

Assessing TikTok for Language Learning and Pedagogy: Challenges of Public Hoax Information

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Article Info	Abstract
Received: 20 December 2024 Reviewed: 7 February 2025 - 10 May 2025 Accepted: 1 June 2025 Published: 26 June 2025	<p>Purpose</p> <p>This research aims to find out the impact on the spread of hoaxes on social media, especially TikTok. How the TikTok recommendation algorithm affects the spread of hoax news, how TikTok user behavior, including interaction, sharing and content consumption, is related to the spread and control of hoax news and to find out what impact hoax news spreading via TikTok has on public trust, public opinion and social decisions.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods as the main research methodology. This qualitative descriptive research uses an online survey method in the form of a questionnaire distributed via platforms such as Google Forms. Apart from the survey, face-to-face in-depth interviews were also conducted at a predetermined place. The sampling technique used in this research was purposive sampling.</p> <p>Result/Findings</p> <p>The finding of this research indicated that a majority of respondent's report using Tik Tok for 1 to 2 hours, with 26.5% using it for more than 2 hours. The majority of social media users use Tik Tok for entertainment, including dance and music videos (2.9%). However, Tik Tok has also developed into a platform that provides all kinds of information, including hoaxes that can spread widely. In the respondents' opinion, false information is something that is very detrimental if it continues to circulate on TikTok. One respondent stated that TikTok hoaxes have the potential to cause hatred or fear and have the potential to exacerbate political, social or religious conflict.</p> <p>Implication</p> <p>This research contributed to address this critical gap in the literature by examining the influence of TikTok social media in curbing and filtering hoax news. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of Tik Tok's content ecosystem, user behaviors, and its approach to content moderation, this study aims to shed light on TikTok's role in the broader discourse surrounding miss information and the promotion of factual information in the digital era.</p>
Keywords: Social media; TikTok; Hoax	

1. Introduction

Today's technological advancements is something that cannot be avoided and as time goes by technology will continue to develop. Now all human activities are inseparable from technology. The emergence of the internet is an example of today's technological advancements that brings changes in communication (Jordan & Putri, 2020). Communication technology was created to help humans in their work and get information. As technology becomes more sophisticated technology, then people increasingly easy to get information through the internet (Mustika et al., 2020). In addition to technology, it will develop constantly social media with over time will also develop. The development of social media today its existence affects society, especially providing news actual news. All people from various circles easily get information and easy to publish information to other audiences by using social media. Based on function, social media if used wisely will provide positive benefits for its users to get news. But nowadays social media is misused by irresponsible people to spread hoax news (Pranesti & Arifin, 2019). Social media has become a powerful communication medium, allowing users to share news, opinions and content at unprecedented speed. Among the many existing platforms, TikTok has emerged as a leading player in global social media. TikTok, the popular short video platform, has emerged as a major competitor in social media. With its short video format and rapidly growing user base, TikTok has gained immense popularity, especially among the younger generation.

This research seeks to address this critical gap in the literature by examining the influence of TikTok social media in curbing and filtering hoax news. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of TikTok's content ecosystem, user behaviors, and its approach to content moderation, this study aims to shed light on TikTok's role in the broader discourse surrounding misinformation and the promotion of factual information in the digital era. Ultimately, understanding TikTok's impact on the spread of hoax news is essential for developing effective strategies to combat misinformation on social media platforms and ensure the responsible use of these powerful communication tools

2. Literature review

2.1. Pertinent Ideas

2.1.1. Hoax

Hoax news is misinformation to deceive or trick readers into believing something, colloquially known as fake news. Alex Davis argues that when and where the term hoax came from is not very clear. The Oxford English Dictionary estimates that the term hoax comes from the word "hocus". The definition of hoaxes first appeared in a reference written in 1976 entitled "To deceive by an amusing or mischievous fabrication or fiction, to play up the credulity of Hoax", which is a verb and means to deceive through an alluring and mischievous fabrication or fiction or to play on trust (Gunawan & Ratmono, 2021). From the understanding of hoaxes above, it can be concluded that a hoax is misleading information that is deliberately engineered by someone with the aim of deceiving. Types of Hoax information:

- 1) Fake News that tries to replace the original news. This news aims to falsify or insert untruths into a news story. Fake news writers usually add things that are not true and conspiracy theories.
- 2) Clickbait or booby-trapped links are strategically placed on a site with the aim of attracting people to other sites. The content in these links is factual but the title is exaggerated, or a catchy image is placed to lure readers.
- 3) Satire, a piece of writing that uses humor, irony, and exaggeration to comment on current events.

2.1.2. Social Media

The definition of social media itself according to some experts, namely, the definition of social in social media is that individuals in a community do not only exist in an environment, but must collaborate with other environments so that cooperation is created because cooperation is a social character (Nasrullah, 2017).

2.1.3. The Role of Social Media as a Source of Information

The Role of Social Media in the Dissemination of Information Social media plays a very important role in the dissemination of information to the wider community. Social media can be a source of information that is easier and faster to obtain because it is easily accessible to its users, and has no limitations in access, meaning that everyone can access social media as long as they have the media (cell phone/laptop/computer) and an internet signal.

2.1.5 Efforts to Overcome Hoax

According to the Chair of the Indonesian Anti-Hoax Society, Septiaji Eko Nugroho outlined five simple steps that can help identify which news is hoax and which is real news. Here's the explanation:

- 1) Be careful with provocative titles, hoax news often uses provocative sensational titles, for example by directly pointing the finger at certain parties.
- 2) Pay attention to the site address, according to the Press Council's records, in Indonesia there are around 43,000 sites in Indonesia that claim to be news portals.
- 3) Check the facts, pay attention to the balance of news sources. If there is only one source, readers cannot get the complete picture. Another thing that needs to be observed is the difference between news based on facts and opinions.

