PREVENTION OF ONLINE FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A LITERATURE REVIEW APPROACH

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Abstract

The title of this paper is prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic: A literature review approach. Fake news or hoax has disrupted the original or authenticity of information, especially when social media become a platform in disseminating fake news. And during COVID-19 Pandemic, online fake news on social media has been spread everywhere. The aims of this paper to discuss and explore prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic. This paper applied qualitative research methods by using conceptual research and conceptual paper basically will provide logic and argument based on the literature review to explain a certain issue related to prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic. Based on study finding, prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic has clearly discuss from many sources. Bahri and Sosial, said there is two ways on prevention user from online fake news when using social media is with cognitive skill and critical thinking. Another way is stated by BNPT, social media user is suggested no to easily trust one piece of information when the source is not clear. Check news content and sources deliver news. Third and fourth, corrects and compare the information can trust or not. Fifth, do not spread it to other if user not sure validity of information. KOMINFO also said social media user must be careful with provocative titles, pay attention to the site address that information, fact check, check the authenticity, and joint anti Hoax forum to prevent social media user trapped in online fake news. Kementrian Agama also said, social media user must be able to filter the truth of the information circulating before it spreads. Second, remember ethics in social media. Third, be careful of unknown accounts. Fourth, do not upload information that conflicts with Sara. Fifth, use social media to expand the network. Sixth, include the source of the information content uploaded. Seventh, do not upload information when source is not clear. And lastly, using social media for self-development. Allah SWT also says in Surah Al-Hujarat:6 and An-Nur: 19 to verify all information that we get and do not spread fake news.

Keywords: Fake news; hoax; prevention; social media; COVID-19 Pandemic
A. INTRODUCTION

Currently, social media is an effective and efficient communication media and has an important role as an agent of information in terms of disseminating process. The use of social media as transition of information process have been used in digital aged by society to keep updates with what is going on around. Social media also become one of tool as a transformation of information and also become tool communication between communities or between the community and the government in sharing, complaints and conveying various aspirations this day (Rahadi, 2017). On the other hand, it is necessary to encourage all levels of society to have ethics on how to use social media. There are so many social media users who use this media for negative activities and harm others like using social media to share fake news or hoax for personal purposes and take advantage from it.

The advancement and variety of communication media owned by the community causes the community to face the effects of hoaxes because of communication jammed. Communication jammed is caused by the development of communication technology that can no longer be controlled. Very complicated communication traffic causes fake news or hoax as an act of simple social construction. Fake news or hoax is information or news that contains things that are not certain, or which are not facts. Fake news phenomenon cause various problems, now widely circulated in the community through social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram and etc. (Juditha, 2018). Based on research conduct by Mastel (2017) online fake news spread from chat applications (Whatsapp, Line, Telegram) around 62.80%, and through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Path) around 92.40%. Meanwhile, Kementrian Komunikasi dan Informatika (KOMINFO) during COVID-19 Pandemic there are more than one thousand and three hundred fake news/hoax has been spread through social media in early 2021 (Nuralam, 2021).

Fake news or hoax has disrupted the original or authenticity of information, especially when social media become a platform in disseminating fake news like video, photo, news, etc. In Islam, sharing fake news or lies are sinful. Islam teach us to be “wasatiyyah” or being moderate to uphold the trustworthy and highlight self-respect by dissemination news with fact, value, and reliability (Othman et al., 2020). According to study by Wan Hakimin (2018) Islam also teach Muslim society to check and verify all information that we received before sharing those information to others. The function on these methods is to maintain harmony and peace among Muslim society. This is because all information that came to society not always with guarantee it is true or not.

Furthermore, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from China has reported the first Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease case in Hubei Province on 31 December 2019. And 4 January 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) published to the world about the COVID-19 case in Wuhan, China (World Health Organization, 2020). Indonesia has announced the first case of COVID-19 virus disease at the end of February 2020. Based on data from Komite Penanganan COVID-19 & Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional until October 27, 2021, Indonesia has more than four million cases already and death rate around one hundred and forty-three thousand. Moreover,
refer to data from KOMINFO related to fake news of COVID-19 issues, from the latest data published on 26 October 2021, there is three hundred seventy one fake news related to pandemic issues has been spread among Indonesia society (Kementrian Informasi dan Komunikasi, 2021). And during the critical time, online fake news on social media has been spread everywhere, this situation also made Indonesian society feeling restless, scared and sad in the same time (Rahayu & Sensusiyati, 2020). However, to prevent ourselves from fake news or hoax, society need to learn and understand how to identify whether the information they received from social media true or not. Hence, the aims of this paper to discuss and explorer prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic.

