

The Influence of Understanding Information Literacy on Handling the Spread of Hoax News on the Internet Among Students at Universitas Kuningan

Ida Hamidah¹, Arip Hidayat², Ifah Hanifah³

Language Education Department, Kuningan University, Indonesia

{ida.hamidah@uniku.ac.id¹, ifah.hanifah@uniku.ac.id², arip.hidayat@uniku.ac.id³}

Abstract. This research is entitled "The Influence of Understanding Information Literacy on Handling the Spread of Hoax News on the Internet among Students at Universitas Kuningan". This study aims to determine the effect of understanding digital information literacy on the spread of hoax news on the internet among students of Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Universitas Kuningan. The research period is from May-September 2021. The theory used in this research is the theory of information literacy put forward by Zuwroski, digital literacy put forward by Gilster, the internet, and information or hoax news. The research methodology used in this study is a correlational research method which aims to calculate the correlation between understanding digital information literacy and handling hoax news on the internet. The population in this study amounted to 250 people and the samples taken were 95 people. Data collection techniques using questionnaires and interviews. Analysis of research data using single table analysis, cross table analysis, and hypothesis testing with the rank order correlation coefficient formula by Spearman using the Statistical Product and System Solution (SPSS) application. From the results of this study obtained r of 0.239 which indicates H_0 has a significance value less than 0.05. So H_0 is rejected. This shows that understanding digital information literacy has a low relationship with handling the spread of hoax news. However, there is still a relationship between understanding digital information literacy and handling the spread of hoax news on the internet among Indonesian Language and Literature Education Students, Universitas Kuningan.

Keywords: information literacy; digital literacy; digital information literacy; hoax news

1 Introduction

Life in the modern era has shifted human communication patterns from traditional to digital. If in the past, communication between humans was carried out in a classic way, such as face to face, by letter, or telephone, now people have used a communication technology called the internet or what is known as social media. Internet in modern human life has made communication between humans more efficient and effective. No wonder if the activity of communicating via the internet has given rise to analogies in society such as "the far becomes close, the close becomes far" or "closes the far and distances the near". These words are an illustration of how the internet has rapidly changed the pattern of communication between humans in the past, which previously seemed impossible to be completely possible.

According to the survey results of the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII) that: Internet users in Indonesia in 2016 amounted to 51.5% or as many as 132.7 million people from the total population of Indonesia, which is actually 252.6 million people. The most internet users are on the island of Java with a total of 86,339,350 users or about 65% of the total users in Indonesia. Internet users in general are dominated by male sex as much as 52.5% and women by 47.5% of the total internet users in Indonesia.

Internet users in Indonesia from year to year have increased sharply. This is known from the 2017 APJII survey, namely, from the 262 million Indonesian population in 2017, there were 143, 26 million internet users. This means that this is 54.8 internet users from the entire population of Indonesia.



Figure 1.1. Growth of Internet Users in Indonesia

According to APJII, the largest internet users in Indonesia based on age distribution are in the age range of 19 to 34 years. A total of 49.52% of users, came from among young people. Most likely, the group of students as the most internet users are in this age range.

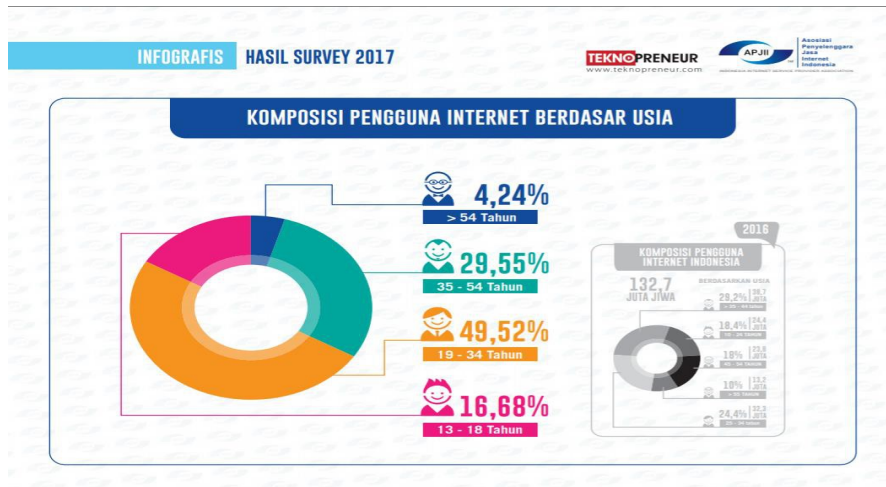


Figure 2.1. Composition of Internet Users in Indonesia Based on Age

Indeed, according to the APJII survey in 2016 it was found that the highest internet users in Indonesia, 89% were in the student group. Therefore, it is certain that in the following years, the most active internet users are in the student group compared to other age categories.