2.2. Language Learning and Pedagogy

Language learning and pedagogy have long been central themes in applied linguistics and education. This review explores key theoretical foundations, instructional strategies, and technological advancements shaping the field, emphasizing the dynamic interplay between linguistic theory and classroom practice.

2.2.1 *Theoretical Foundations of Language Learning*

The study of language learning has evolved through various theoretical paradigms. Behaviorist theories, as exemplified by Skinner (1957), emphasized habit formation and repetition as essential to learning. However, the advent of Chomsky's (1965) transformational-generative grammar introduced the concept of an innate language acquisition device, shifting the focus to cognitive processes in language development. Further contributions from Vygotsky (1978) highlighted the importance of social interaction in learning, giving rise to socio-cultural theories. Vygotsky's concept of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) emphasized the role of scaffolding, wherein learners acquire linguistic competence through guided support from teachers or peers. These perspectives have informed communicative and collaborative pedagogical approaches.

2.2.2 *Pedagogical Approaches in Language Learning*

Pedagogy in language learning has transitioned from grammar-translation methods to more interactive and communicative strategies. Key approaches include:

- 1) Communicative Language Teaching (CLT): CLT emerged in the 1970s as a response to the limitations of grammar-focused methods. It prioritizes meaningful communication over grammatical accuracy, fostering fluency and functional language use (Richards & Rodgers, 2014). Activities such as role-plays and group discussions are integral to this approach.
- 2) Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT): TBLT focuses on completing real-world tasks that require language use. According to Ellis (2003), tasks promote authentic interaction and contextual learning. TBLT aligns with cognitive and socio-cultural theories by emphasizing problem-solving and collaboration.
- 3) Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL): CLIL integrates language learning with subject matter instruction, allowing students to acquire language skills while engaging with academic content (Coyle, Hood, & Marsh, 2010). This dual-focus approach supports contextualized language use and fosters motivation.

2.2.3 *The Role of Technology in Language Pedagogy*

Technological advancements have revolutionized language pedagogy, offering tools to enhance engagement, interactivity, and personalization. Key developments include: CALL encompasses software and digital platforms designed to support language learning. Tools such as Duolingo and Rosetta Stone leverage gamification to maintain learner motivation. Research indicates that CALL can facilitate vocabulary acquisition and improve pronunciation accuracy (Chapelle, 2001). Mobile technologies have extended language learning beyond the classroom. Apps and messaging platforms enable anytime, anywhere learning, fostering autonomous practices (Stockwell, 2010). MALL has proven effective in promoting listening and speaking skills through features like voice recognition and instant feedback.

2.3. How Educators Can Integrate TikTok

2.3.1. *Creating Language Learning Content:*

Teachers can create short, engaging videos to teach vocabulary, grammar, or pronunciation. They can also use TikTok to create interactive quizzes and language challenges. Encouraging Student-Generated Content: Assign students to create their own TikTok videos to practice language skills. This can foster creativity, self-expression, and peer-to-peer learning. Using TikTok for Cultural Learning: Explore cultural aspects of target languages through TikTok videos. This can help students develop cultural competence and intercultural

understanding. Leveraging TikTok for Language Exchange: Connect students with language learners from around the world. This can provide opportunities for authentic language practice and cultural exchange.

2.3.2. Potential Benefits

Increased Engagement: TikTok's short-form video format can capture students' attention and maintain their interest. Authentic Language Exposure: Students can be exposed to real-world language use and cultural nuances. Creative Expression: TikTok can encourage students to express themselves creatively in the target language. Collaborative Learning: Students can collaborate on TikTok projects, fostering teamwork and communication skills.

2.3.3. Potential Challenges: Time Management: Creating and consuming TikTok content can be time-consuming.

Screen Time: Excessive use of TikTok can lead to digital eye strain and other health issues. Distractions: TikTok's algorithm can lead to distractions and decreased focus on academic tasks. Digital Literacy: Students need to be equipped with digital literacy skills to critically evaluate online content. To mitigate these challenges, educators can: Set Clear Guidelines: Establish clear expectations for TikTok use in the classroom. Monitor Student Activity: Keep track of students' online activities to ensure appropriate content consumption. Promote Digital Citizenship: Teach students about responsible online behavior and digital etiquette. Integrate TikTok Strategically: Use TikTok as a supplementary tool, rather than the primary method of instruction. By carefully considering these factors, educators can harness the power of TikTok to enhance language learning experiences.

2.4. Previous research findings

Fransisco Ruak (2023) on his study were explains about the impact of filtering the spread of hoax information, argue that TikTok had a role as a medium for spreading short videos that can be spread widely without being properly filtered by the TikTok itself or the society. From the results of this study, it is found that it is true that TikTok has some content that is analysed as hoax content and this has increased significantly. The survey data shows users' awareness, behaviour and perceptions of hoax news on Tiktok, as well as the level of attention and confidence users have in the system used to moderate content on the platform. This is also in line with one of the studies that said that 'Disseminating information on online media is very easy to do, because there are no rules that restrict the writing of information on online media' (Anissa Rahmadhany, Anggi Aldila Safitri, Dr. Irwansyah, 2021, 30). Therefore, there is no way to filter information on online media; everyone who has access to online media can disseminate information without passing the filter first, and this can be considered as disseminating information from anonymous or unclear sources. Since the facts being disseminated are unclear, the information can be considered a hoax and potentially lead to hate speech (Anissa Rahmadhany, Anggi Aldila Safitri, Dr Irwansyah, 2021). From the results of our group's research, we found that the dissemination of news carried out by all social media, especially TikTok, we cannot choose so that the dissemination is also not always in the form of news that really exists and comes from trusted sources but it can also be news in the form of news that is unclear so that the news is unclear in origin and source, thus allowing the news released to become hoax news, therefore it is necessary to pay attention to how we can as much as possible filter or choose news that can benefit the community and not become a boomerang that is not good in the community as well. In this study, significant differences were not found because several of the studies mentioned above have fundamental similarities and these studies more or less have the same basis regarding the spread of hoaxes on social media, especially TikTok. However, they approach the problem from slightly different angles. The research that was studying by Fransisco Ruak (2023), has focuses on the role of TikTok, which is a great medium for spreading hoax information. This study has analysing about the content on the TikTok and have founded that there has been a hoax content that increase significantly. This study also surveys users to understand and increase their awareness, perception and their behavior regarding the hoax information on tiktok, as well as their trust in the platform content moderation system. On the other side, Annisa Rahmadhany et al, (2021), has emphasize about the lack of regulations and restrictions on social media, which makes it easy for anybody or anyone to disseminate that information without verificate that information properly. This lack of attention can cause the spread of hoax information, and there is no guarantee that the information is accurate or true. While both studies acknowledge the problem of hoax news on social media, they differ in their emphasis. First study has focuses on the TikTok itself and the factors that contribute on spread of hoax information, while on the second study is explain broader issue about online media and how this can help the dissemination of hoax information.

