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CRISIS OF FAITH AMID HOAX PHENOMENON IN INDONESIA; PERSPECTIVE CRITICAL ANALYSIS BY CHARLES S. PEIRCE

KRISIS KEYAKINAN DI TENGAH FENOMENA HOAX DI INDONESIA; ANALISIS KRITIS PERSPEKTIF OLEH CHARLES S. PEIRCE

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ABSTRACT: The phenomenon of hoaxes is becoming more and more widespread in the digital age and it is difficult to stop. Hoax is a disease as terrifying as the symptoms of rampant corruption and narcotics. The problem of hoaxes cannot be ignored because the more massively these hoaxes can undermine the morale of the nation, the more it can even lead to a crisis of faith. Belief in the knowledge gained is a human need, but the presence of false reports will eventually lead to a crisis of faith. The purpose of this article is to analyze a hoax phenomenon that still pervades the digital world, using Charles S. Peirce's analytical meter on the theory of truth. The crisis of faith must be overcome so that it does not last too long and cause information chaos in society. This research is an analytical-descriptive study using data sources from digital media, online sites, books, magazines, news. Data was analyzed using Charles S. Peirce's theory of truth. From the analysis carried out, the conclusion is that obtaining basic beliefs requires a scientific method through a scientific attitude in collecting information. When people receive information from any source, true faith must first go through a period of doubt and think critically about the knowledge gained. The information received is processed in the mind based on the scientific method process followed by a person to acquire essential beliefs.

Keywords: Crisis of Faith; Hoax; Digital Media; Charles S. Peirce.

ABSTRAK: Fenomena hoax semakin marak di era digital dan sulit untuk dihentikan. Hoax merupakan penyakit yang sama mengerikannya dengan gejala maraknya korupsi dan narkoba. Permasalahan hoax tidak bisa dibiarkan begitu saja, karena semakin masifnya hoax dapat merusak moral bangsa, bahkan dapat berujung pada krisis keimanan. Kepercayaan terhadap ilmu yang diperoleh merupakan kebutuhan manusia, namun adanya pemberitaan palsu pada akhirnya akan menimbulkan krisis keimanan. Tujuan artikel ini adalah menganalisis fenomena hoax yang masih merajalela di dunia digital, dengan menggunakan meteran analisis Charles S. Peirce tentang teori kebenaran. Krisis keimanan harus diatasi agar tidak berlangsung lama dan menimbulkan kekacauan informasi di masyarakat. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif analitis dengan menggunakan sumber data dari media digital, situs online, buku, majalah, berita. Data dianalisis menggunakan teori kebenaran Charles S. Peirce. Dari analisis yang dilakukan diperoleh kesimpulan bahwa untuk memperoleh keyakinan dasar diperlukan metode ilmiah melalui sikap ilmiah dalam mengumpulkan informasi. Ketika masyarakat menerima informasi dari sumber mana pun, keimanan yang sejati harus terlebih dahulu melalui masa keraguan dan berpikir kritis terhadap ilmu yang diperoleh. Informasi yang diterima diproses dalam pikiran berdasarkan proses metode ilmiah yang diikuti seseorang untuk memperoleh keyakinan esensial.

Kata Kunci: Krisis Keyakinan; Hoax; Media Digital; Charles S. Peirce..



A. INTRODUCTION

Data from the Ministry of Communications and Informatics says there are about 800,000 websites in Indonesia that have been reported to be spreading false information," he said. He said that the internet has been improperly used by certain individuals for personal and group gain by spreading negative information content that has created fear and mutual distrust in the society.¹ Social media is the easiest way to spread fake news or hoaxes. In fact, many hoax perpetrators have ended up in prison for their actions.² There are different types of people who are easily exposed to hoax messages due to the lack of education among these people. A study showed that at least 30% to almost 60% of Indonesians are exposed to hoaxes when accessing and communicating through cyberspace, while only 21% to 36% could recognize fake news. Most of the fake news found related to political, health and religious issues.³ These are the results of Katad's survey at the Insight Center (KIC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Informatics and Creativity.⁴

The spread of hoaxes is becoming increasingly difficult to stop. Data from the Ministry of Communications and Informatics shows that from August 2018 to October 31, 2020, a total of 7,224 hoax problem detections were reached. With the highest Hoax category, Government Expenditures with 1,430 items, Health (1,397), Politics (1,186), Crime (475), Fraud (459), International (437), Libel (377), Natural Disasters (302), Religion (277), myths (212), trade (49) and education issues with 47 content. Data from Kominfo shows that health issues are the second largest piece of fake content to spread in society. Covid-19 started hitting the world since 2020. The results of a survey conducted by BPSDMP Kominfo Manado found that up to 76.6% of respondents said they receive hoaxes about Covid-19 every day, both in the form of text as in pictures. Social media (79.5%) and instant messaging applications (75.5%) are the most commonly used media for spreading covid-19 hoaxes (BPSDMP, 2020). This data is reinforced by the negative content filter results conducted by the Ministry of Communications and

¹ Ayu Yuliani, 'Ada 800.000 Situs Penyebar Hoax Di Indonesia', *Kominfo*, 2020 <https://kominfo.go.id/content/detail/12008/ada-800000-situs-penyebar-hoax-di-indonesia/0/sorotan_media>.

