

# Types of Covid-19 Hoax in Social Media Indonesia

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## Abstract

Indonesia is prone to be affected by hoaxes because the number of internet accesses reaches more than 50 percent of Indonesia's population. The impact of the distribution of hoax content is relatively diverse. Starting from causing anxiety and fear in some community groups to becoming national attention through mass media coverage. This study aims to determine the type of covid-19 hoax in Indonesia's social media, especially the hoax effect for iGeneration in Buru Regency. This research is field research. The population in this study were students of Iqra Buru University, Buru Regency, Maluku. Data collection techniques in this study using observation, interviews, and documentation. The data that has been collected is then analyzed based on the effect theory and mass communication function to determine the effects of hoax news. The results showed that the hoax issues that were most widely circulated on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic were racial, health, and political hoaxes. Based on the research results, it can be seen that there is a tendency for SARA hoaxes and political hoaxes to have an effective effect on society, especially for iGeneration in Buru Regency. Health hoaxes tend to have a conative effect on society.

**Keywords:** social media; Covid-19 hoaxes; iGeneration

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The spread of fake news or hoaxes is not something that can be taken lightly because the spread of fake news or hoaxes can be subject to the law. This is based on Law number 11 of 2008 concerning electronic information and transactions (ITE); Law number 40 of 2008 concerning the elimination of racial and ethnic discrimination, as well as acts when hate speech has caused social conflict; Article 28 paragraph 2 concerning SARA; and Regulation of the Minister of Communication and Information Technology number 19 of 2014 concerning the handling of sites with negative contents. However, the many articles, laws, and regulations that ensnare hoaxes do not stop the circulation of fake news which is increasing every year. This shows that until now no way has been found to effectively eradicate the spread of fake news or hoaxes in Indonesia. Given the large negative impact of fake news such as the Wamena Riot, the spread of fake news or hoaxes must be stopped.

Indonesia is very vulnerable to being affected by hoaxes because the number of internet users reaches more than 50 percent of Indonesia's population. Kominfo data shows that throughout 2018, there were 8,903 negative content reports by the public originating from Facebook and Instagram. The reported negative content is in the form of hoaxes and hate speech. When compared to 2017, the number of negative content reporting originating from Facebook and Instagram increased by 398.88 percent from the previous number in 2017, which was 2,232.

Research on the internet and hoaxes has been carried out by many previous researchers. In general, the results of previous research indicate that social media can disseminate information quickly (Urista et al.). The ability to spread information quickly on social media automatically makes hoaxes spread very fast, causing certain effects, such as internet users who tend to find it difficult to distinguish between correct and incorrect information (Umanailo, Hamid, et al.), the tendency of people to only reading the main headings of the text (Ribeiro and Ortellado), can cause panic and chaos (Ribeiro and Ortellado), and is a serious threat to democracy (Farid). Besides, hoaxes have themes and forms that can be in the form of simple and short narrative text (Shao et al.). The various effects of hoaxes make research on the effects of fake news or hoaxes interesting and urgent to do, especially the effects of hoax news on generation Z or iGeneration who actively access the internet, especially in Buru district. How is the effect of hoax news on iGeneration being the focus of the problem in this study? This research is important to do considering that if it is known what hoax phenomena developed in generation Z in Buru Regency, the findings can be used as a reference for the government and education practitioners to prepare literacy education.

This study aims to determine how the covid-19 hoax effect for generation Z who was born in the 1995-2010 timeframe in Buru district who actively accesses the internet. The hoax effect analysis referred to in this study is the result after reading hoax news. To determine the effect of hoaxes on iGeneration in Buru district, observations and investigations will be carried out based on the theory of effects and the mass communication function.

## 2. Literature Review

In this study, the theories used include mass media theory, mass communication, mass communication effects, and mass communication functions. Mass Media is a tool used to convey messages from sources to audiences using mechanical devices such as radio, newspapers, television, films. Mass communication is production and distribution based on technology and institutions from the continuous flow of messages that are most widely owned by people in industrial society (Dewi and Trikusumaadi). Mass Media presents itself in the expected role, the dynamics of society will be formed, where the media is the message. Types of mass media are media that are oriented to the following aspects; Vision, for example, print media; Hearing such as radio and recorder type; Sight and hearing, for example, television, film, verbal video, visual vocals (Liliweri).

Mass media are tools in communication that can spread messages simultaneously, quickly to a wide and heterogeneous audience. The advantage of mass media compared to other types of communication is that it can overcome space and time barriers (Nurdin). The mass media provide information about changes in how it works and the results achieved or the results to be achieved. The main function of the mass media is to provide information on widespread interest and advertise products. The characteristics of the mass media are that they are not determined by personal contact, are easy to find, content is common, and is one-way communication. The main role that is expected to be associated with change is as first knowledge. Mass media is a type of information that is respected by farmers in the stage of awareness and interest in the process of adopting innovation.