Table 1: Previous research findings

No	Author		Title	Subject	Argument	Evaluation
1.	Rizana, Tuhuteru,	Laros Yossie	Overcoming the spread of hoaxes	Preventing the spread of hoaxes	Students need to be trained to read,	This article contains some overly complex sentences that

No	Author	Title	Subject	Argument	Evaluation
	Ulfa Nuzalifa, Reza Saeful Rachman, and Alek Andika. 2023	on social media by strengthening digital literacy with character education	on social media through digital literacy arrangements containing character education.	analyze, filter and process digital information.	can obscure important points. Simplifying the language and breaking up long sentences would improve readability. It would also improve clarity, structure, and depth of analysis which would increase the article's effectiveness in addressing the hoax problem in Indonesia.
2.	Iwan Setyawan, 2020	Factors causing the spread of hoax news via social media in village communities	The benefits for the development of legal science aim to know how we should behave and what we will do to prevent the spread of hoax news in the mass media from recurring.	The spread of hoaxes is exacerbated by easy access to modern communication technologies that allow information to spread faster and wider. The combination of all these factors creates a fertile environment for the spread of fake news.	The article has a good foundation, with relevant objectives and important discussion. The emphasis on the relevance of the research in providing insights to the public, academics and the government to prevent the spread of hoaxes is a good point.
3.	Femi Olan, Uchitha Jayawickrama, Emmanuel Ogiemwonyi Arakpogun, Jana Suklan, Shaofeng Liu, 2022	Fake News on Social Media: Its Impact on Society	This paper examines the rise of fake news (FN) on social media (SM) and its impact on people's values, beliefs, and truth. The study focuses on how FN influences people's political behavior, opinions, and discourse, especially since the 2016 US presidential election.	This study argues that fake news has fundamentally disrupted society by challenging established facts, truths, and beliefs.	The results show that society is divided in distinguishing between true news and fake news. This division also reflects the shift in social values that has occurred due to the influence of fake news. The article is well-structured with a clear abstract and an introduction that provides historical context and the importance of fake news in social media.
4.	Sanika Ogale & Rutuja Deshpande, 2022	The Role of Social Media in the Spread of Misinformation and Fake News	Spread of misinformation (disinformation) and fake news on social media platforms.	Social media platforms play a major role in the spread of misinformation and fake news, making it important for both platforms and individuals to take effective action to address it.	The article has a clear structure with an introduction that explains the main problem—the spread of misinformation through social media—and a conclusion that highlights possible solutions. The use of studies from the USC Marshall School of Business and USC Dornsife College adds credibility to the data presented.
5.	Fransisco Ruak, Departement of politika Dezemvolvimento, Universidade Da Paz, Timor Leste.	The Impact of TikTok on Combating and Filtering Hoax News: A Mixed-Methods Study	Investigates the role of Tik Tok, a prominent short-form video-sharing platform, in curbing and filtering hoax news.	TikTok, as a social media platform, has an impact on the dissemination of information and poses risks to public trust; however, its rise presents significant	TikTok, as a social media platform, has an impact on the dissemination of information and poses risks to public trust; however, its rise presents significant challenges in the spread of hoax news.