² Jeongwon Yang and Yu Tian, "'Others Are More Vulnerable to Fake News than I Am": Third-Person Effect of COVID-19 Fake News on Social Media Users', *Computers in Human Behavior*, 125 July (2021), 106950 <<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2021.106950>>.

³ Antony Lee, 'Online Hoaxes, Existential Threat, and Internet Shutdown: A Case Study of Securitization Dynamics in Indonesia', *Journal of Indonesian Social Sciences and Humanities*, 10.1 (2020), 17–34 <<https://doi.org/10.14203/jissh.v10i1.156>>.

⁴ Iman Rahman Cahyadi, 'Survei KIC: Hampir 60% Orang Indonesia Terpapar Hoax Saat Mengakses Internet', *Berita Satu*, 2020 <<https://www.beritasatu.com/digital/700917/survei-kic-hampir-60-orang-indonesia-terpapar-hoax-saat-mengakses-internet>>.

Informatics. April 2020 474 Covid-19 hoax issues were spread across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.⁵

An academic Komarudin Hidayat, said the scourge of spreading fake news or deceit is similar to the spread of narcotics and pornography. If left unchecked, false reports can harm and harm society, he said. Hoax is a cybercrime. Hoaxes are said to stem from a mental attitude that transcends integrity, especially hoaxes that appear in the name of religion.⁶ Jokes appearing in the name of religion, just like he's a hypocrite. This hypocrisy means that he knows that the truth statements in the religion will be appropriate, but he ignores them.

The polemic about the hoax phenomenon is a common challenge to stop its growth and development and also to minimize the dangers of this hoax.⁷ According to research conducted by Agus Yanto et al, it shows that the biggest factors influencing the spread of hoax news are altruism, entertainment and instant news sharing. Many people easily spread news or information to WhatsApp groups without knowing the truth of the information being spread. Most people don't care to check first, because they think the information is important and must be shared.⁸ In another explanation, the factors causing hoaxes are due to the public's low interest in reading and the low level of public trust in the law in Indonesia. Of course, this is a big task to increase people's interest in reading, one of which is by continuing to provide education about reading literacy. Apart from that, the government can also restore legal authority by implementing good laws in Indonesia.⁹ Hoax can be interpreted as disinformation, which of course also contradicts Islamic religious teachings about fairness. Following Nadirsyah Hosein's thought that the book *Filters Before Sharing* states that when we receive messages that are not certain to be true, we should first verify the truth from a reliable source.¹⁰ In a statement by

⁵ Christiany Juditha and Josep J Darmawan, 'Infodemic Di Masa Pandemi : Analisis Peta Hoaks Covid-19 Tahun 2020 Infodemic In The Pandemic : Analysis of The 2020 Covid-19 Hoax Map', 2021, 67–78 <<https://doi.org/10.30818/jpkm.2021.2060307>>.

⁶ Yunita, 'Bahaya Hoax Bisa Berujung Pada Pembunuhan Karakter', *Kominfo*, 2017 <https://kominfo.go.id/content/detail/8716/bahaya-hoax-bisa-berujung-pada-pembunuhan-karakter/0/sorotan_media>.

⁷ Rebekah Spera and David M. Peña-Guzmán, 'The Anatomy of a Philosophical Hoax: The Politics of Delegitimation in Contemporary Philosophy', *Metaphilosophy*, 50.1–2 (2019), 156–74 <<https://doi.org/10.1111/meta.12343>>.

⁸ Agus Yanto and others, 'Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Penyebaran Berita Palsu: Studi Kasus Kota Batam', *SOURCE : Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*, 8.2 (2022), 120 <<https://doi.org/10.35308/source.v8i2.5562>>.

⁹ Wahyu Widodo and others, 'Hoax Di Indonesia : Suatu Kajian', *Jurnal Meta Yuridis*, 2.1 (2019), 69–79 <<https://doi.org/10.26877/m-y.v2i2.4691>>.

¹⁰ Sabiruddin Sabiruddin, 'Saring Sebelum Sharing, Menangkal Berita Hoax, Radikalisme Di Media Sosial', *AL MUNIR : Jurnal Komunikasi Dan Penyiaran Islam*, 2.1 (2019), 22–40 <<https://doi.org/10.15548/amj-kpi.v2i1.486>>.