One form of communication is mass communication. In line with the development of communication technology, mass communication media are increasingly sophisticated and complex and have more power than ever before, especially in terms of reaching communicants. with the existence of modern media allows millions of people around the world to communicate to almost all corners of the world. The process of mass communication is essentially a process of passing meaningful symbols, which is carried out through channels, which are usually known as the media. In this case, what is meant by the media is a tool used to reach the masses. From the description above, it can be explained that mass communication is a process that describes how communicators use mass media technology proportionally to disseminate messages beyond the distance to influence large numbers of consumers.

"Mass communication is messages communicated through a mass medium to large number people" (Mass communication is a message communicated through the mass media to a large number of people) (Mu'adi et al.). Mass communication is a form of communication that uses channels (media) to connect communicators and

communicants en masse, many, live far away (scattered), very heterogeneous, and leave certain effects (Liliweri). Another definition of mass communication was expressed by Gebner (Kanto et al.; Romlah et al.), who said that: "mass communication is technologically and institutionally based production and distribution of the most broadly shared continuous flow of messages in industrial societies". Meletze also expressed his opinion that mass communication is a form of communication that convey statements openly through technical dissemination media indirectly and in one direction to the scattered public. This media of dissemination can be done through the media of newspapers, both through print and electronic media (Afandi et al.).

Communication has a certain effect. In general, there are three effects of mass communication (Liliweri), namely: Cognitive effects, mass communication messages cause consumers to change in terms of knowledge, views, and opinions about something they get. This effect is concerned with the transmission of knowledge, skills, beliefs, or information; The affective effect, mass communication messages result in changes in certain feelings of consumers. People may become angrier and feel less displeased with the result of reading the newspaper, listening to the radio, or watching television. This effect has to do with emotions, attitudes, or values; The conative effect, mass communication messages cause people to make decisions to do or not do something. This effect refers to real, attractive behavior, which includes patterns of actions, activities, or behavior habits.

The function of mass communication in general is as follows: Interpretation, this interpretation function is in the form of comments and opinions aimed at consumers and is equipped with a perspective (point of view) on the news or impressions that are presented, to form a link based on the same interests and interests about something; Spread of values (Transmission of Values), through watching, listening, and reading the mass media. The mass media shows us how they act and what they expect; Entertainment (Entertainment), functioning as an entertainer is no other purpose is to reduce the tension of the consumer's mind. Information function, mass media function as disseminators of information for readers, listeners, or viewers; The function of education, one of the ways the mass media provides education is by teaching ethics, values, and rules that apply to readers or viewers; Influencing function, implicitly in the headers/editorials, features, advertisements, articles, and so on; Mental Development Process Functions. Mass media is closely related to the behavior and experience of human consciousness; Environmental Adaptation Function, namely adjustment to the environment, consumers can adapt to their environment with the help of the mass media so that a person can get to know his environment better; Function Manipulating Environment, trying to influence the communication used as the main control tool and environmental regulation; Convincing function (To Persuade), which is to strengthen or strengthen a person's attitude, belief, or value. Changing someone's attitude, beliefs, or values. Moving someone to do something (Effendy; Muhasidah et al.).

Based on the explanation of the theory above, it can be concluded that news, especially hoax news, has a specific purpose. Controversial issues in the form of news circulating in the community contain certain goals or ideologies that can have certain impacts.

### **3. METHOD**

The research method is a comprehensive method or strategy to find or obtain the necessary data (Zulfiqar Bin Tahir). This research is descriptive, namely research that aims to describe a community or a particular group of people or a description of a symptom or a relationship between two or more symptoms (Apriyanto and Umanailo). The descriptive method describes the nature of a situation that is currently running at the time of the study and examines the causes of a particular symptom (Jannah et al.).

The type of method used in this research is field research, which is research carried out in the realm of life, field research is essentially a method to find specifically and realistically what is happening at one time in the community (Kartono, 1981). The purpose of field research is to study intensively the background of the current situation, and the environmental interactions of a social unit, individual, group, institution, or community (Achmadi). The population in this study were students of Iqra Buru University, Buru Regency, Maluku. The sample is a portion of certain elements of a population (Zulfiqar Bin Tahir). In taking the sample in this study, researchers used non-random sampling or non-probability techniques, namely a sampling method in which not all members of the population were allowed to be selected as samples (Bin-Tahir et al.). The samples in this study are 10 students of Indonesian Literature and English Literature in semester II and IV of Iqra Buru University.

