Trends of Political Reporters Writing Hoax on The Online Media in South Sulawesi

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Abstract
This article explains about hoax trends written by online media journalists in South Sulawesi. The level of trend is measured by five indicators, namely: aspects of confirmation bias, aspects of incorrect information, aspects of misleading information, aspects of incorrect connections, and aspects of satire. This research is a quantitative study that obtained data from 28 journalists working in a variety of different online media spread in South Sulawesi. Data collection techniques were carried out using checklist sheets and literature studies. The data obtained will be analyzed using frequency distribution, simple linear regression, and the SPSS program in order to refer to a conclusion. The results of this study indicate that the trend of online media political journalists in South Sulawesi is low. The low trend of confirmation bias, misinformation, misleading information, wrong connection and satire have implications for the results of the final accumulation, namely the trend of journalists writing lies in the low category. Political journalists in online media in South Sulawesi write news in a coherent manner with appropriate and capacity speakers in their fields. In other words, journalists do not write news by interpreting recent events as evidence of existing beliefs.

Keywords: Hoax, Journalists, and Online Media

Introduction

Freedom of the press is a gift for members of the press who should be properly guarded and cared for. This freedom is expected to emerge as a clean and wise government system. There is a noble ideal behind this freedom, namely the realization of control over power and the creation of a check and balance mechanism. Therefore, the media is known as the fourth pillar of democracy which has a major role in guarding democracy. 2019 was a year that was quite worrying for the press members, because various political issues strengthened and were directly proportional to the flourishing of online media which ignored the ability of journalists in their recruitment process. In fact, freedom of the press must be accompanied by full responsibility. The way to preserve and maintain press freedom in essence lies with journalists who uphold professionalism by paying attention to the application of journalistic code of ethics to each journalistic product it produces.

Today, the emergence of online media is growing and can no longer be controlled, such as the emergence of vivanews.com, detik.com, okezone.com and many others. In fact, print media such as Republika, Kompas, Media Indonesia, Tempo, and Media Indonesia also do not want to be left behind to strengthen print news with the support of online versions of news (Zaenuddin, 2011: 8). Unfortunately, the growth of online media is not in line with the strengthening of human resources to produce quality journalistic products and in accordance with journalistic code of ethics. This is evidenced by the still many complaints in the form of violations of the journalistic code of ethics which are received by the press council each year.

According to Chairman of the Press Council Yosep Adi Prasetyo in the 2014 election, the power of the press was divided into two, especially in television media shows, namely media that supports the government and media that supports the opposition. This media alignment is an effect of the polarization of political interests. In the 2019 political year, Yosep

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saw the Indonesian Press would have two choices, namely carrying out its function by upholding the Journalistic Code of Ethics or even having an affair in the name of political interests. In addition to political currents that are so strong, entering the election, Indonesian journalists will be flooded with lies. The facts presented by journalists are actually covered with a variety of more bombastic hoaxes. The most worrying part of the false news during the election is that a lot of false news is mixed with hate speech, prejudice, ethnicity, religion, race, and intergroup (SARA). This concern seems to be true if we look at the findings of the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kominfo) which states that the most outstanding hoaxes in the voting month, namely April 2019. (Tirto.id, February 8, 2018).

The findings of the Ministry of Communication and Information explained, since August 2018, the circulation of hoaxes continued to increase until the voting took place, there were 486 hoaxes identified in April 2019. After identifying, verifying, and validating by the Ministry of Communication and Information, the total number of hoax distributors from August 2018 to April 2019 reached 1,731 hoaxes. From the data, there were 620 hoaxes included in the category of political news with content in the form of fake news that attacked pairs of presidential and vice presidential candidates, the KPU and Bawaslu, and the political parties participating in the election. In 2017, the Indonesian Telematics Society Survey (Mastel) released a hoax that was rife in the country most widely spread through social media channels. The other hoax distribution channels through the website are 34.9 percent, television 8.7 percent, print media 5 percent, email 3.1 percent and radio 1.2 percent. As many as 96 percent of respondents also think hoaxes can hamper development. The large number of hoaxes circulating through online media is certainly

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part of the development of the digital age coupled with an increase in internet users. (Detik.com, May 1, 2019).