B. METHODOLOGY

The study of this paper applied qualitative research methods by using conceptual research. This paper only to study topic on prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic. the study reviews previous literature from journal articles, books, newspaper, legal document, formal website (Government or No-Government) as the methods to collect the data and analyzed the literature. According to Adom et al., (2018) the conceptual framework describe the research in theoretical constructs. The purpose of this framework is to make research findings more meaningful, acceptable to the theoretical constructs in the research field. Conceptual paper basically will provide logic and argument based on the literature review to explained a certain issues and also to overview the research can use variety of methods, strategy, standard, and guidelines to analyzed the review of literature (Snyder, 2019). Moreover, this concept of paper to study and identify what is online fake news, types and haracteristics of Online fake news on social media, online fake news during COVID-19 Pandemic, and how to prevent online fake news on social media.

C. RESULTS

1. Online Fake News

Online fake news defined as false story that appear to be a news and spread on the internet as to created views from audiences and often used as a buzzword to spread hate speech for individual or organization to argue against with different opinion (Molina et al., 2021). Fake news is type of news that written and published with intent to mislead for financial or political purposes with sensational that grab attention and often employs eye-catching headlines or satire fabricated story to increase reader on online sharing, view, and click revenue (Nash Library & Student Learning Commons, 2021). Online fake news or hoax is the information made that is not true but made as if it was true and verified the truth. In other words, as an attempt to distort the facts and contains information that intentionally misleads people for a specific political agenda. Fake news are not just misleading the information and also has no factual basis, but is presented as if it were a series of facts (Azizah, 2021).

Fake news is an attempt to deceive readers/listeners to believe something or some information. One of the most common examples of fake news is claiming
an item or event with a different name from the actual item/event. Fake news is a trick used to believe something that wrong and often not makes sense through the online media to make public opinion, leading public opinion, forming perceptions as well as for having fun and spread hate speech. Besides, the purpose of spreading fake news is for black campaign and promotion with fraud (Rahadi, 2017). A term of fake news in journalism perceptions is false information or not true and leads to cases of defamation. Fake news is to deceive or trick the reader into believing something. The reports that are not based on reality or truth and the purpose of fake news is for a joke, fun, to build public opinion. The point is to misguided and misleading, especially if internet users are not critical and immediately share the news they read with other internet users (Juditha, 2018). To conclude, fake news or hoax is defined as false information to lead public opinions for advantages proposes and black campaign by personal or organization.

2. Types and Characteristics of Online Fake News on Social Media

Currently, using social media as dissemination of information is mostly used this day. The convenience offered in the delivery of information to the public provided and mediated in the network makes information or news unable to be filtered properly. There is no editor who can be responsible for the dissemination of information that is spread in social media, this is happened because everyone mostly has access to internet and social media. The amount of information that is anonymous makes the spread of online fake news in social media is quickly spread (Rahmadhany et al., 2021). The problem that arises from the current use of social media is the number of online fake news that are widespread and even educated people cannot distinguish which news is true, advertorial and hoax. The spread without being corrected or sorted will eventually have an impact on the law and hoax information has divided the public (Rahadi, 2017). Using fake news and shared to social media platform is a global concern in digital aged, and mostly the purposes of sharing there is a motive behind (Talwar et al., 2020).

Based on Tandoc et al., (2018) there is five type of online fake news that can be fine on internet or social media is: Satire, parody, fabrication, manipulation, propaganda, and advertising. The overview of those five terms is: First is news satire. The most common conceptualization of fake news is satire. This is related to mock news stations that usually use humor or distortion to circulate news reports to the public. Another example of such show is Daily Show. Such program typically talks about current affairs and often use the television news reporting style (a “talking head” behind a desk, with descriptive graphics and video), as well as a regular news program. A key difference is provided entertainment rather than facts, with broadcasters considering themselves celebrities or comedians instead of journalists or commentators for news. Second is news parody. Parody is another category of online fake news that shares many characteristics with satire, as both rely on humor as a means of attracting a community. This also incorporates a writing style which mimics the conventional media outlets. Although, parodies vary from satire, however; the use of injecting humor that take cognizance of misleading content is reflected in parody. Instead of providing humoral specific overview of current affairs, satire focuses on the ridiculousness of issues and highlights them by publishing completely
fictional news stories. An example of this is the most prominent Onion Parody Website, which on occasions was in reality confused for an actual media platform (Tandoc et al., 2018).