Data collection techniques in this study used observation, interviews, and documentation (Iye et al.). Observation is observation using the sense of sight which means not asking questions (Umanailo, Yulisvestra, et al.). Observations made in this study were in the form of observing student responses when reading fake news (hoaxes) about Covid-19. Furthermore, interviews were conducted on research subjects. Researchers ask questions about the responses of research subjects to the news that has been read. Documentation is carried out by researchers during the data collection process.

Data analysis is the systematic process of finding and organizing interview transcriptions, field notes, about these materials, and to enable you to present what you have found to others (Sumitro et al.). In this case, the writer uses qualitative analysis, meaning that the collected data is then described in words, separated according to inductive thinking patterns, namely looking at facts and events in particular and then generalizing to a general nature (Bin Tahir, 2017). The data analysis process that the author uses in this study is after the data is collected, then the data is selected first, then the writer will process and analyze the research data so that it can be made an objective decision by making conclusions based on existing facts and assembling them into solutions to the problems in this study.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The Covid-19 pandemic has been the main news topic of the mass media since March 2020 until now. The phenomenon of the high number of people exposed to Covid-19 has resulted in the emergence of various information about the Covid-19 pandemic, both valid information, and incorrect information. Based on data from Mafindo, there were a total of 301 hoaxes circulating from January to April 2020. 50% of these hoaxes circulated on Facebook, 26% circulated on WhatsApp, and 13% circulated on Twitter. Based on data from January to April 2020, the types of hoaxes circulating on social media consist of SARA hoaxes, health hoaxes, and political hoaxes can be presented in Figure 1..



Figure 1. Text screenshot 1

The Figure 1 above is an example of a hoax circulating in the community. The hoax discourse above discusses the government's plan to carry out a rapid test of 5000 ustadz in West Java. The government's plan to carry out a rapid test on 5000 ustadz is based on the government's concern about ustadz and ulama who interact more frequently with the community and the discovery of many cases of santri exposed to Covid-19, making the government take preventive steps by carrying out rapid tests on ustad. However, much of the discourse circulating in the community regarding the government's plan to carry out a rapid test on the ustad was not accompanied by an adequate explanation of the government's reasons for conducting the rapid test.

As for the use of the words and sentences "Beware", "why is it only ustadz?", "Why not all religious figures", "straight ustadz can be sentenced to corona positive", and "Modus finishes Ustad" gives a negative impression on newsreaders. This negative impression was also confirmed by the negative response of students who read the screenshot text 1. There are 80% of respondents who agree with text discourse 1. As for 20% of respondents disagree with text discourse 1. More respondents who agree with the contents of discourse text 1 indicate that the text of discourse 1 is successful in leading the reader's opinion to give a negative impression of the government's plan. Another effect of text 1 is that the respondent does not trust the government in Figure 2.

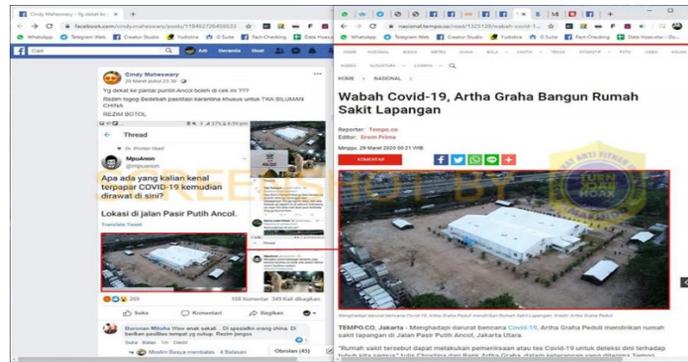


Figure 2. Text screenshot 2

Title: Fasilitas Karantina Untuk TKA Cina  
 Narration: Yang dekat pantai putih Ancol boleh di cek di sini???  
 Rezim Togog bedebah fasilitasi karantina khusus untuk  
 Tka siluman Cina rezim botol

The narrative from screenshot text 2 above is a hoax discourse that is circulating as a result of the response to news about the construction of a special health facility for Covid-19 sufferers. The circulating discourse that the hospital built by the Artha Graha Foundation is a hospital to accommodate Covid-19 sufferers, especially for Chinese foreign workers, is a hoax because the hospital was built for the public and is open to the public. For people who experience Covid-19 symptoms, they can check themselves at the hospital.

The use of the words 'Special facilities for TKA' and 'Siluman Cina' shows that the hoax discourse in circulation shows a negative impression and tries to persuade readers of discourse to suspect that the government sided with foreign workers and did not side with indigenous people. From the results of interviews conducted with respondents, 80% considered the content of text 2 discourse to be true. Respondents also gave a negative impression after reading the news as can be seen in Figure 3.