Based on study data released by the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII), Indonesian internet users have increased 10.12 percent in 2018. With the increasing number of internet users, it can be assumed that accessing news has also increased and is useful. Generally disinformation occurs because of two things, namely: the media taken and the low media literacy level. According to the Secretary General of APJII, the survey took data in the field from March to April 14, 2019 and took 5900 samples with a margin of error of 1.28 percent. Of the 264 million population, there are 171.17 people (64.8 percent) of whom are internet users. Since 2017 internet penetration in Indonesia has reached 54.86 percent. The high enthusiasm of the public in using the internet turned out to be enough to make reporters confused to compete with the speed of citizens sharing information or current events on social media. (kompas.com, May 16, 2019).

One medium of mass communication that continues to experience development is online media. There are various views of communication experts related to this mass media, among them as stated by Bittner. Bittner defines mass communication as a message that is communicated through mass media to a large number of people. (Jalaludin Rachmat, 2007: 188). Regarding the application of the Journalistic Code of Ethics to the media, a Press Council survey in November 2018 stated that only 50 percent of journalists had read a journalistic code of ethics. Meanwhile, the Press Council released that the media in Indonesia was estimated to reach 47 thousand media, it was estimated that there were 2000 - 3000 of which were print media, 43,300 were online media, and the rest were radio media or tv stations. As of the end of 2018, only 2,400 media had been verified by the Press Council. (Journal of the Press Council, 2018: 5).

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Regarding Bagir Manan, in the September 2016 issue of Ethics magazine wrote, "The element of speed and exclusive presentation to win the competition often neglects journalistic principles such as carefulness, accuracy, verification, checks and re-check, etc.". In the case of cyber media, intense competition due to high competition among tens of thousands of published media, may be a major factor in violation of the Journalistic Code of Ethics and the Guidelines for Cyber Media. (Henry CH Bangun, 2018: 46).

Entering the end of 2018, the Press Council Complaints Commission (Komisi Pengaduan Dewan Pers) never stopped receiving hundreds of complaints from the public regarding online media reporting. Journalist profession is indeed a strategic profession in society to get money more easily, including by threatening officials or entrepreneurs who have a lot of money. Journalists easily threaten to spread negative news if they don't want to give money. This is why many people are determined to become journalists, even though they do not have knowledge and skills in the field of journalism. This also triggered the emergence of false journalism and tarnished the good name of journalists. The press council (Dewan Pers) as an official organization that maintains and oversees the process and journalistic products, of course frustrated with this deviant practice. (Journal of the Press Council, 2018: 4). In addition to national-scale media, online media are also growing rapidly in Makassar City. This is marked by the emergence of online media such as Rakyatku.com, inikata.com, latest.id, sulselsatu.com, etc.

Departing from the explanation of the hoax phenomenon above, this article will raise a discussion entitled the trend of political journalists writing hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi.

Research Methods

The approach of the research method used is descriptive quantitative. The object of this study is the content contained in the political rubrics written by 28 journalists from various different online media companies in South Sulawesi. Data collection techniques were carried out using checklist sheets and literature studies. The data obtained will be analyzed using frequency distribution, simple linear regression, and the SPSS program in order to refer to a conclusion.

Analysis of trend level data on political journalists writing hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi using the SPSS program. Before processing the data, norms are determined using a comparison of the mean hypothesis and the empirical mean. The steps to create a norm are as follows:

1. Determine the ideal hypothesis of research data using the formula $\frac{1}{2}X$ (maximum score + minimum score).
2. Look for the ideal standard deviation. The formula is: $\frac{1}{6}X$ (maximum score - minimum score).
3. Formulas for high, medium, and low data criteria using the formula:

$X > (M + 1 \times SD)$	=	high
$(M - 1 \times SD) \leq x \leq (M + 1 \times SD)$	=	is on
$X \leq (M - 1 \times SD)$	=	low

Research Location and Time

This research took place in South Sulawesi Province. The research period will last for four months, starting from January 13 to April 13 2019. These four months were chosen as research time because hoaxes appeared more than other months during the 2019 election campaign period.