No	Author	Title	Subject	Argument	Evaluation
				challenges in the spread of hoax news.	
6.	Rahel, Shirley Y. V. I. Goni, Femmy C. M. Tasik.	Social Impact and Action of Sam Ratulangi University Batak Students on Using the TikTok Application: A Study of Social Media Culture	Investigates the social media culture of TikTok among Batak students at Sam Ratulangi University, focusing on its impact on their social and academic lives.	The research suggests that students' use of TikTok has both beneficial and detrimental effects. Although TikTok can bring students together socially and offer entertainment, it can also lead to problems such as addiction, time wastage, and distraction from academic obligations. However, it does not have a substantial impact on students' academic achievements.	The study's findings suggest that TikTok has become deeply integrated into the daily routines of Batak students attending Sam Ratulangi University. Despite the drawbacks associated with the app, it has also been shown to have a beneficial impact on their social connections and self-assurance. The research emphasizes the importance of students regulating their usage to avoid adverse effects on their academic performance and social obligations.
7.	Meza-Gomez, García-Tejada, Mamani-Calcina, Vera-Vasquez, Mamani-Berrios, and Ortiz-Esparza, 2022	Disinformation in Social Networks: A Systematic Review on Fake News in Times of Pandemic	Characteristics of infodemics, media/digital literacy and their impact on society, and highlighting mechanisms to detect and curb fake news about covid-19 on social networks in the last two years.	This study argues that the dangers and consequences that fake news presents to humanity.	The study provides that misinformation can occur due to low levels of media and digital literacy and solutions; However, the solution to this problem needs to be directed towards users (society), not just waiting for action from the government.
8.	Nela Widiastuti, Atie Rachmiatie, Dasrun Hidayat, Radho Aquarista. 2021	Millenial Bandung Indonesia Views Hoaxes on Social Media	Purpose of this study is to find out how millennial netizens respond to hoax information on social media. Knowing how millennial netizens identify information on instagram social media, and knowing how millennial netizens break the hoax information dissemination.	This study argues that public awareness of fake news has increased significantly, this can be seen from their awareness to correct fake news through social media, clarify fake news and read the entire contents of the news as much as possible. This shows the awareness that the prevention of the spread of fake news has been realized and starts from ourselves.	This study explains that the scope of the research is only Bandung millennials, but sometimes it touches millennials throughout Indonesia. It would be better if the target was expanded further and not just millennials, but various age groups.
9.	Desri wiana, 2019	Analysis of the use of the hate speech on sicoal media in the case of presidential election in 2019	The use of hate speech on social media during the 2019 Indonesian presidential election.	The study argues that social media platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook, were used to disseminate hate speech during the 2019 presidential	The study provides a quantitative analysis of hate speech on these platforms, identifying the most common forms of hate speech used. However, it does not delve deeply into the underlying causes or motivations for this

No	Author	Title	Subject	Argument	Evaluation
				election. This hate speech targeted candidates and their supporters, and it was often expressed in the form of insults, denigration, defamation, unpleasant acts, provocation, instigation, and the spread of hoaxes.	hate speech. Additionally, the study does not discuss the impact of this hate speech on the election or on broader societal issues.
10.	Duong Hoai Lan & Tran Minh Tung, 2024	Exploring fake news awareness and trust in the age of social media among university student Tiktok users	The awareness of fake news and trust dynamics among university students on TikTok.	The study argues that university students are generally aware of the presence of fake news on TikTok but have varying levels of trust in the platform's content. Key factors influencing trust include content creator credibility, user engagement, and familiarity with creators. The study emphasizes the need for enhanced digital literacy education to combat the spread of fake news and promote critical evaluation of online content.	The study provides valuable insights into the awareness and trust dynamics surrounding fake news on TikTok among university students. It highlights the importance of digital literacy education in addressing this issue. However, the study could be strengthened by further exploring the specific strategies used by students to identify and avoid fake news. Additionally, investigating the impact of fake news consumption on students' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.

2.5. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework entails the author's perception of the work being carried out. It explains, justifies, supports and conveys the writer's understanding of the motivation for the study and how each aspect of the study connects to the identified gap or research problem (Crawford, 2020).

With the aim of seeing the impact and attitudes resulting from hoaxes on social media TikTok, we will use two research instruments, namely interviews and filling out questionnaires. Filling out the questionnaire is carried out to find out information about people who have been exposed to hoax news, whether consciously or unconsciously. The interview was carried out with the same aim as filling out the questionnaire, only this time the issue was discussed in more depth with several questions provided regarding the issue of hoaxes on social media TikTok.

3. Methods

3.1. Research design

This study will use the descriptive qualitative research method as its primary research methodology. Qualitative research is concerned with the understanding of meaning. Qualitative researchers are interested in how people make sense of their world and how they interpret and experience different events. Qualitative research relies on data obtained by the researcher from first-hand observation, interviews, questionnaires (on which participants write descriptively), focus groups, participant-observation, recording made in natural settings, documents, case studies, or artifacts. The data are generally non-numerical. Furthermore, Creswell (2014) stated qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem.

3.2. Participants

The participants of this study were active TikTok users aged 18-25 years. Before the study began, the researcher conducted initial observations of social media users regarding their level of understanding of hoaxes on

TikTok. Based on the results of the observation, it was found that most of these social media users were often exposed to information on TikTok and had experience seeing or hearing hoaxes spread on the platform. Therefore, they were considered suitable to be participants in this study.

3.3. Research instrument

A research instrument is a scientific and systematically designed tool used to collect, measure, and analyze data related to research interests and alignment(s). (Oben, A. I, 2021). Research instruments are tools used to collect, measure, and analyze data related to research questions. Research instruments can be questionnaires, interviews, or other relevant methods. In this research, the instruments that will be used are open questionnaires and in depth interviews.

3.3.1. *Questionnaire*

A questionnaire is a data collection method that is carried out by giving respondents a series of open questions to answer based on their understanding and experience. This questionnaire was designed to explore respondents' views regarding the influence of TikTok on the spread of hoax information.

3.3.2. *In depth interviews*

In depth interviews will be conducted to obtain more detailed information regarding the perceptions and experiences of TikTok users in dealing with hoax information. This interview aims to explore respondents' personal views and understand how they comment and verify the information they see on TikTok. The interview will be conducted in a semi-structured manner, where the researcher has a list of questions that can be adjusted according to the direction of the conversation.

3.4. Procedures of data collection

Data collection in this research was carried out in two ways, namely by distributing questionnaires online, and conducting face-to-face interviews (semi-structured) regarding the influence of hoaxes on TikTok social media. The following are several steps in collecting data related to this research.

3.4.1. *Distribute questionnaires to active TikTok users*

The first thing we did was distribute a questionnaire in the form of a Google form to the public which contained several open ended and close ended questions. The purpose of distributing this questionnaire is to find out how many respondents have received, spread and consumed hoax news on TikTok.

3.4.2. *Select respondents to be interviewed*

For respondents who have answered and have answers and a deep understanding of hoaxes on TikTok social media, we will invite you to conduct face-to-face interviews.