Sayyidina Ali bin Abi Talib RA, "If the crime concerns a period when many act unjustly, then one is kind to someone he does not know, then he is very easily misled."¹¹

Charles S. Peirce in his pragmatic theory that the author uses to analyze the hoax phenomenon that is currently widespread and has become an emergency problem in Indonesia. According to Peirce, pragmatism is the most important part of his theory of the scientific method. According to James, pragmatism functions as a technical theory to resolve metaphysical debates/disputes and as a philosophy to support truth for belief in hypotheses related to religion (the right to believe in religious hypotheses).¹² On the other hand, John Dewey is more concerned with humanistic and social issues, namely the transformation of domains of experience in which problem situations arise (all domains of experience in which problem situations arise), both in the fields of politics, economics, education, law and individual behavior.¹³ Belief, research and meaning are means to simultaneously approach the most important instruments related to the dynamics of science, whether social sciences, natural sciences, psychology or religion. Truth taken as truth beyond any doubt is a skeptical mindset in which belief in truth does not extend to understanding the truth.¹⁴ The essential truth is the truth that can be proven by empirical-experimental tests, so that the meaning of the truth can be preserved. It is important to note that Peirce's orientation towards pragmatism differs from that of John Dewey. In terms of content, Peirce's study interest is to clarify certain aspects of scientific inquiry.¹⁵

In this case, Charles believes that the scientific method is something that must be done to find essential faith and truth. Beliefs and doubts that go so far as to discover the meaning by a scientific method will lead one to fully believe in something. These three things have a strong relationship, especially when drawn into an existing hoax phenomenon.¹⁶ Trust in information must be accompanied by doubt as to whether the information received is true. Therefore, the authors are interested in further exploring and analyzing this hoax phenomenon using Charles S. Pierce's theory of truth. How is this hoax from Peirce's theory of truth viewed, why so many people fall victim to hoaxes, and how can one overcome this hoax so that he can choose to believe in valid information.

¹¹ M Quraish Shihab, *Islam Yang Disalahpahami* (Tangerang: Lentera Hati, 2019).

¹² Winanti Praptiningsih and Novi Kurnia, 'Hoax and the Crisis of Health Communication-Public Sphere', *Journal Communication Spectrum*, 10.1 (2020) <<https://doi.org/10.36782/jcs.v10i1.2002>>.

¹³ K. Munitz Milton, *Contemporary Analytic Philosophy* (London: Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1997).

¹⁴ Barbara M. Grant, 'The Mourning After: Academic Development in a Time of Doubt', *International Journal for Academic Development*, 12.1 (2007), 35–43 <<https://doi.org/10.1080/13601440701217303>>.

¹⁵ Milton.

¹⁶ Sheila Dwi Rahmawati and others, 'The Effect of Social Media on the Spread of COVID-19 Hoax News Among Students', 2020.

The novelty of this scientific work is that it shows that society is experiencing a crisis of confidence in the truth of information. Studies with the subject of hoax have not been widely analyzed from a philosophical perspective. On the other hand, no one has studied hoaxes with Charles S. Peirce's theory of truth. Therefore, this study is important in order to gain a perspective on the problem of hoaxes which are currently a dangerous virus in the midst of increasingly advanced internet technology.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses qualitative methods to ensure the accuracy of the data. The data collected is verbal and visual, and the research results are presented through an illustrative design that explains the status of the phenomenon or the state of the situation.¹⁷ This research is included in the qualitative research with descriptive analysis method. The data source for this study uses secondary data from books, magazines, social media and online sites.¹⁸ The subject of his study is the hoax phenomenon that exists on social media and on the online page of the Ministry of Information and Communication related to hoaxes. The data was analyzed using Charles S. Peirce's theory of truth. The data analysis method used in this study uses four stages, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusions.¹⁹ ²⁰ First, data collection is carried out by searching for news sources and materials about hoaxes that are spread in digital media such as websites and social media. Second, researchers reduce data from the data that has been collected. This is important to do, so that the existing data becomes more focused in accordance with the research problem. Third, data presentation from data that has been reduced and has become data that focuses on Charles S Peirce's theory of truth which will be used as an analysis tool. Fourth, the conclusion contains the results of data processing into an answer to the research problem.

¹⁷ S Nurdin, I., & Hartati and Ed.) (Lutfiah, *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial*. (Surabaya: Media Sahabat Cendekia. Pemerintah, 2019).

¹⁸ Achmad Zainal Abidin and Ida Rachma, 'Etnografi Virtual Sebagai Teknik Pengumpulan Data Dan Metode Penelitian', *The Journal of Society & Media*, 2.2 (2018), 130–45 <<https://journal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/jsm/index>>.

¹⁹ Subakri - Bakri and Rosdee Ibrahim Mangkachi, 'Dialectics of Pesantren and Social Communities in Cultural Value Transformation', *Cendekia: Jurnal Kependidikan Dan Kemasyarakatan*, 1.1 (2021), 69–87 <<https://doi.org/10.21154/cendekia.v1i1.2670>>.