Population and Sample

The criteria for online media which are the object of this research are: the website is still accessible, there is a political news channel and there is a political news post in the research time span. Based on these criteria a population of 30 online media is counted. Determination of the sample in this study using Probability Sampling, a cluster sampling technique. This research will group the population or sample into several groups or clusters. The error tolerance limit is set at 5%, so the number of samples used is 28 online media obtained using the Slovin formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + n \, (e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{30}{1 + 30 \, (0{,}05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{30}{1 + 0{,}075}$$

$$n = \frac{30}{1{,}075}$$

$$n = 28$$

In this study, the research sample is 28 online media.

The score measurement technique used in this study uses the Guttman scale (skalogram). Checklist and questionnaire in this study using a scale with a score given as follows:

 a) Yes: 2
 b) No: 1

Validity and ReliabilityTest

The research instrument used in this study is to use checklist sheets or checklists. While the Measurement Instruments used in this study use a Likert scale and Guttman scale. Testing the validity of the instruments in this study was done by means of item analysis that is correlating the score of each item with a total score which is the number of each item score (corrected item-total correlation) whose resolution is assisted by using the SPSS Item program declared valid if the corrected item-total correlation value is more large is equal to 0.30. Reliable instruments are instruments that when used repeatedly to measure the same object will produce the same data (consistent). Theoretically, the magnitude of the reliability coefficient ranges from 0.00 to 1.00. The magnitude of the minimum coefficient of reliability that must be met by a measuring instrument is 0.7. The reliability test in this study uses the Cronbach Alpha method by looking at the Cronbach's Alpha value in the reliability statistics table with the help of SPSS version 18.0.

RESULTS

Characteristics of Respondents

The respondents of this study were 28 political journalists working on online media in South Sulawesi Province. Respondent characteristics that will be described in this study include gender, length of work, position, education, number of news, and editorial office. Data on the results of the

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research characteristics of respondents can be seen in the next explanation.

Characteristics of Respondents by Gender

Characteristics of respondents by sex are shown in Table 3 below, of the 28 journalists who became respondents, the largest frequency was 25 men (89%) while female respondents only amounted to 3 people (11%).

Table 1 Characteristics of Respondents by Gender

No	Gender	Frequency	%
1	Man	25	89
2	Woman	3	11

Source: Primary data, 2019

Characteristics of Respondents Based on Working Time

Characteristics of respondents based on the length of work as a journalist are shown in Table 4, in this study respondents who worked 1 - 4 years had the greatest frequency of 22 respondents (79%), subsequently working for 5-9 years totaling 4 respondents (14%), and length of time working 10-14 years totaling 2 respondents (7%).

Table 2. Characteristics of Respondents Based on Working Time

No	Workng Time	Frequency	%
1	1 - 4 years	22	79
2	5 - 9 years	4	14
3	10 - 14 years	2	7

Source: Primary data, 2019

Characteristics of Respondents Based on Position

Characteristics of respondents by position are shown in Table 6, in this study respondents who occupied the position of reporter had the highest frequency of 16 people (57%), then editorial positions totaling 8 people (29%), subsequently the position of chief editor (pimred) there were 4 people (14%).

Table 3 Characteristics of Respondents by Position

No.	Position	Frequency	%
1	Reporter	16	57
2	Editors	8	29
3	Chief Editor	4	14

Source: Primary data, 2019

Characteristics of Respondents Based on Education

Characteristics of respondents based on education levels can be seen in Table 7, that respondents who have a Strata 1 level of education

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amounted to 26 people (93%) and respondents who have a level of Strata 2 (S2) amounted to 2 people (7%).

Table 4 Characteristics of Respondents by Education

No.	Education	Frequency	%
1	Bachelor	26	93
2	Magister	2	7

Source: Primary data, 2019

Characteristics of Respondents Based on News Production

Characteristics of respondents based on news production during the study period (January 13-April 13) can be seen in Table 8, in this study respondents producing news 1-100 news totaling 23 respondents (82%), then news production 101-200 as many as 3 respondents (11%), then the production of news 201-300 news amounted to 2 respondents (7%).

Table 5 Characteristics of Respondents Based on News Production

No.	News Production	Frequency	%
1	1-100	23	82
2	101-200	3	11
3	201-300	2	7

Source: Primary data, 2019

Characteristics of Respondents Based on the Location of the News Agency

Characteristics of respondents based on the geographical location of the editorial office shown in Table 9, that reporters who work at the editorial office located in Makassar have the highest frequency of 24 offices (85%), parepare there are 2 offices (6%), editors in Bone have 1 office (3%), Gowa has 1 office (3%), and Bulukumba has 1 office (3%).

