Voter Attitudes toward Hoax Information Sources At the 2019 Presidential Election in West Sumatra

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Abstract. Presidential election in Indonesia ended in 2019. As part of the democratic process, elections are expected to be a golden opportunity for all elements to play an active role, especially as voters. In terms of political communication, it is important and interesting to examine the attitude of voters when accepting media exposure about candidates. The urgency is even more crucial based on facts that more than 90% of media were fake media. Among 34 provinces in Indonesia, West Sumatra is known as one of the provinces known to be rational. It is interesting to uncover the rationality of the voters in West Sumatra regarding the 2019 Presidential Election. The instrument of study is survey method, questionnaires were distributed to 600 respondents selected based on the stratified random sampling method in 3 cities and 3 districts in West Sumatra. The research finding, 51% of respondents absorb fake media in a raw manner. The research finding is then analysed through a qualitative approach based on relevant references. The conclusion of the study confirms that the majority of the voters of West Sumatra did not use common sense in absorbing information regarding 2019 Presidential election from fake media.

Keywords: voter attitude, hoax information, fake media, Presidential Election 2019, West Sumatra

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the third largest democracy in the world after India and the United States, as well as one of the countries in the world to implement a democratic political system in the form of a unitary state. The characteristic of a democratic state is to prioritize the public interest rather than personal interests with the slogan of the people, by the people, and for the people as the main goal. Democracy is carried out in accordance with the 1945 Constitution which states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is carried out according to the basic law. One of the main tools for implementing democracy is carried out through general elections which as the realization of freedom of opinion for all

Indonesian people, this is reinforced by the principle of elections that are direct, free, secret, honest and fair.

The 2019 elections then combined executive and legislative elections and were held simultaneously at the national and local levels. In the province of West Sumatra based on the results of the Komisi Pemilihan Umum (General Election Commission's) plenary meeting, May 15, 2019, the Jokowi-Maruf Amin pair only received 14.08% of the votes defeated by Prabowo-Sandi who won 85.92% of the votes. Jokowi-Ma'ruf only received as many as 407,761 votes. while Prabowo-Sandi got 2,488,733 votes. The vote obtained by Prabowo increased compared to the 2014 presidential election in West Sumatra. At that time, Jokowi's vote when

DOI: https://doi.org/10.29313/mediator.v13i1.6003

paired with Jusuf Kalla reached 539,308 votes (23%), while Prabowo Subianto who was paired with Hatta Rajasa gained 1,797,505 (77%). Among 19 regencies and cities in West Sumatra, Jokowi only won in 1 region, namely in the Mentawai Islands Regency, while Prabowo won in 18 regions.

Based on the two results of the 2014 and 2019 elections for the voters' choice, it turned out that Prabowo Subianto was the choice of most people in West Sumatra compared to Joko Widodo, so the phenomenon was interesting to study, mainly due to the striking difference with the average nationally, where the Joko Widodo-Ma'ruf Amin pair actually won by getting 55.50%. It can also be concluded that on two elections in West Sumatra were anomalous compared to the average results at the national level.

Moving on from this phenomenon, it is interesting to see the attitude of voters in absorbing political information regarding the 2019 Presidential Election in West Sumatra. Moreover, both as citizens who have met the requirements to take part in the presidential election and who have not vet met the requirements are certain to experience interaction with the mass media. This linkage encompasses all fields, not only social and cultural but also political. Every individual experiences political information exposure through mass media as a form of political experience both within the family and in the wider social world (Mujani, et al, 2019: 247). Information is now increasingly spread and everyone lives to sort out what information will be obtained and chooses the media to obtain the information (Kovach and Rosenstiel, 2001: 191-192).

A study by Saqib Riaz (2014) states that research on the impact of the development of media technology on people's attitudes towards political dynamics is even more interesting and

important to do in developing countries than in developed countries. This is very useful in the context of reviewing the extent to which new media developments have an effect on attitudes and changes in people's behaviour on the dynamics of political communication:

The new media technology has greatly influenced the political communication in the whole world. However, its effects are more evident in the developed parts of the world where this technology is easily available. However, it has also influenced the process of political communication in the developing countries. These countries are now giving more concentration to the spread of modern technologies like internet and mobile phones etc. It has been found that the new media technology has changed the political attitudes and behaviours in the countries where it is used frequently. (Riaz, 2014: 172).

Furthermore, the media is the most important instrument in fulfilling information about leaders/prospective leaders. Through their research of five general elections held since independence (1955 Elections and post-reform elections: 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014), Saiful Mujani and friends concluded that in Indonesia, the reach of mass mobilization in the form of face to face can only be reached a maximum of one quarter of all voters. While the rest, in the Presidential election, public exposure to campaign information via television can be as much as 87%, newspapers and radio as much as 49%. So the mass media, in this case television has the greatest potential to help voters know the candidate (Mujani, et al, 2019: 269). Based on this argument, the researcher will not only try to get a description of voter behaviour at the 2019 presidential election in West Sumatra addressing hoax information, but also reveals what media choices are selected as references prior to election day.