²⁰ Muhammad Rijal Fadli, 'Memahami Desain Metode Penelitian Kualitatif', *Humanika*, 21.1 (2021), 33–54 <<https://doi.org/10.21831/hum.v21i1>>.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Thoughts by Charles S. Peirce

“A belief is the assertion of a statement that a person believes to be true. It is that which a person is consciously ready to act in a certain way: it marks a habit of the mind: it is the opposite of a state of doubt.”²¹

Belief is a strong statement of a statement that is believed to be true. It is a conscious preparation by a person to act in a certain way. It describes the habit of reason, the opposite of doubt.²² Belief is belief in a proposition which has two components namely subject and predicate. Each sentence with a predicate describes what he believes, and each sentence with a subject describes what that belief is.²³ Beliefs describe a firm statement or acceptance of a statement. Where someone is committed to defending the truth. An unequivocal statement of a statement believed to be true, in which a person is conscious and willing to act in a certain way, resulting in a habit of mind. In the broadest sense, 'faith' focuses on man. Essentially, humans differ from other beings who have faith and use their minds to get brilliant ideas.²⁴

The essence of faith itself is a desire that we carry out in a certain way and that becomes a habit. Habit is a continuous awareness and not a temporary awareness like seeing a flash of light or a flash of just one eye blink. Charles S. Peirce argues that gaining self-confidence is not just a series of experiences lived, but is based on repeated imagination exercises under specific circumstances or circumstances. Charles S. Peirce also observes the beliefs that arise in society. He identified belief in four kinds of methods, namely tenacity, authority, reason, and the method of science. The perseverance method is a method of acquiring knowledge by firmly believing in something, even if what you believe may not be true. This belief is due to things that should happen in general. Method of authority (method of authority) Views on this method are obtained from various sources that are considered authoritative. That is,

²¹ Milton.

²² Craig N. Shealy. Ed, 'Making Sense of Beliefs and Values (Theory, Research and Practice)', *Springer Publishing Company*, 40.3 (2014), 208 <<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jen.2014.03.008>>.

²³ Milton.

²⁴ Olivia K.H. Smith, 'The beyond a Reasonable Doubt Standard of Proof: Juror Understanding and Reform', *International Journal of Evidence and Proof*, 26.4 (2022), 291–308 <<https://doi.org/10.1177/13657127221114498>>.

the truth can be obtained through the authority in power, such as a king or a government official.²⁵

A priori method (metaphysical philosophy) is a method found in the history of metaphysical philosophy.²⁶ Truth is accepted purely intuitively. Under this method, a person can accept any opinion if it suits his or her reason, without having to prove it with observable empirical facts. Scientific method (the method of science), the scientific method is a process involving various acts of thought, patterns of work, procedures and technical ways of acquiring new knowledge or developing existing knowledge. This method is the most reliable and important method.²⁷ As stated in The World of Science Encyclopedia, scientific method is broadly defined as: "The procedures used by scientists in the systematic search for new knowledge and the verification of existing knowledge."²⁸ The results of the analysis show that only the fourth belief (Method from Science), which will help people to develop scientific research dynamically. About methods of science there is the logic of induction, which evolves into abduction in the form of hypotheses. Hypothesis is used in scientific research to find practical laws or scientific theories in the future.²⁹

Peirce first divided the truth into two parts; transcendental truth (transcendental truth), namely the truth inherent in the object itself, second; complex truth truth), namely the truth in a statement. Complex truths are divided into ethical or psychological truths, namely the agreement of statements with what the speaker believes, and logical or literal truths, namely the agreement of statements with the defined reality. The full truth of this statement must be tested with practical consequences through experience. The steps to take to understand Peirce's view of this truth are that there are three basic characteristics of faith. The three basic qualities include proportion, judgment, and habits. To believe in anything, you must understand these three things. In addition, this belief will create a habit in the mind. There are

²⁵ Afga Sidiq Rifai, 'Kebenaran Dan Keraguan Dalam Studi Keislaman (Telaah Pemikiran Charles Sander Peirce Dalam Buku Contemporary Analytic Philosophy)', *Jurnal Penelitian Agama*, 20.1 (2019), 95–109 <<https://doi.org/10.24090/jpa.v20i1.2019.pp95-109>>.

²⁶ Qin Zhao and Liming Gong, 'Cultural Differences in Attitude toward and Effects of Self-Doubt', *International Journal of Psychology*, 54.6 (2019), 750–58 <<https://doi.org/10.1002/ijop.12525>>.

²⁷ Rifai.

²⁸ National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine, *Responsible Science: Ensuring the Integrity of the Research Process: Volume I* (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 1992) <<https://doi.org/10.17226/1864>>.

²⁹ Arjuna Hiqmah Lubis, 'Pragmatisme Charles S. Peirce Dan Implikasinya Pada Penentuan Awal Waktu Salat Dan Pelaksanaannya', *Al-Marshad: Jurnal Astronomi Islam Dan Ilmu-Ilmu Berkaitan*, 5.1 (2019), 14–35 <<https://doi.org/10.30596/jam.v5i1.2743>>.

several beliefs that can be distinguished by comparing the habits created in the mind. From this, Peirce distinguished between faith and doubt.