3.4.3. *Conduct interviews*

After getting respondents, we will conduct interviews at the location and time determined by the respondent concerned.

3.4.4. *Interview transcript*

We will record the interview process of course with the permission of the respondent concerned or write the results of the interview in notes or documents, as well as provide documentation in the form of photos.

3.4.5. *Data analysis*

After the process of filling out the questionnaire and interview has been completed, we will start to analyze the data that has been collected qualitatively.

3.5. Technique of data analysis

In this study, descriptive qualitative approaches were used to examine the data. An in-depth picture of the impact of TikTok social media on the dissemination of false information in the public was established via the analysis of data collected through surveys and interviews. The first step in the analysis process is gathering and carefully reviewing the questionnaire results. The data is then grouped according to the themes that surface, including the kinds of information that are deemed to be hoaxes, the ways in which users react to them, and the elements that affect the dissemination of hoaxes on TikTok. Furthermore, in-depth interviews with respondents were conducted to delve deeper into their perspectives and experiences. Interview data were subjected to thematic analysis, with each response being divided into pertinent primary categories. To ensure that the data obtained was

valid, data triangulation was carried out between the results of the questionnaire and interviews. According to Creswell (2014), triangulation is a method that can increase the accuracy of research results by comparing several data sources. Thus, this analysis process allows researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of spreading hoax information via the TikTok platform.

4. Results

The findings are described in several aspects, namely:

4.1. Questionnaire

4.1.1. The scoring result of PLSP questionnaires

TikTok is a social media platform that is very popular in various circles. TikTok offers a wide variety of content, from entertainment to information. According to several sources, the majority of TikTok users are aged 18 to 35 years (85.3% of respondents), who spend a lot of time on the platform every day.

A majority of respondent's report using TikTok for 1 to 2 hours, with 26.5% using it for more than 2 hours. This prolonged usage time, coupled with TikTok's algorithm that presents repetitive and personalized content, allows information—both accurate and inaccurate—to spread very quickly.

Table 2: Result of PLSP questionnaires

No	Name	Age	Address	Tiktok usage time
1	Dela	Adult	Mujur Jaya 13	5-30 Minute
2	Cica	Adult	Enrekang	1-2 Hours
3	Nurfika Atira Maitsa Fakhira	Adult	Lapeo	5-30 Minute
4	Rudy Mahendra Syukur	Adult	Enrekang	5 Hours
5	nur ramadhan	Adult	Enrekang	5 Hours
6	Ilma	Adult	jl. Karaeng bonto tannga	5-30 Minutes
7	Erwin	Adult	Soppeng	30 Minutes-1 Hour
8	Hasni	Adult	Soppeng	1-2 Hours
9	Muhammad Fadhil	Adult	Soppeng	5-30 Minutes
10	Resha Apriansyah	Adult	Camba	5-30 Minutes
11	Kiki	Adult	Campagayya	30 Minutes-1 Hour
12	Yuli	Adult	Campagayya	5-30 Minutes
13	Nurul	Adult	Enrekang	1-2 Hours
14	Melissa	Adult	Jl. Pampang Raya	30 Minutes-1 hour
15	Amana Rasti	Adult	Polman	30 Minutes-1 Hour
16	Nurdiansari	Adult	Desa Buku	Until get bored
17	Muhammad Ikhsan	Adult	Enrekang	5-30 Minutes
18	Nur Ramadhan	Adult	Enrekang	5 Hours
19	Siska	Adult	Makassar	30 Minutes-1 hour
20	Aidah	Adult	Gowa	2-3 Hours

4.1.2. Percentage and frequency analysis of PLSPQ's scores

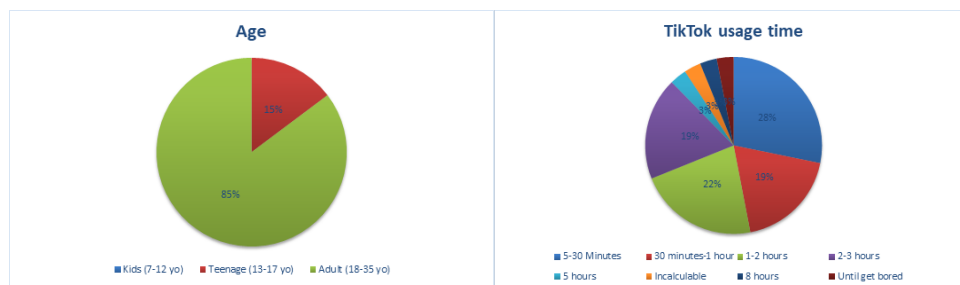


Figure 2: Percentage and frequency analysis of PLSPQ's scores

According to data collected, the majority of social media users use TikTok for entertainment, including dance and music videos (2.9%). However, TikTok has also developed into a platform that provides all kinds of information, including hoaxes that can spread widely. In the respondents' opinion, false information is something that is very detrimental if it continues to circulate on TikTok. One respondent stated that TikTok hoaxes have the potential to cause hatred or fear and have the potential to exacerbate political, social or religious conflicts. This suggests that relationships between people or groups in society may be impacted by the spread of misleading

information. The bad impact of hoaxes can also be seen from their influence on public opinion. The majority of respondents agreed that many people believe the information they receive on TikTok without first checking its veracity. One respondent commented, "This is very detrimental because once a hoax spreads, it will be difficult to control." Because information spreads so quickly and widely without proper filtering, it results in people being unable to differentiate between fact and fiction. As a result, people are more susceptible to persuasion and more susceptible to receiving information that may not be true.

