is capable of reconstructing a meaning from a visual presentation, and (11) is capable of actually constructing the meaning of a visual presentation. These eleven competencies are based on changes in the community's visual cultural landscape and are impacted by advances in communication technologies (Widiatmojo, 2020)

Avgerinos's visual literacy concept is used as a foundation for thinking in a variety of areas. that the digital generation can't tell the difference between famous paintings and images This is since the digital generation is immersed in a sea of visuals that exceeds their visual perception abilities. Visual literacy is one of the skills that must be mastered and is required in all educational settings. Visual Literacy has two main abilities (P.B, 2017), namely:

- The ability to discern (decipher) visual meaning. If the surrounding environment is not investigated, the significance of the images cannot be completely appreciated. To teach a youngster to understand and interpret images, various factors must be considered, including the child's age, culture, and preferences.
- Visual encoding (creation) ability. Visual literacy also includes the ability to create pictures that have a specific meaning. Of course, someone will have to activate their ability to think and envision in order to create visuals.

In a study conducted by Widiatmojo using a critical paradigm, it was discovered that digital era photography and its sharing behaviour on social media might be used to perpetrate symbolic violence against women. The form is the community's exploitation of women's bodies due to a naturalization process in terms of economics. This occurs as a result of inexperienced photographers' lack of visual perception and visual language skills (Widiatmojo R. , 2019). Visual literacy can be utilized to produce meaning in addition to critical thinking. As a result, it is critical to be capable of reading and studying a visual work so that it is not misunderstood. Spreading false information is one type of visual abuse. Hoaxes existed in the past, but they were not as widespread as they are now. We require a practical notion that can define how a photograph can affect humans in order to keep up with the times.

Today's students, who were born digital natives, are a developing generation that will mature through time. They are the nation's future leaders, and they will lead the country to change for the better. Students may make a difference by actively participating in the battle against tyranny and injustice on the Earth. Students can battle hoaxes that are spreading across the internet and in the real world, which is becoming increasingly out of hand. This is a challenge that all Indonesians face. In the current era of digital technology growth, hoaxes have a lot of potential and momentum. If in the past there was a proverb "your mouth is your tiger", in this digital era, this proverb may metamorphose into "your finger is your tiger" (Astuti, 2017). Therefore, digital literacy is becoming increasingly important in the fight against digital hoaxes.

Indonesian youngsters must be able to filter and choose reliable information so that they are not locked in incitement to hoaxes as agents of change and future leaders of the nation who know information technology. Indeed, today's youth should be socially aware, because they will have a profession in the field of mass media in the future. As a result, they must correct misleading information so that the public is not fooled. Currently, the media, particularly social media, is flooded in hoaxes that can be difficult to differentiate from true information.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

As long as humans are alive and have the urge to compete with one another, hoaxes will continue to exist. Because of the ease with which existing mass media may be used, hoaxes are becoming highly powerful and out of control. Hoaxes are used to sway public opinion without being held accountable. Of course, this will have a bad impact on society. Every culture has its own way of dealing with various negative influences, and the youth can be the ultimate line of defence in preventing the spread of hoaxes by encouraging literacy curiosity and critical thinking in any manner possible. One strategy to address the growth of hoaxes that accompany technology advancements is to maintain and improve education to deal with every hoax. Hoaxes can be employed in the process of shaping the character of the younger generation through education that includes learning to read critically.

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