“Doubt is an uncomfortable and unsatisfied state from which we struggle to free ourselves and move into the state of belief; while the latter is a calm and satisfying state that we don't want to avoid or turn into a belief in something else. Rather, we stubbornly cling not only to believe, but to believe exactly what we believe.”³⁰

Doubt is a state of restlessness and dissatisfaction from which we find it difficult to break free and convince ourselves, while faith is a state of calmness and contentment from which we do not want to escape or change any belief.³¹ Instead, we persist, not just to believe, but to believe what we believe. Doubt indicates an act of sincere mental attitude that answers questions, an unwillingness to say or accept it. Doubt is a pure feeling, an action, a living experience. Doubts cause fear and anxiety in a person. Descartes used doubt to conquer doubt. One way to determine what is certain and what cannot be doubted is to see to what extent it can be doubted.³²

Descartes thought that by doubting everything, including himself, he had dispelled any prejudices that might lead him astray. He is afraid that thinking may not actually lead him to the truth. It is possible that the human mind does not essentially lead people to the truth, but instead leads them to error.³³ That is to say, there is a certain kind of force greater than himself that controls his mind and always directs his thoughts in the wrong direction. Based on Descartes' thoughts above, Peirce was moved to criticize Descartes' thoughts. He uses Bain's definition of faith as something that makes a person willing to act on their beliefs. This belief leads to action, and as the content of belief, a statement can be treated as behavior or action. According to Peirce, faith is a satisfaction (a satisfactory) and a very necessary state (desired state), since faith contradicts doubt, doubt is an unsatisfactory state.³⁴

According to Charles S. Peirce, the way out of the habit of rigid thinking is to doubt faith itself. The believed truth must be doubted. From the image above, Charles S. Peirce divides doubt into two: artificial doubt and real doubt. Amin Abdullah

³⁰ Milton.

³¹ Grant.

³² Milton.

³³ Chiara Secli, 'Reaching the "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" Standard in International Criminal Law Cases: A Comparison with Italian Doctrine and Jurisprudence', *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 67, 2019 <<https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3335515>>.

³⁴ Akhmad Nurul Kawakib, 'Karakter Periodeisasi Dalam Filsafat', *El Qudwah*, 19 (2014), 1–9.

explained that pseudo-doubt cannot lead a person to discover the meaning of the truth, pseudo-doubt will only lead one to an initial belief in the teaching of the truth, like a cycle that has no end and turns over and over again in the same activity. Genuine doubt makes a doubter believe in the search for truth itself.³⁵ Peirce believes that sincere doubt leads to an investigation, search, or investigation. Doubt is believed to provide benefits to the development of science, both science and religious studies.³⁶

Charles S. Peirce distinguishes between faith (belief) and doubt (doubt). People who are confident must differ from people who are in doubt in at least two ways: feelings and behaviour. People who have doubts always feel uncomfortable and will try to overcome those doubts to find the right one. There are two kinds of doubts, real doubts and artificial doubts. Only sincere doubt can lead to the next stage, because genuine doubt leads to a desire to find conviction through inquiry (inquiry/inquiry). Charles S. Peirce uses different terms for "research", such as "determination" and "reasoning". This research theory is based on faith and doubt. Trust and doubt are two things that people need to experience. Sometimes people wholeheartedly believe and worry about something, and sometimes people are doubtful or skeptical about something. Peirce unleashed this investigative theory based on Descartes' claims of faith and doubt. In today's scientific world, the terminology of doubt has encouraged people to search for scientific truths. The search should reject it, but question it, and then discover it through research and study. Research is a method of investigating facts about something, or a method of researching and collecting information about something. So, in this narrow understanding, the research system is synonymous with a method of researching specific targets. Research in a broader sense is a complex of scientific activities (scientific thinking and scientific acting) aimed at acquiring true knowledge. The knowledge referred to here is knowledge obtained through the scientific method.³⁷

According to Peirce, the truth of a theory, no matter how good, must still be accepted provisionally, in the sense that its truth can be accepted until another stronger theory is found. The principle that a theory cannot be treated as absolute, a priori and

³⁵ Amin Abdullah, *Multidisiplin Interdisipliner Dan Transdisiplin Metode Studi Agama Dan Studi Islam Di Era Kontemporer* (Yogyakarta: IB Pustaka, 2021).

³⁶ Rifai.

³⁷ Milton.

only provisional is known as the principle of fallibilism. Peirce often emphasizes that scientific knowledge is not something that is definitely perfect and cannot achieve its goal. Science has never reached an absolutely definitive formulation of the universe. Recognizing the necessary limits of scientific knowledge is what Peirce calls fallibilism, namely, a cautious attitude toward science that consciously conceals a full and final commitment to the acquisition of the scientific method, but on the one hand discredits belief in science and the assurance that science really conforms to the scientific method. knowledge. Truth. Thus, the research system is not just a "method" but a "unit" or unit made up of a series of scientific activities, and even the methods used are nothing more than a means of supporting the research activity itself. The natural sciences usually use a cycle empirical method and its objectivity is tested empirically and experimentally. The social sciences and humanities generally use the linear method and their analysis focuses on discovering meaning, values and goals. An investigation is a process aimed at increasing knowledge, dispelling doubts or solving a problem. A research theory is an explanation of the different types of research and how each type of research achieves its goals.³⁸