Gambar 1. Hasil Survey Warganet di Indonesia (APJII, 2016)

Figure 3.1. Survey Results of Warganet in Indonesia

This proves that the campus world is the largest user of internet technology. We can understand this because students for all their activities and interests depend a lot on the internet. They access more information from the internet. Another reason is that they are a critical age group for social media information and are a group that is very responsive to updating information on social media.

Apart from being a source of information and knowledge, the internet can have a negative impact on any user, including negative impacts among students through various negative content. One of the negative content that is currently rife is the spread of hoaxes on social media. Hoaxes spread without knowing who the victims are from children to the elderly. Maybe they often read hoaxes on social media. However, the groups that are most responsive to the spread of hoaxes are those from the critical thinking group, namely students.

Based on a survey conducted by the Indonesian Telematics Society (Masteli) on 7-9 February 2017 to 1,116 respondents in Indonesia that hoaxes are often accepted by the Indonesian people; 44.3% every day, 17.2% more than once a day, 29.8% once a week, and 8.7% once a month (<https://tirto.id>).

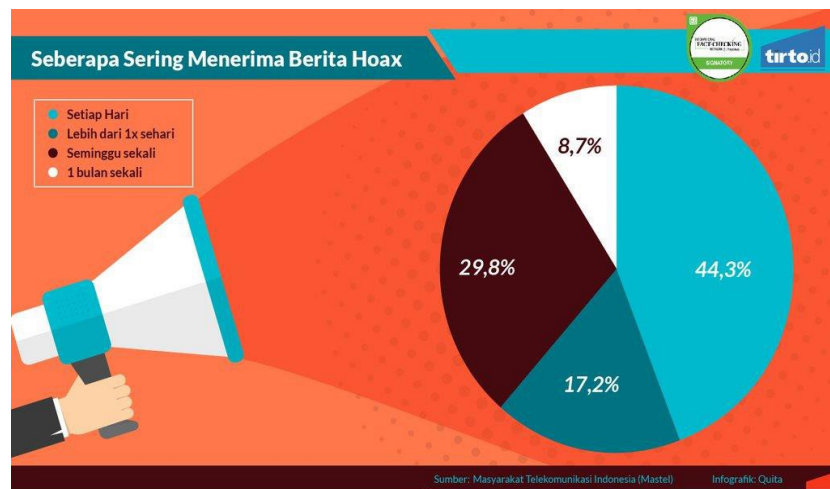


Figure 4.1. How Often Netizens Receive Hoax News

Students at the age of maturity can at least understand the spread and acceptance of hoaxes on the internet wisely. However, from the maturity of attitudes and thoughts, it is feared that they will not be able to understand hoaxes that can mislead their way of thinking. The influence of misleading hoaxes can sometimes lead internet users to take legal action, it can even lead to the safety of the user or the public.

Unfortunately, there is currently no firm sanction from the government for the perpetrators of spreading hoaxes on the internet. There is a possibility that the government will find it difficult to ensnare the hoax spreaders, because they cannot be detected who the main perpetrators are. They are like invisible ghosts, they can even move freely on social media in seconds such as logging into *Google, Facebook, WhatsApp, Line, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube* , and others.

The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) has not been socialized to the maximum by the government, related agencies or institutions, and the community in our homeland. This is because there is still a lack of counseling and training on how to prevent hoaxes on the internet to the public through the ITE Law. In fact, this effort aims to make the public,

including students, as the largest internet users, so that they do not easily believe and fall into negative things on social media.

Apart from socializing the ITE Law, the latest hoax can be handled through digital information literacy learning. Digital information literacy is expected by the public to be information literate. The student group as the group that uses the internet the most is the right target for the implementation of information literacy learning. As critical intellectuals, it is natural for them to easily understand digital information literacy.