Third is news fabrication. Fabrication is applying to stories that have no supporting evidence but are written in the form of news articles to establish credibility. Unlike satire, the author and the reader have no tacit perception that the element is fake. The objective is often quite the reverse. The item’s manufacturer also has the purpose to misinform. Manufactured products may be uploaded on a website, blog, or social media platform. When political media post these reports, the difficulty of identifying invented false news exists, offering a sense of integrity and objective coverage. Fourth is photo manipulation. Online fake news has also been used for manipulating actual photographs or videos to create lies. Each category represents visual news where the preceding sections usually applied to text-based products. With the growth of technology imagery, powerful tools for editing, software and awareness of techniques, the production of photographs has become an increasingly popular phenomenon. Effects can vary between simple and complex. Expanding color saturation and eliminating minor objects may require easy changes. More invasive modifications also include erasing or attaching a person in an image. Fifth is advertising. False news has also been used in the content we reviewed to portray promotional messages in the form of legitimate news stories as well as referring to media releases as news. Although the use of the material is decided by media outlets, the obscuring of its sources may deceive viewers into thinking that the news generated is bias-free. Finally, propaganda. Propaganda are stories that created by a political group to influence people’s attitudes. The explicit goal is to benefit from a political official, organization, and administration (Tandoc et al., 2018).

Furthermore, based on KOMINFO, in Indonesia the characteristics of fake news in social media can be identify by receive or read information that can make us hate other people or certain groups, for example: create hatred, concern and hostility. Usually also asked to go viral with the words ‘ask to be viral or ask to be spread’. The source of the information or the media is not clearly identified. In addition, an information is also suspected of being a hoax if the message does not contain a complete 5W+1H; what, when, who, why, where, and how (Informasi, 2019). Other characteristics of online fake news on social media are: The message is one-sided and only defends it. Often use the names of characters as if they came from them. Using fanaticism with ideological or religious values to convince. Provocative title or display. The title or content with the link when opened did not match. Always to be ask to shared or viral (Kementrian Informasi dan Komunikasi, 2017).

3. Online Fake News during COVID-19 Pandemic

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic not only cause health issue or death case, but also created social problem in society such us hoax or fake news that spread thought online platform like social media. For example, in Indonesia as reported by United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) hoax or fake news have cause misinformation that makes people not believed COVID-19 is real virus that can cause death and people no need to follow health protocols such us wearing mask, washing hand, keep the distance and prevent with tissue when sneezing to
prevent infection. Another problem is people not going to hospital to see treatment and receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Some people also refuse to get vaccines because they heard from online fake news said that they will die within three years if they are getting the COVID-19 vaccine. However, Government and Non-Government are keep fighting to prevent online fake news that spread thought social media (Ravelo, 2021).

Moreover, From 23 January 2020 to 15 June 2020 there were at least 850 hoaxes circulating through social media in Indonesia. The fake news is like the compensation received by the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic or inhaling hot steam which is said to be able to kill COVID-19. Every day, an average of 6.2% fake news is created and distributed. This creates fear, uncertainty, and even panic in the community. As many as 104 criminals of spreading the hoax have been followed up by the police (Indriani, 2020). Based on study conducted by Kaila (2021) COVID-19 virus has made Indonesian people restless and uneasy because of online fake news or hoax. The spread of hoax is easily occurring through social media, especially Facebook. Bahri and Sosial (2021) explained that the circulation of hoaxes increased in line with the start of the COVID-19 vaccination program that launched in January 13 until now. A lot of incorrect information the data from 23 January 2020 to 12 May 2021 shows, there are 1,587 hoaxes news related to COVID-19 issues. The issue spread across 3,377 contents on various social media in Indonesia. The data also shows, Facebook is first ranks on the spread of the COVID-19 hoax with 2,784 contents. Second is Twitter with 520 hoax contents. Meanwhile on YouTube has found 49 contents. There are also 24 contents on Instagram. However, based on KOMINFO statements they have removed 2,927 content, the remaining 450 content is still under investigation. about vaccines and irresponsible person who is create and spread hoaxes has cause reason why Indonesian do not believe about COVID-19 virus is because of hoaxes or fake news.