Meaning One of the attempts to gain trust is through scientific inquiry. Through this scientific research, human thinking will finally be able to reach the ultimate meaning (meaning). Charles S. Peirce calls it a pragmatic theory of meaning, namely an operative theory of meaning. Peirce wanted to bring pragmatism to make ordinary thoughts scientific, and Peirce emphasized the application of pragmatism to language, which is to explain the meaning of sentences so that conceptual clarity and their distinction from other concepts are achieved. He used a mathematical approach and symbolic logic (language), which in turn made his mark as the father of modern semiotics. The term pragmatic meaning is very important in conducting scientific research. Charles S. Peirce argues that a person will not find scientific truth and how to find truth itself if it does not have the meaning of faith itself. Through the theory of meaning put forth by Charles S. Peirce, one can understand a position to be taken in order to clarify one's ideas. The theory of meaning is thus an essential part of the research logic.³⁹

³⁸ Rifai.

³⁹ Milton.

The meaning of the term pragmatism is very important to use the power of logic as a guide for research. Achieving clarity of ideas is, for Peirce, a basic requirement that must be met if one is primarily interested in truth. One cannot reach the truth or know how to find it unless one understands what ideas and beliefs mean. Peirce's theory of meaning allows one to understand a position to be taken in order to clarify one's ideas. The theory of meaning is thus an essential part of the research logic. The theory of meaning is also closely related to semiotics. "Semiotics: English: semantics, Greek: semanticos (meaning), semainen (meaning), and sema (sign). Semiotics: the science that studies communication through symbols (signs).

For Peirce, a sign means "something that stands for something in some way or quality " that a sign is something that stands for someone in some way or quality.⁴⁰ How difficult it is to analyze universal definitions according to Charles S. Peirce. In his view, linguists must form meaningful concepts in order to make sentences or phrases meaningful. The truth and falsity of a statement must be proven in a scientific laboratory. For Charles S. Peirce, a problem is considered significant, original, and meaningful when the answers to the problem are requirements that can be proven experimentally. Statements of truth, idea, idea, or conception are considered meaningful if they contain perception statements. That is, an expression is considered meaningful if it is based on observations. The statement is true if the synthetic statement can be verified empirically.

2. The Impact of Hoaxes on Society

Mulya Amri, research director of the Katadata Insight Center, said that apart from the low ability to spot fake news, the digital literacy of Indonesians is still not high enough. A study measuring the status of digital literacy in 34 Indonesian provinces found that the national digital literacy index has not yet reached a "good" level.⁴¹ The development of information and communication technology is rapidly increasing along with the penetration of the Internet in various aspects of human life. The internet changes distances and times quickly, so there are no more lines to limit it. The Internet has had a significant impact on society in terms of access to

⁴⁰ Cynthia B. Leung, 'Peirce's Concept of Signs and Kindergarten Literacy', *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 17.5 (2018), 104–21 <<https://doi.org/10.26803/ijlter.17.5.7>>.

⁴¹ Iman Rahman Cahyadi.

information. Information on online media channels and social media can be retrieved quickly. Social media is Internet media that allows users to present themselves, communicate, collaborate, share, communicate with other users and create virtual social bonds.⁴²

The existence of like, hashtag and share features in social media makes it easy for users to share and spread information in a short period of time.⁴³ In Indonesia, social media has gained popularity and has been used as one of the campaign media for the 2014 and 2019 presidential elections.⁴⁴ Various information was spread by the support teams of the two presidential candidates to attack the other candidates. The proliferation of fake news (hoax), ethnicity, religion, race and intergroup issues (SARA) filled social media.

Hoax information spread and consumed by the public makes people's social lives unstable and even leads to conflict. Hoaxes become a national problem because they can cause division, political instability and security in society.⁴⁵ Hoax information that contains negative opinions, slander, hate and attacks other parties, causing fear, threats and loss. The government is trying to solve the problem of information and electronic transactions with Law No. 11 of 2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions.⁴⁶

The emergence of problems in society arising from false information (hoaxes) appearing on social media is the difficulty in distinguishing between real news and fake news. Society is shocked by the amount of information, making it difficult for people to determine which news comes from reliable sources and which does not. In addition, the level of literacy and the public's desire to know and confirm the news received is still very low. The results of the 2017 Indonesia Telematics Society survey published on the Republic of Indonesia Population and Family Planning Channel regarding media commonly used to spread fake news show that social media ranks first.⁴⁷

⁴² Rulli Nasrullah, *Media Sosial: Perspektif Komunikasi, Budaya Dan Sosioteknologi* (Yogyakarta: Simbiosis Rekatama Media, 2015).

⁴³ Gumilar Gumgum, Adiprasetyo Justito, and Maharani Nunik, 'Literasi Media: Cerdas Menggunakan Media Sosial Dalam Menanggulangi Berita Palsu (Hoax) Oleh Siswa Sma', *Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, 1.1 (2017), 35–40 <<https://doi.org/1410-5675>>.