Internet is basically a part of information literacy. Meanwhile, information literacy gives birth to other types of literacy which include image literacy, media literacy, computer literacy, digital literacy, and network literacy (Eisenberg, Lowe, and Spitzer, 2004). In this case, the internet is a form of digital information literacy. Digital information literacy or digital literacy is already part of the basic needs of the community whose functions and benefits are quite large.

Regarding the scope of digital information literacy in society, the Minister of Communication and Informatics Rudiantara said that apart from families, the parties who are the main gates for digital literacy are schools, communities, and other digital community groups (<https://lifestyle.kompas.com>). In this case, the campus is also one part of the main gate of digital literacy. The entire academic community, especially students, based on the IPJII survey, it is confirmed that they are internet users. Therefore, for the problem of hoaxes among students, the lecturers are part of the responsibility for handling it.

Departing from the thoughts stated above, it becomes important to capture students' abilities in understanding the components of information literacy with the ability to handle the spread of hoax information among students. How did the students who receive hoax news actually respond when they first received the information? Do students question the truth of the information, compare the information with the reality around them, and evaluate the information? Then do students use the information they find legally and ethically? Therefore, this study will look at the ability and understanding of students' information or hoax news through information literacy theory. Based on this description, researchers are interested in raising the theme of understanding information literacy for students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program at Kuningan University towards the spread of hoax news on the internet .

Based on the background of the problem that has been described, the researchers formulate the problem as follows:

1. How is the understanding of digital information literacy for students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program at Kuningan University towards hoax news on the internet?
2. Is there a relationship between the understanding of digital information literacy of students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program at Kuningan University and the spread of hoax news on the internet?
3. Is there an influence between the understanding of digital information literacy of students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program at Kuningan University on the spread of hoax news on the internet?

2 Methods

The research method used in this study is the correlational method. This method aims to examine the extent to which variations in one factor are related to variations in other factors (Rakhmat, 2004: 27). The correlational method aims to find a relationship between understanding of information literacy and the spread of hoax news on the internet among students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Universitas Kuningan.

According to Kriyantono (2012: 56) in general quantitative research has the following characteristics:

1. Research relationship with subject: distant. Researchers assume that reality is separate and external to itself, therefore there must be a distance to be objective.
2. Research aims to test the theory or hypothesis, support or reject the theory. Data is only as a means of confirming theory or theory is proven by data. If the analysis finds rejection of the hypothesis or theory, usually the researcher does not immediately reject the hypothesis and theory but is tested first.
3. Research must be generalizable, because it requires a representative sample of the entire population, operationalization of concepts and *valid* and *reliable* measuring tools .
4. National-empirical research procedures, meaning that research departs from the concepts or theories that underlie it. This concept or theory will be proven by the data collected in the field.

3 Results and Discussions

This research was conducted at the University of Kuningan, namely the students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program. The number of respondents was 96 people who were selected purposively. Researchers conducted several stages of research in data collection and processing, in order to obtain the following results.

3.1. Understanding Digital Information Literacy

Understanding digital information literacy is a combination of information literacy and digital literacy. Information literacy describes the ability of the skills and techniques possessed by someone who is information literate to take advantage of a number of information facilities. Meanwhile, the means of information that can be utilized by humans are very diverse, both in printed and electronic forms. Information facilities in printed form are books, magazines, newspapers, tabloids, journals, bulletins, etc. Meanwhile, in electronic form, namely television, radio, film, internet.

Meanwhile, digital literacy is the ability to use technology and information from digital devices effectively and efficiently in various contexts in academics, careers, and everyday life (Gilster in Riel, et. al., 2012). The understanding that is measured in this study is the ability of digital information literacy in terms of critical thinking skills, the ability to understand online security, the ability to understand the flow of information, and the ability to communicate.

Table 4.1. Critical Thinking Ability

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	16	16.8
Agree	47	48.9
Disagree	24	25.5
Do not agree	6	5.6
Strongly Disagree	4	3.2
	96	100

Table 4.2. Ability to Understand *Online* Security

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	78	81,7
No	18	18,3
	96	100

Table 4.3. Ability to Understand Information Flow

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	71	74
No	25	26
	96	100

Table 4.4. Communicating Ability

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	75	78
No	21	22
	96	100

3.2. Spreading Hoax News on the Internet

Hoax is a false news or attempt to deceive or trick the reader or listener to believe something with the specific purpose and intent of the perpetrators of spreading the news. To measure the variable of spreading hoax news on Instagram social media to selected respondents, the researchers used 3 indicators, namely, knowledge of hoax news , motivation to spread hoax news, and perpetrators. The points studied are as follows.