Table 6 Characteristics of Respondents by Location of the News Agency

No.	News Agency	Frequency	%
1	Makassar	23	81
2	ParePare	2	7
3	Bone	1	4
4	Gowa	1	4
5	Bulukumba	1	4

Source: Primary data, 2019

Level of Hoax Writing Trends in Online Media in South Sulawesi

The level of hoax writing trends in online media in Sulawesi Selatan can be known from respondents' answers to 10 questions, namely confirmation bias, reporters correct the news, reporters retract the news, reporters apologize to readers, accurate news, factual news with clear sources, reporters test information, sensational titles but not according to content, sensational photos but not supporting news content, there are satire / parody news in the form of memes, photo combinations, sketches, etc.

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Confirmation Bias

Table 7 Confirmation Bias

No.	Confirmation Bias	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, an objective statement was obtained related to the frequency of news that was identified as confirmation bias. The above conditions indicate that the average news is not identified confirmation bias, this is shown from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) media that are not identified confirmation bias.

Reporters Rectify the News

Tabel 8 Reporters Rectify the News

No.	Reporter Rectify the News	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, an objective statement was obtained related to the frequency of reporters correcting news. The above conditions indicate that the average news reporter does not correct the news, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) online media that do not have news corrected.

Reporters Revoke News

Table 9 Reporters Revoke News

No.	Revoke News	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, an objective statement was obtained related to the frequency of news retracting. The above conditions indicate that on average news is not revoked, this is shown from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) news in online media that is not revoked.

Journalists Apologize to Readers

Table10 Journalists Apologize to Readers

No.	Journalist Apologize	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

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Based on the above table, objective information related to the frequency of reporters apologizes to readers is obtained. The above conditions indicate that on average reporters do not apologize to readers, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) journalists do not apologize to readers

Inaccurate News

Table 11 Inaccurate News

No.	Inaccurate News	Frequency	%
1	No	27	96
2	Yes	1	4

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, objective information related to inaccurate news frequency is obtained. The above conditions indicate that on average reporters write news accurately, this is shown from 28 media, there are 27 (96%) accurate news and 1 (4%) inaccurate news.

Unfactual news with unclear sources

Table 12 Unfactual News with unclear sources

No.	Unfactual News	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

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Based on the above table, objective information related to the frequency of news is not factual with unclear sources. The above conditions indicate that on average reporters write factually with clear sources, this is shown from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) factual news with clear sources.

Journalists Don't Test Information

Table 13 Reporters Don't Test Information

No.	Don't Test Information	Frequency	%
1	No	27	96
2	Yes	1	4

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, objective information related to the frequency of reporters who did not test the information was obtained. The above conditions indicate that on average reporters test information, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 27 (96%) reporters test information, and only 1 (4%) of respondents do not test information.

Sensational Title and Not in Content

Table 14 Sensational Title and Not in Content

No.	Sensational Title	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, objective information related to the frequency of sensational titles is obtained and does not correspond to the contents of the news. The above conditions indicate that the average news does not use a sensational title and does not correspond to the content of the news, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) respondents who write news using sensational titles and do not match the contents of the news.

Sensational Photos and Does Not Support News Content

Table 15 Sensational Photos and Does Not Support News Content

No.	Sensational Photo	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, objective information related to the frequency of sensational photographs is obtained and does not support news content. The above conditions indicate that the average news does not use sensational photos and does not support news content, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) respondents who use sensational photos and do not support news content.

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Satire

Table 16 Satire

No.	Satire	Frequency	%
1	No	28	100
2	Yes	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, objective information related to the frequency of satire news is obtained. The above condition shows that on average it is not satire news, this is indicated from 28 media, there are 28 (100%) respondents who do not write satire news.

In general, the description of the variable tendency of writing hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi can be known through the scoring table. Based on the total score of the answers of respondents on the hoax checklist sheet can be seen in the table below:

Table 17 Hoax Writing Rate

No.	Category	Frequency	%
1	Low	28	100
2	Medium	0	0
3	High	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2019

Based on the table above, overall the variable trend in writing hoaxes for political journalists is in the low category with a percentage of 100%. Thus it can be concluded that the level of tendency of writing hoaxes of political journalists on online media in South Sulawesi is in the low category.