Apart from that, hoaxes have the opportunity to reduce public trust in reliable information. One respondent gave an example of hoax information involving the death of a famous person or a natural disaster. The public, by not being careful in filtering and examining information, reacts with unnecessary fear or panic due to the news. The large amount of contradictory and false material that spreads on TikTok creates a lack of trust in official information, such as information from the government or mainstream media sources. Apart from that, the negative impact caused by hoaxes can also be seen in its impact on information intake and social behavior. The majority of respondents voiced their concerns regarding the ease with which hoax information deceives individuals, especially those who are not familiar with technology and the internet, including children, the elderly or the elderly. Even the most important fear is that hoaxes can influence important life decisions, such as excessive use of cosmetics or health products because of unverified promises. This makes the problem worse because uninformed customers can put their health at risk due to inaccurate information.

In addition, older TikTok application users tend to take things for granted. One respondent said, "Hoaxes circulating on TikTok can have a negative impact because false information spreads quickly." According to other respondents, hoaxes can have a very negative influence and create a sense of uncertainty in society. Society as a result becomes socially polarized because they believe news that has not been confirmed to be true, even though the information comes from more reliable sources. In this situation, the importance of digital literacy awareness and media education must exist in society. Many respondents believe that when it comes to sharing and receiving information, TikTok and other social media users should be more careful. Everyone should be careful as a responsible user and always check the validity of information before disseminating it more widely. "We should not be easily influenced by hoaxes without first checking the facts," suggested one respondent.

Overall, hoax information spread via TikTok social media has a serious negative impact that can harm many aspects of social life. The spread of misinformation can influence people's way of thinking, damage relationships between groups, and reduce trust in reliable sources of information. Therefore, in order not to be fooled by harmful hoax information, people who use TikTok social media must be smarter in controlling and be alert in using TikTok social media as a source of information. They must always look for the truth behind the news they get.

4.2. Interview.

In this interview, we focus on several key points related to TikTok user's perceptions and attitudes toward the presence of hoax news on the platform. The interview covers six main points: initial perceptions of TikTok, the impact of hoax news dissemination, the frequency of hoax content appearing, user reactions when encountering hoax news, the influence of hoaxes on users' trust in social media information, and the actions typically taken upon finding hoax content:

4.2.1. Perceptions of Tik Tok

In this section, the question refers to the interviewees general perception of the TikTok application. This perception can reflect how they view the main function or character of the platform. Here are the views of each interviewee regarding TikTok.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Konten-konten"

(Various types of content)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Bagi saya adalah sebuah media sosial yang cukup besar yang dimana kita bisa melihat beberapa informasi yang dibagikan oleh si author atau kita bisa melihat juga hiburan hiburan lainnya di sana."

(For me, it's quite a large social media platform where we can see some information shared by the creator, or we can also find various forms of entertainment there.)

The perceptions of both respondents about TikTok reflect a general view that the platform is used for various types of content, both informational and entertaining. TikTok is known as a highly influential social media platform, yet users' perspectives can vary depending on their personal experiences with the content on it.

4.2.2. The impact of hoax news dissemination

This section explores the respondents' views on the impact of hoax news on TikTok within the social environment. TikTok has a significant influence as an information medium, so the presence of hoaxes can affect various social aspects. Here are the opinions of both respondents on this matter.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Pendapatku itu sangat merugikan, merugikan orang-orang yang terkena hoax itu dan orang yang membaca berita tersebut karena orang-orang bakal berpikir bahwa berita ini benar dan itu maksudnya orang-orang itu bakal termakan terus hoax tanpa mencari tahu kebenaran yang ada."

(My opinion is that it's very harmful it harms people who fall for the hoax and those who read it, because people will think that the news is true, which means they will keep getting influenced by the hoax without checking for the real truth.)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Menurut saya itu sangat mengganggu ya apalagi penyebaran hoax itu sangat mengganggu yang dimana ketika kita ingin mencari tahu tentang informasi berita atau bencana alam yang ada di sekitar kita ketika saya ingin mencari hal lebih lanjut itu ternyata banyalah sebuah hoax atau bisa jadi juga hanya berita pada beberapa tahun yang lalu semisal 10 tahun yang lalu atau 20 tahun yang lalu jadi beritanya itu tercampur ya dengan yang valid dan tidak valid."

(In my opinion, it's very disturbing, especially the spread of hoaxes, which is really annoying when we want to find out news or information about a disaster happening around us. When I want to look into it further, it turns out to be just a hoax, or it could also be old news from several years ago, like 10 or 20 years ago, so the news gets mixed up between valid and invalid information.)

Both respondents agree that hoax news on TikTok has a negative impact on the social environment. Hoaxes are not only misleading but also disrupt access to accurate information, especially when users hope to find reliable information.

4.2.3. The frequency of hoax content appearing

At this point, the question focuses on whether TikTok frequently suggests content containing hoax information. TikTok's algorithm plays an important role in determining the content that appears on users' feeds. Here are the responses of both respondents regarding how often they encounter hoaxes on TikTok.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Kalau sekarang itu banyak sekali memang berita-berita hoax yang ada di TikTok misalnya cuma potongan-potongan kata terus dibuatkan narasi yang sangat beda dengan kenyataannya."

(Nowadays, there are indeed a lot of hoax news stories on TikTok, such as phrases taken out of context and turned into narratives that are very different from reality.)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Menurut saya itu kadangkala saya mendapatkan informasi yang hoax jadi itu yang membuat saya ketika mendengar orang-orang mengatakan bahwa dia mendapatkan informasi ini dari TikTok, itu saya sudah yakin bahwa itu berita hoax, dan meskipun benar itu saya rasa sangat sulit untuk dipercaya."

(In my opinion, sometimes I come across hoax information, which makes me feel that whenever I hear people say they got information from TikTok, I already assume it's a hoax. Even if it turns out to be true, I find it very hard to trust.)

Both respondents stated that TikTok tends to suggest content containing hoaxes or false information. This leads to doubts about the validity of information obtained from TikTok, even when the information appears genuine.