⁴⁴ Aminah Aminah and Novita Sari, 'Dampak Hoax Di Media Sosial Facebook Terhadap Pemilih Pemula', *Jurnal Komunikasi Global*; Vol 8, No 1 (2019) DO - 10.24815/Jkg.V8i1.13565 , 2019.

⁴⁵ Muhammad Iqbal, 'Efektifitas Hukum Dan Upaya Menangkal Hoax Sebagai Konsekuensi Negatif Perkembangan Interaksi Manusia', *Jurnal Universitass Tidar*, 3.2 (2019), 1–9.

⁴⁶ Josua Sitompul, *Cyberspace Cybercrimes Cyberlaw : Tinjauan Aspek Hukum Pidana* (Jakarta: Tatanusa, 2021).

⁴⁷ Masyarakat Telematika Indonesia, 'Hasil Survey Mastel Tentang Wabah Hoax Nasional', 2017.

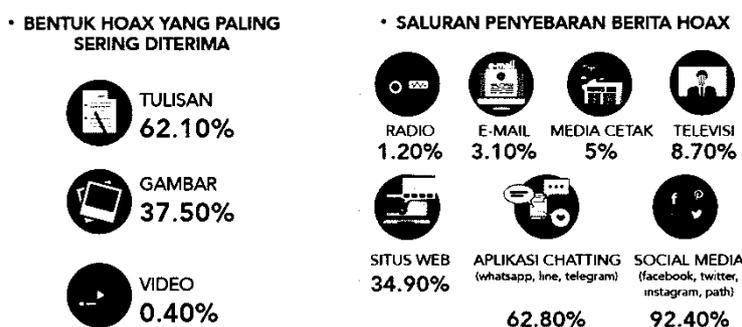


Figure 1.

Indonesia Telematic Society survey results on forms and channels of hoaxes

Source: The results of the 2017 National HOAX Epidemic Survey can be accessed in <https://mastel.id/hasil-survey-wabah-hoax-nasional-2017/>⁴⁸

The high intensity of social media use by the public makes it easier for fake news makers to spread their messages through these media. In the post-truth era, the social media news frenzy leads users to assume that the news is true. Objective facts have less influence on the formation of public opinion because emotions and personal beliefs are stronger. With the existence of the post-truth era, facts and truths can be hushed up by public opinion influenced by hoaxes. In response, as a society inseparable from the process of social interaction, simultaneous action is required to prevent and counter the spread of hoax news across multiple media outlets. In addition, media users need to increase validation or control over the information they consume so that they can use the information wisely.

3. Fight Hoaxes with "True Doubt"

Doubt and faith are opposites, but both are in the same place. Both reside in the human heart. Both things have an impact on the human self itself. The things that can be caused by this belief is the amount of self-motivation for something. This belief is needed by anyone, especially Muslims. A Muslim is forced to quiet his heart and believe that God exists, even though he has never met God. Man is asked to believe in things that govern him with some of his creations. Although this is very difficult for the people themselves, this is a religious teaching. Islam in particular teaches a person to have faith by declaring that he believes in God and His Messenger. This abstract

⁴⁸ Masyarakat Telematikan Indonesia.

belief can cause a person to rebel against what he believes. However, with this belief, one will also attain a certain level of serenity and comfort in life.

In addition, doubts also affect human survival. From a psychological point of view, this doubt can cause fear and indecision. The fear caused by doubt puts man in a circle between ceasing his activities and continuing⁴⁹ what he believes in his doubts. Also, sometimes people find themselves in a difficult situation and believe that their doubts are the truth. Such circumstances make it difficult for a person to calm down, because they have already entered the abyss of doubt. One of the effects caused by doubt is the elimination of existing ones. He denies the one who has reached the world. As in a story, there was an atheist who didn't want to have a religion back then because of his doubts about God, God's role. This questionable belief strengthened him, so he tried to break away from the belief that God exists. This story shows that doubt also affects God.

It is said in a hadith: Narrated by Al-Hasan bin 'Ali Radhiyallahu 'Anhuma, the grandson of Rasulullah Shallallahu 'Alaihi wa Sallam and his favourite. He said: I have memorized this advice from Rasulullah Shallallahu 'Alaihi wa Sallam : 'Let things that make you doubt what does not make you doubt.'" (HR. An-Nasa'i and Tirmidhi. And Tirmidhi said, this hadith is hasan saheeh). This hadith is a story of an-nasa'i and tirmidhi and is considered as a hasan sahih hadith. The explanation of the hadith clearly forbids people to proceed when in doubt. Therefore, these doubts and beliefs should be properly managed between them so that the bad effects do not necessarily make people worse and even remove them from their Lord.

Doubt becomes the first human step in the search for an essential truth. Indeed, with regard to hoaxes, the public must have "doubts" when receiving information from digital media, both social media and news reports.⁵⁰ In accordance with Peirce's claim that this doubt leads to the scientific method gaining importance. This scientific method, when applied to any individual, can take the form of attempting to verify the messages received. Will not be believed as the truth until there is clarity that can explain the validity of the information.