Discussion

The level of trends in political journalists writing hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi is influenced by five aspects, namely: aspects of confirmation bias, aspects of misinformation, aspects of information that are misleading, aspects of incorrect connections, and aspects of satire. In the world of journalism, hoaxes are not new. Hoax is growing and popular with the development of various information channels. Hoax aims to create public opinion, lead opinion, form perceptions as well as having fun that tests the intelligence and accuracy of internet and social media users. The low aspect of confirmation bias has implications for the results of the final accumulation with the low trends of journalists writing hoax news, this is due to online media political journalists in South Sulawesi writing news coherently with appropriate and capacity speakers in their fields.

In other words, journalists do not write news by interpreting recent events as evidence of existing beliefs. The results of this study are in accordance with one element of newsworthiness that is news must be accurate and free from confirmation bias. The accuracy of a fact does not always guarantee the accuracy of the meaning. Accurately chosen facts that are unjustly are as misleading as mistakes. Too much or too little emphasis, by inserting irrelevant facts or by eliminating facts that should be in the news, allows readers to get false things, therefore the news must meet the complete, fair and balanced elements. (Kusumaningrat, 2009: 48).

The aspect of misinformation also does not give a high contribution to the tendency of political journalists in online media in South Sulawesi to write hoaxes, this is because journalists do not write or present information in different contexts. In addition, in the span of the study period, no rectified news or apologies were found from the media to the informants or the object of coverage that felt disadvantaged by the reporting of journalists. In addition to being free from confirmation bias, in general online media political journalists in South Sulawesi are also free from writing incorrect information. This indicates that political journalists write with attention to the elements of newsworthiness, one of which is an accurate element. Writing news is free from errors and is not biased or misleading. The information clearly reflects his intention. Information must be accurate because from the source of information to the recipient of information there are likely to be many interruptions that can change or damage the data. Journalists have a very high caution in carrying out their work, given the broad impact caused by the news they make. Carefulness starts from carefulness of the spelling of names, numbers, dates and ages as well as self-discipline to always do a re-examination of the facts that he found (Kusumaningrat, 2009: 48).

Meanwhile, the results of the study also show that the whole news analyzed states that online media journalists have never written misleading news, this is in terms of the lack of information or bits and pieces presented during the research period.

News trends with bombastic and sensational titles but do not match the news content are aspects of the wrong connection to the hoax writing trend also included in the low category, this is because the content written by journalists has the same content and mutual support between titles, news content, images, and information picture. In addition, after the reporter has finished writing, the news will be checked for data, grammar, and meanings contained in a journalistic product. In the science of mass communication, editors are better known as gatekeepers. Gatekeepers

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who are often referred to as goalkeepers are people who are very instrumental in spreading information through the mass media. This Gatekeeper functions as a person who adds or subtracts, simplifies, packages so that all information disseminated is more easily understood. Gatekeeper also functions to interpret messages, analyze, add or subtract messages. According to Nuruddin (2004) said that:

> "The party that determines the packaging of a message from the mass media. The existence of a gatekeeper is as important as the mechanical equipment that the media must have in mass communication. Therefore, the gatekeeper becomes a necessity of its existence in the mass media and becomes one of its characteristics. While aspects of satire or parody addressed to someone or event in the form of memes, pictures, or information packaged in the form of humorous satire are also not found in the news content of political journalists. This has implications for the final accumulation of low levels of the trend of political journalists writing hoaxes.

Conclusion

One medium of mass communication that continues to experience development is online media. 2019 is a year that is quite worrying for the press, because various political issues strengthen and are directly proportional to the flourishing of online media. In addition to political currents that are so strong, entering the election, Indonesian journalists will be flooded with hoaxes. The facts presented by journalists are actually covered with a variety of more bombastic hoaxes. The most worrying part of the hoax during the election is that many hoaxes are mixed with expressions of hatred, ethnic prejudice, religion, race, and intergroup.

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However, after conducting research on the level of political journalists' tendency to write hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi as measured by five indicators, namely: aspects of confirmation bias, aspects of information that are misleading, aspects of information that are misleading, aspects of connection are wrong, and aspects of satire can be concluded that the writing of hoaxes on online media in South Sulawesi is in the low category.***

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