4.2.4. User reactions when encountering hoax news

This point aims to understand the responses of the respondents or others when they encounter hoax news on TikTok. These reactions can vary, ranging from ignoring it to taking specific actions. Here are the responses of both respondents to hoax content.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Kalau saya responnya aku skip atau aku report biar tidak kelihatan lagi."

(My response is to skip it or report it so that it doesn't show up anymore.)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Pastinya ketika mendapatkan berita hoax beberapa orang pasti merasa marah atau risih juga iya mungkin seperti itu saja."

(Certainly, when encountering hoax news, some people would definitely feel angry or uncomfortable, or maybe just feel that way.)

The reaction to hoax content varies. The first person takes immediate action, such as reporting it, while the second person tends to respond with personal emotions without directly reporting it. However, both feel the same discomfort regarding the presence of hoax content.

4.2.5. *The influence of hoaxes on users' trust in social media information*

This question explores how the presence of hoaxes on TikTok affects the respondents' level of trust in information on social media. The frequent appearance of hoaxes can influence users' perceptions and trust levels. Here are the responses from both respondents.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Kalau saya sih kalau misalnya melihat berita begitu tidak langsung aku percaya harus dulu aku cari misalnya baca komen betul ini apa tidak atau mungkin cari dari sumber lain ini benar kah apa cuma hoax atau cuma orang-orang saja buat narasi yang beda dengan aslinya."

(As for me, if I see news like that, I don't immediately believe it. I usually check by reading the comments to see if it's true or not, or perhaps look for other sources to verify if it's real or just a hoax, or if people are just creating a narrative that's different from the original.)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Untuk memengaruhi kepercayaan saya itu sangat sangat membaca ya hampir menjadi trust issue ya ketika mendengar sebuah berita dari tiktok."

(To influence my trust, it really makes me question things it almost becomes a trust issue when I hear news from TikTok.)

The hoaxes on TikTok have a significant impact on both respondents' trust in information on social media. They are more critical and cautious when assessing information from TikTok, as the frequent hoaxes affect their trust.

4.2.6. *The actions typically taken upon finding hoax content*

This question aims to determine the actions taken by the respondents when they encounter content suspected of being a hoax on TikTok. These actions could include reporting, warning others, or perhaps just ignoring it. Here are the actions taken by both respondents.

Extract 1-SDK

"...Tindakan, kalau saya biasanya aku report sih seperti ini hoax, ini berita yang bukan berita sih atau memang di-report kalau di-report itu kan supaya di laporkan, biar bisa di-take down videonya oleh TikTok atau media sosial lainnya."

(The action I usually take is to report it, labeling it as a hoax or not real news. Reporting it helps ensure that the video can be taken down by TikTok or other social media platforms.)

Extract 2-ECPAG

"...Saya hanya menanggapi secara pribadi seperti ya marah mungkin ketika mendapatkan berita hoax tapi tidak menunjukkan perasaan saya ketika mendapatkan berita hoax iya, meskipun iya juga, mungkin ada dimana kesempatan saya bisa memberi tahu bahwa informasi itu hoax, tapi kadangkala saya sering mendengar jarang yang ada seperti itu dan mereka meresponnya dengan lelucon, dan saya juga tidak melaporkan konten tersebut."

(I only respond personally, like getting angry when I come across hoax news, but I don't show my feelings when I encounter hoax news. Although, there are times when I have the opportunity to inform others that the information is a hoax, but often I hear that people respond with jokes, and I also don't report the content.)

There is a difference in how the two respondents handle hoaxes. One actively reports them, while the other doesn't always report but occasionally warns others. This shows that responses to hoaxes can vary depending on the user's preferences, even though there is a desire to combat false information.

5. Discussions

TikTok, the booming short video-sharing app, has become one of the most popular social media platforms in this digital era, especially among young adults and college students (Miltsov, 2022; Montag et al., 2021; Su, 2023). TikTok's social network is characterized by content logic focused on entertainment, abundant visual stimulation, high dynamics, creativity demands, and the rapid production and consumption of content, primarily influenced by playback, entertaining narratives, and content for mental relaxation (O'Sullivan et al., 2022; Zheng et al., 2021).

This character arises from a communication context that breaks down the unidirectionality of messages and challenges the roles of passive sender and receiver (de Oliveira et al., 2020). TikTok's unique format allows for rapid content dissemination, including news and information, making it an ideal platform for gathering and consuming information (Su, 2023).

However, this convenience also influences the spread of false information. Due to the minimal barriers to entry to TikTok, anyone—including those with bad intentions—can create and spread content, whether accurate or inaccurate (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017). Hoax information can spread uncontrollably because content is produced and disseminated without prior verification (Basch et al., 2021; Pennycook et al., 2019). More importantly, people in echo chambers and filter bubbles are not exposed to multiple social media news sources and viewpoints (Gao et al., 2023; Papp, 2023). They may find it difficult to sort out the veracity of the information they find. They may be more likely to believe fake news if it supports opinions or information they have heard before. Consuming hoax information has an impact on society, democracy, public health, the economy, and more, beyond personal misunderstanding (Pennycook et al., 2019; Vosoughi et al., 2018). Therefore, it is important to be aware of false information and not easily believe information found on popular social networking sites such as TikTok.

Despite the damaging impact of fake news spread on online social media, it remains unclear whether young people are aware of fake news on this platform. Our review shows that prior literature has mainly focused on how the spread of fake news affects corporate reputation, brands, and politics (Loureiro et al., 2018; Shin et al., 2018; Talwar et al., 2019), but lacks studies on its impact on young people's media trust, considering the unique characteristics of social media.