**Beredar Kabar Arus Angin Bawa Penyakit dalam 3 Hari ke Depan, BMKG: Hoax**

Farih Maulana Sidik - detikNews  
 Kamis, 09 Apr 2020 22:08 WIB



Figure 3. Text screenshot 3

The text Figure 3 above is information circulating on social media about the news of wind currents from north to south that brought the Covid-19 outbreak (disease). The news about the wind current carrying the disease was clarified by the BMKG as hoax news. Also, the Covid-19 Task Force has issued a press conference regarding how to spread the Covid-19 virus via Droplet instead of by air, so the news that states the wind flow from north to south through Indonesia is fake news (hoax).

From the results of interviews that have been conducted with respondents, 70% of respondents think that text 3 about 'The News of the Current of the Wind Bringing Illness for the Next 3 Days' is true news, while 30% of respondents do not believe the news. 70% of respondents said they believed the news and were afraid to leave the house. The 30% who did not believe this stated that they had read the rebuttal news from the BMKG and the Covid-19 Task Force so that respondents did not believe the news (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Text screenshot 4

The Figure 4 above is information spread in cyberspace about the issue of consuming foods with a certain pH that will prevent yourself from being exposed to the Covid-19 virus. The information states that consuming high doses of vitamin C can treat the Covid-19 virus and can prevent humans from contracting the Covid-19 virus due to consuming high doses of vitamin C every day. The issue of consuming high doses of vitamin C that can escape and cure the Covid-19 virus is fake news (hoax). As confirmed by the turnbackhoax.id team, which states that there is no definite research regarding the efficacy of consuming high doses of vitamin C to treat the covid-19 virus. Therefore, the information circulating on social media about consuming vitamin C can treat the Covid-19 virus is fake news (hoax).

Based on the results of interviews that have been conducted, 90% of respondents think the information is correct, and only 10% of respondents think the information is untrustworthy. 90% of respondents who believed this information admitted that after reading the information they became diligent in consuming foods containing vitamin C and also consuming vitamin C regularly. Also, respondents admitted that due to this information they paid more attention to the food they ate and tried to always consume the foods mentioned in the information such as oranges, avocados, garlic, and manga as can be seen in figure 5.



Figure 5. Text screenshot 5

The narrative in figure 5 above is information circulating on social media. The narrative in screenshot text 5 is a response to news circulating on online news sites regarding the absence of condolences from the President of the Republic of Indonesia to medical personnel who died while on duty handling Covid-19 patients. Based on the data collected by the turnbackhoax.id team, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, through his official Twitter account, has expressed his condolences for medical personnel who have died handling Covid-19 patients. The President of the Republic of Indonesia also announced that he would give awards and incentives to medical personnel who treat Covid-19 patients. Therefore, the information circulating on social media regarding the President of the Republic of Indonesia who did not offer condolences to medical personnel who died handling Covid-19 patients is false information or fake news (hoax).

Based on the results of interviews with respondents, 80% of respondents thought the information in screenshot text 5 was correct. Respondents stated that they had never read any information or news about the President of the

Republic of Indonesia who gave condolences to medical personnel who died on duty. As a result, 80% of respondents gave a negative assessment of the attitude of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, who did not offer condolences to medical personnel who died on duty. The information in text 5 makes the respondents think that the President of the Republic of Indonesia does not appreciate the efforts of health workers who are struggling to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and assess negatively and do not trust the President of the Republic of Indonesia as can be presented in figure 6.



Figure 6. Text screenshot 6

The figure 6 above is information circulating on social media regarding the statement of the Governor of North Sumatra stating that he will continue to open places of worship during the Covid-19 pandemic. The information above circulated in May 2020, at which time the opening of places of worship was prohibited by the government considering that the spread of the Covid-19 virus throughout Indonesia was still very high, so the statement by the Governor of North Sumatra violated the rules. However, based on the information collected by the turnbackhoax.id team, there is no news stating that the Governor of North Sumatra allowed the opening of places of worship in North Sumatra Province during the Covid-19 pandemic in May, so the information in the screenshot text 6 above is fake news (hoax).

From the results of the interviews that have been conducted, as many as 70% of respondents believe the information in the screenshot text 6 and think the information is true. Respondents who thought the above information was correct also thought it natural for places of worship to remain open during the Covid-19 pandemic as long as the community followed health protocols, so it would not be a problem if people continued to worship in public places.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion above, it can be concluded that the needs of students in schools located in During the Covid-19 pandemic, hoax issues that most circulated on social media were SARA hoaxes, health, and politics. Based on the research results above, it can be seen that there is a tendency that SARA hoaxes and political hoaxes have an affective effect on society, especially for iGeneration in Buru Regency. Health hoaxes tend to have a conative effect. In SARA hoaxes and political hoaxes, news or information in circulation tends to have an interpretive and influencing function, whereas in health hoaxes it tends to have an information function.

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