1. Know the characteristics of hoax news on the internet.
2. Distinguish between hoax and non-hoax news on the internet.
3. Hoax news has a negative impact.

4. Spreading hoaxes to get attention.
5. Spreading hoaxes so that their existence is acknowledged.
6. Spreading hoaxes to know other people's reactions.
7. Find the accounts of hoax spreaders on the internet
8. Knowing the accounts of hoax spreaders on the internet.
9. Spreading hoaxes intentionally.

3.3. Hypothesis testing

This hypothesis testing aims to determine whether the hypothesis in this study can be accepted or rejected. This hypothesis includes the independent variable (X), namely the understanding of digital information literacy of students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Universitas Kuningan and the dependent variable (Y) namely the distribution of hoax news on the internet. By performing Spearman analysis through SPSS software, the following results are obtained:

**Hypothesis Test Results
Correlations**

			Understanding Information Literacy	Spreading Hoax News on the Internet
Spearman's rho	Understanding I Information Literacy	Correlation Coefficient	1,000	.222 *
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.039
		N	96	96
	Spreading Hoax News on the Internet	Correlation Coefficient	.222 *	1,000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.039	.
		N	96	96

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Based on the results of the correlation in the table above, H_0 is rejected if $p < 0.05$. The significance value from the table above is 0.02 then $p < 0.05$ so H_0 is rejected. With so H_a is received, then there is a relationship between the understanding of literacy media recently with the spread of news hoaks in social instagram on the students of the University of North Sumatra. To view the high and low correlation (degree of relationship) used a scale of Guilford or kuofisien association, as follow

- < 0.20 = very low relationship;
- $0.20 - 0.40$ = low but definite relationship ;
- $0.41 - 0.70$ = a significant relationship ;

0.71 – 0.90 = high relationship;

> 0.91 = very high relationship

Based on the results of the Spearman correlation in the table above, it can be seen that the Spearman correlation coefficient (ρ) is 0.239. By using the Guilford's scale, the result of 0.239 indicates a low but definite relationship. Significance

Correlation results can be seen based on the comparison of the probability value and the sig ** (flag of significant) is given SPSS Statistic 22. If probability > 0.05 then H_a is rejected, if probability < 0.05 then H_a is accepted.

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that the results of the hypothesis test of understanding new media literacy on the spread of hoax news on social media Instagram among University of North Sumatra students with a value of 0.239. Known correlation significance of the smaller probability of 0.05 ($0.02 > 0.05$) and the mark ** (flag of significant) were given SPSS that show significant results. Thus it can be concluded that the research hypothesis is accepted and the relationship is significant. This shows that understanding of information literacy affects the level of hoax news spread on the internet to students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Universitas Kuningan.

4 Conclusions

Based on the findings of the research and discussion, the researchers concluded the following things.

1. Understanding of digital information literacy of students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Universitas Kuningan towards hoax news on the internet in terms of critical thinking skills, as many as 16.8% of students are very capable of critical thinking, 48.9% of students are able to think critically, 25.5% of students less able to think critically, 5.6% of students cannot think critically, and 3.2% of students are very incapable of critical thinking. Then the ability to understand online security, as many as 81.7% of students are able to understand online security and as many as 18.3% of students are not able to understand online security. The next criterion is the ability to understand the flow of information, as many as 74% of students are able to understand the flow of information and as many as 26% of students are not able to understand the flow of information. Furthermore, regarding communication skills, as many as 78% of students are able to communicate and as many as 22% of students are less able to communicate.
2. Based on the results of the research and the results of the calculation of the hypothesis test, a correlation coefficient is obtained which shows that there is a relationship between the understanding of information literacy of PBSI students at Kuningan University and the spread of hoax news on the internet on a low but definite scale. Information literacy skills can prevent PBSI Universitas Kuningan students as internet users from spreading hoax news by rethinking the consequences or impacts that will arise due to hoax news that can harm other parties and themselves.

3. Understanding of digital information literacy has a low relationship with handling the spread of hoax news. However, there is still a relationship between understanding digital information literacy and handling the spread of hoax news on the internet among Indonesian Language and Literature Education Students, Universitas Kuningan.

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