One of the most significant negative impacts is the erosion of public trust in genuinely valid news. When hoaxes spread in a highly convincing manner, people become confused, finding it difficult to distinguish between accurate and false information. This leaves society vulnerable to accepting misinformation, often unknowingly, leading to a widespread belief in the hoax. Trust in reliable and credible sources diminishes, which in turn can worsen tensions in social relationships. Fake news can also discredit the press directly by accusing them of bias, complicity, and incompetence, or indirectly by contradicting a range of claims made by mainstream media. What is more, the very existence of online misinformation resembling a journalistic product can diminish the credibility of legitimate news. Confirming the relevance of those concerns, our study offers evidence that exposure to fake news is associated with a decline in the media trust of respondents. Ognyanova, K., Lazer, D., Robertson, R. E., & Wilson, C. (2020).

Additionally, hoaxes can trigger negative emotions such as hatred, fear, or anger through virtual media (cyberspace). Someone can very easily make pictures, status, memes, and videos that contain elements of hatred, attack the honor of others, radicalism, and terrorism. Even someone can become a propaganda expert just by creating a blog, account, or site by using a fake identity (M. Hatta, 2020). With this fake identity, that person will easily spread false information that is often used to reinforce stereotypes between social, religious, or political groups. When misinformation spreads, conflicts sometimes arise between individuals or groups who previously had no issues, simply due to misunderstandings or misperceptions caused by these hoaxes. This tension can harm social harmony and exacerbate societal polarization.

Especially in Indonesia, one of the cases that often involves hoax news is during the political season. Hoax has become a powerful weapon for parties involved in political battles to win the sympathy of the people, drop and discredit the reputation of their rivals in a political event. Indriyanto Seno Adji said that hoax is a new phenomenon that always appears in the ongoing political year with the aim at causing panic and noise by targeting certain parties so that people do not believe in people or groups who are the subject and object of the hoax (Widayati, 2018). As one of the social media with the most users, TikTok is one of the most effective media for spreading various hoax news. Society is often more easily influenced by news on TikTok due to the platform's engaging and interactive nature. The circulating information doesn't just include falsehoods but can also worsen people's tendency to accept information without verifying it. In many cases, older adults or individuals less familiar with technology or social media are more susceptible to falling victim to hoaxes, which can lead to poor decision-making, such as purchasing unproven products or following advice with no proven benefits.

Hoaxes have the potential to spread and harm society at large. The spread of fake news about sensitive issues, including natural disasters or the death of famous people, can be very disturbing, and have an impact on people's mental health and even damage the image of a person or group. Anxiety, fear, or misunderstanding felt by affected communities will actually worsen an already bad situation. Hoaxes often divert people's attention from trusted sources or real facts, making them tend to believe rumors or allegations whose authenticity or truth is uncertain.

Therefore, people must be more careful in receiving information they find on social media, especially TikTok. To avoid the detrimental impact of hoaxes, it takes time to properly confirm the information found, look for reliable sources, and avoid being influenced by dramatic or manipulative titles or content. To reduce the negative impact of hoaxes and preserve the social environment, it is important to increase awareness of the value of digital

literacy and the ability to filter information, as well as being able to differentiate between accurate and misleading information.

In this research, we really regret that most of the respondents we interviewed were unable to meet face to face. This happens because most of the data we collect uses the questionnaire method, where we share the questionnaire link with the respondent and ask them to fill it out online. Although this method is effective in reaching many respondents in a short time, we recognize that face-to-face interactions can provide deeper insight. Especially when it comes to understanding knee-jerk reactions and nuances that are difficult to capture through written answers. Therefore, we decided to conduct face-to-face interviews with only a few people, which provided an opportunity to explore further questions directly. Unfortunately, time and resource constraints mean we cannot do this with more respondents. In the future, we hope to combine these two approaches to obtain more complete and representative results.

6. Conclusions and suggestions

6.1. Conclusions

TikTok, a popular short-form video platform, has emerged as a notable contender in the social media landscape. With its short-form video format and rapidly growing user base, TikTok has gained immense popularity, particularly among younger generations. Its unique algorithm-driven content recommendation system and user demographics raise important questions about its role in addressing or exacerbating the challenge of hoax news. Investigating TikTok's influence on the spread and containment of misinformation is of paramount importance in understanding the evolving dynamics of digital information dissemination and devising effective strategies to mitigate the harmful effects of hoax news on a global scale. This research seeks to shed light on TikTok's potential as a force for countering misinformation and its implications for the broader context of responsible information sharing on social media platforms. Addressing the spread of hoax news in the context of social media is of utmost importance due to its profound implications for society, democracy, and the reliability of information sources.

However, the unchecked dissemination of hoax news on these platforms undermines the very foundations of informed decision-making and public trust. Hoax news can deceive individuals, influence opinions, and even shape political outcomes, leading to real-world consequences such as social unrest, economic instability, or misguided public health decisions. Moreover, the virality and echo chamber effect inherent in social media can amplify the reach and impact of false information, making it increasingly challenging to discern fact from fiction. Consequently, addressing the spread of hoax news is essential to safeguarding the integrity of information ecosystems, upholding the credibility of social media platforms, and preserving the public's ability to make well-informed decisions in an increasingly digital and interconnected world. Existing research has explored the impact of other social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, especially TikTok in the context of hoax news dissemination and migration.

6.2. Suggestions

Based on the discussion and conclusion above, the researcher puts forward the following suggestions:

- 6.2.1 Researchers want to emphasize that hoax news can have an impact on shifting social values and beliefs.
- 6.2.2 Researchers want to emphasize that TikTok not only has a bad impact on society but also has a good impact on society.
- 6.2.3 Researchers want to emphasize that hoax news occurs due to low levels of literacy on social media, but people need to increase their self-awareness rather than waiting for direction from the relevant.
- 6.2.4 Researchers want the public to be able to increase their literacy to search for more sources related to the news they see.

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