⁴⁹ T (Editors of Encyclopaedia) Britannica, "ilm Al-Ḥadīth Encyclopedia", *Hadith* (Britannica, 2020) <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/ilm-al-hadith>>.

⁵⁰ Smith.

Various methods to verify the correctness of the information, namely 1) web domain name verification; 2) Check the responsible person or editor; 3) Check the web domain information with the domain; 4) Check the release date of the news; 5) compare it to news in other credible media; and 6) Stop opening fake media. Among the various methods of verifying information, it cannot be fully implemented when the Indonesian population is still low on digital skills. Nationally, Indonesia's Digital Literacy Index is still at the "moderate" level. Based on the National Digital Skills Index 2020 survey, each sub-index was given the following scores, with a maximum score of 4.⁵¹

Table.1 Digital Index Survey 2020⁵²

subindex	index type	to score
1	Information and data literacy	3:17
2	communication and cooperation	3.38
3	safety	3.66
4	technological skills	3.66

The table above shows that the level of digital literacy among Indonesians is not good or is still in the middle category. Such circumstances may be an indication that it is only natural that this scam can wreak havoc on Indonesia's information system. Kominfo must take preventive measures and Kominfo must act quickly to clean up all forms of fake information. In some of the author's observations, most people see news by looking at the title or cover of the information. Although producers of fake information often use the main weapon in the title or cover of the information. There are some groups that have difficulty providing information about the dangers of hoaxes or content classified as hoax, namely the baby boomer generation. Faced with technological sophistication, those who were not born in the current technological era often forget that this technology is not completely filled with correct information.

⁵¹ Ferdinandus Setu, 'Hasil Survei Indeks Literasi Digital Nasional 2020, Akses Internet Makin Terjangkau', *Kominfo*, 2020 <https://kominfo.go.id/content/detail/30928/siaran-pers-no-149hmkominfo112020-tentang-hasil-survei-indeks-literasi-digital-nasional-2020-akses-internet-makin-terjangkau/0/siaran_pers>.

⁵² Setu.

In practice, it often appears that the baby boom generation has a very high confidence in information in the media. There are denials of the truth, doubts about the truth conveyed by truth makers. Meanwhile, providing information to increase digital literacy is usually easier in ages Y (millennial), Z and alpha generations). They were born in an era of ever-advancing technology and are still learning at this age. Therefore, learning is of digital literacy easier for them to accept than for the older generation (baby boomers).

From the analysis presented above, the author offers a number of scientific methods to obtain information that can be used in combating fake news.



Groove.1

Attitudes Toward Receiving Information as an Attempt to Overcome a Crisis of Faith

In this section, I will delve into the exploration of Groove 1, which focuses on Attitudes Toward Receiving Information as an Attempt to Overcome a Crisis of Faith:

- a. Information: Information comes from various sources, both digital and non-digital. Media sources of information can come from mass media, social media, online sites and others
- b. Person: The person receiving the information. Humans have a mind that can distinguish between good and bad
- c. Doubt: Receiving information must be done with complete doubt about the correctness of the information received. This doubt will enable people to take the next step after receiving the information. Not all information received can be declared true
- d. Scientific Attitude: A scientific attitude can take the form of curiosity, always asking for information based on factual facts. The scientific attitude becomes an important process to acquire real knowledge
- e. Real Trust: Real trust is gained after someone verifies information from a reliable source. Real faith in man for the information received becomes an essential knowledge.

The above action becomes a basis for people to gain knowledge that is true. Beliefs that are not based on a search for truth, then those beliefs will also cause problems for us as believers. To find out what is true and what is false, it is necessary to activate the conscience and be guided by religious teachings about morality. The rise of fake news goes hand in hand with the decline of human morality. Muslims have received many teachings about goodness, but not all of them can be applied in everyday life. Religion plays a role in solving this crisis. Not only by the verses of the Qur'an (bayany), not only by reason (burhany), but also by conscience (irfany).⁵³ Conscience, properly used in life, will not give false reports, for what proceeds from conscience is the truth. From the analysis carried out, the conclusion is that obtaining basic beliefs requires a scientific method through a scientific attitude in collecting information. When people receive information from any source, true faith must first go through a period of doubt and think critically about the knowledge gained. The information received is processed in the mind based on the scientific method process followed by a person to acquire essential beliefs.

D. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above discussion that achieving basic beliefs requires a process of scientific method through a scientific attitude in information gathering. When people receive information from any source, they must first go through a period of doubt and think critically about the knowledge they have acquired. The information received is processed in the mind based on the scientific method process followed by a person to acquire essential beliefs. The stream of scientific methods that a person follows to reach essential beliefs, namely information - person - real doubt - scientific attitude - essential belief. Therefore, this joke does not affect man's self-confidence. If a person has been able to catch hoaxes until they have proper knowledge, those hoaxes will not spread easily.

⁵³ Abdullah.

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