4. Prevention of Online Fake News

Social media can be used to disseminating any kind of information thought online. However, a critical thinking is needed to address each time the information that user receives from online platform. Two important things that need to be considers for making someone can preventing themselves from hoax or online fake news is with cognitive skill and critical thinking. Cognitive can be interpreted as an attitude of expanding thinking horizon. While element of critical requires user have deep interpretation every time they received information from social media. Here user expected to be able to process information in social media and don’t take it for granted information received before check and re-check whether the information true or not (Bahri & Sosial, 2021). Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme (BNPT) also explained there is five ways to preventing social media user are not easily consumed by hoax issues. First, social media user is suggested no to easily trust one piece of information when the source is not clear. Second, check news content and sources deliver news. Third and fourth, user is always suggested to corrects and compare the information obtained with mainstream information can trust or not. Fifth, if user is not sure about the validity of the content of the news, do not spread it to other (Nuralam, 2020).
Moreover, KOMINFO also explained five steps to prevent social media user from fake news or hoax. First, be careful with provocative titles news or sensational titles, for example by directly pointing the finger at certain parties. The contents can also be taken from official media reports, but they can be changed to create the perception that the hoax maker wants. Seconds, pay attention to the site address that information obtained from the website or include a link, pay attention to the URL address of the site in question. News that comes from media sites that have been verified by the Press Council will be easier to hold accountable. Third, fact check, where the news comes from and who is the source? Is it from an official institution or the National Policy? Pay attention to the balance of news sources. If there is only one source, the user cannot get the full picture. Fourth, check the authenticity of the photo in the current era of digital technology, it is not only content in the form of text that can be manipulated, but also other content in the form of photos or videos. Finally, join an anti-hoax discussion group on Facebook or others social media there are a number of fan pages and anti-hoax discussion groups (Dina, 2017).

Furthermore, Kementrian Agama suggested eight ways that citizens can do for preventing themselves from online fake news. First, netizens must be able to filter the truth of the information circulating before it spreads. Second, user must use ethics in social media. The ethic is being careful in disseminating information to the public and using ethics when interacting with other. Third, be careful of unknown accounts. Fourth, do not upload information that conflicts with Sara. Fifth, use social media to expand the network. Sixth, include the source of the information content uploaded. Seventh, do not upload information when source is not clear. And lastly, using social media for self-development (Indah, 2021).

Additionally, in Islam, Allah SWT in the Qur’an also recommends to studying a news coming. Especially information who are present from those who are ungodly. For example, in Surah Al-Hujurat:6 Allah said “O believers! If someone the wicked come to you bringing a news, then examine the truth, so that you do not harm a people because of stupidity (carelessness), which in the end, you will regret what you did.” (Bahri & Sosial, 2021). Another example in Surah An-Nur:19 Allah said “In fact people who want (news of) his very heinous deeds spread to the people among those who believe, for them a painful punishment in the world and in the hereafter. And Allah is All-Knowing whereas you don’t know’. In the Surah An-Nur verse 19 clearly explained that a believer is pure, possess value and value in the presence of Allah SWT. Therefore, no one is justified confessing himself the faith but always wants to find fault with others, spy on, and spread fake news about other people (Witasari & Ridwan, 2021).

D. DISCUSSION

Based on this study finding, prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic has clearly discuss from many sources such as BNPT, KOMINFO, Kementrian Agama and Islam as well. Bahri and Sosial stated that there is two ways on prevention user from hoax when using social media is with cognitive skill and critical thinking. Another way is stated by BNPT, social media user is suggested no to easily trust one piece of information when the source is not
clear. Check news content and sources deliver news. Third and fourth, corrects and compare the information can trust or not. Fifth, do not spread it to other if user not sure validity of information. KOMINFO also said social media user must be careful with provocative titles, pay attention to the site address that information, fact check, check the authenticity, and joint anti Hoax forum to prevent social media user trapped in online fake news. Kementrian Agama also says, social media user must be able to filter the truth of the information circulating before it spreads. Second, remember ethics in social media. Third, be careful of unknown accounts. Fourth, do not upload information that conflicts with Sara. Fifth, use social media to expand the network. Sixth, include the source of the information content uploaded. Seventh, do not upload information when source is not clear. And lastly, using social media for self-development. Islam also stated in Surah Al-Hujarat:6 and An-Nur: 19 to verify all information we get and do not spread fake news.

However, this study only focuses on prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic based on literature review perspective. The study only focusses on what is online fake news, types, and characteristics of online fake news on social media, online fake news during COVID-19 Pandemic, and how to prevent online fake news on social media. This study did not examine social media users’ perspective on online fake news or identify social media user on experience on online fake news. Moreover, study on examine and identify users experience on prevention of online fake news on social media can be discuss further for future studies.

E. CONCLUSION

Fake news or hoax has disrupted the original or authenticity of information, especially when social media become a platform in disseminating fake news like video, photo, news, etc. And during COVID-19 Pandemic, online fake news on social media has been spread everywhere. However, to prevent ourselves from fake news or hoax, society need to learn and understand how to identify whether the information they received from social media true or not. The aims of this paper to discuss and explorer prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic. The study of this paper applied qualitative research methods by using conceptual research and conceptual paper basically will provide logic and argument based on the literature review to explain a certain issue related to prevention of online fake news on social media during COVID-19 Pandemic.

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