Analysis of the findings of research data will combine the perspective of political communication and the theoretical study of media literacy that is interconnected (because it cannot be separated) with political literacy. Moreover, the attitudes of the voters who were used as informants in this study were certainly conical on the realization of political participation which in turn helped the process of democratization and the maturation of democracy. Participation is defined as the involvement of individuals in various actions in political life, especially in campaign activities and voting in elections as well as activities in the process of determining political policy (Arifin, 2011, in Mahmudah, 2016).

Research will reveal interrelated things. First, judging from the moment of the event, this study focuses on revealing the role of the mass media as one of several other factors that played an important role in the presidential election campaign period 2019. Cangara (2009: 412-428) argues that there are four factors that influence the success of the campaign politics, namely (1) political parties, (2) mass media, (3) individual capacity and (4) policies and programs. Secondly, based on the important role of the mass media and the phenomena that emerged before and during the 2019 presidential election campaign in which more than 90% of the information in the mass media was unclear information (liputan6.com, 22/2/19) then it is urgent to see the extent to which the attitude of the voters treat the unclear media exposure. Moreover, elections and the 2019 presidential election in Indonesia took place in the digital era, while the era is marked by the 'abundance of information' (the terminology of abundance of information stated by Blair, 2011). In other words, the current era is an era which is characterized by an abundance of information through various communication channels, not only depending on mainstream media such as television, newspapers and radio but also social media (Keane, 1998, in Heryanto, 2019: 343).

More conceptually, researchers are interested in exploring how far the dominance of hoax information in the mass media during the presidential election affects the cognitive (critical) and affective (attitude) aspects of voters in filtering and applying the concept of media literacy. Moreover, voter behaviour is interesting to be investigated because voters determine the victory of a pair of candidates for president and vice president (Fauzi, 2019). Concretely, this research will uncover and explain the attitude of voters in the 2019 presidential election in West Sumatra when dealing with information that is not credible/hoax. It is also crucial to review the extent of the triangular relationship between (1) voter attitudes toward hoax information, (2) media choices that are used as the main reference and (3) educational background. This is crucial so that findings can be discussed more sharply and broadly.

METHOD

Research Types and Approach

This research is basically an explanative-qualitative research. Denzin and Lincoln define explanative-qualitative research as a method for describing and explaining the activities or objects under study related to studying phenomena in more detail or differentiating them from other phenomena (Denzin & Lincoln, 2017).

This research uses a mixed approach with sequential explanatory methods, namely research conducted beginning with quantitative data collection then continued with qualitative analysis (Creswell, 2010: 316). This means, this study aims to explain the phenomena that exist by using numbers to explain the characteristics of individuals or groups,

but then the analysis uses a qualitative method. The figures obtained were then presented and analysed from various perspectives qualitatively. This study assesses the nature of conditions that appear and is limited to describing the characteristics of things as they really are. In this case, this study will assess and interpret the nature and conditions that appear based on the choice of respondents' attitudes in searching for, receiving and absorbing information about candidates who come from not credible/hoax sources.

Population, Sampling and Respondents

Research population is the total amount of data to be examined. The population in this study was all voters in the 2019 Presidential Election registered in the DPT (Daftar Pemilih Tetap/Permanent Voter List) in all (19) Regencies/Cities in West Sumatra. The method of sampling is stratified random sampling method. The sample selection is done by taking a sample from the population based on a certain stratum (Hartono, 2016: 98). In this study the sample is limited to the main voter requirements that are at least 17 years old and have the right to vote. This is in accordance with the Election Law, that the voter is an Indonesian citizen (citizen) who has reached the age of 17 years or older or has been married (Election Law No. 8, Article 1, paragraph 25). Even in terms of gender, research will try to be as balanced as possible

TABLE 1. Research Sampling

City/District	Amount
Padang	100
Bukittinggi	100
Pariaman	100
Tanah Datar	100
Agam	100
Pesisir Selatan	100
Total	600

between men and women as stated in this following TABLE 1.

The number of respondents to be interviewed through the questionnaire instrument is limited to 100 people from each location. Respondents were directly met in 6 of the 19 regions in West Sumatra. The rationale for selecting locations is that three of the six locations represent urban areas, and the other three represent regency areas in West Sumatra. The city of Padang was chosen because this city is the provincial capital and has the largest number of DPT, While Bukittinggi is considered to represent a city located on highland, Pariaman on the other hand represents a city located on the coast. Pesisir Selatan and Agam are considered to represent regencies located in coastal areas (especially for Agam, the area extends from the coast to the highlands geographically). Meanwhile, Tanah Datar is considered to represent rural and highland geographical area.

Data Collection Technique

There are two techniques used in this study to collect the data needed. The first is primary data collection. This is a data collection technique that is carried out directly by researchers at the field of study. Primary data collection is done through survey methods. In this case the researcher distributed the questionnaire directly to each respondent that was found in the location of research and assisted in filling it out. The respondents were persuaded before the survey was distributed to be truly honest in answering questions.

Survey objects are generally limited to research data collected from samples to represent the entire population. In survey research methods, information is collected from respondents using a questionnaire distributed directly or through intermediaries such as telephone or online media. The questionnaire is

a data collection technique that is done by asking a set of questions or written statements from respondents (Morissan, 2016: 165).

Next, a secondary data collection method is carried out through studying of library materials needed to support primary data. This is done by conducting a literature study that is by examining the data findings based on relevant literature.

Data analysis technique

The data analysis technique used in this study is a combination of quantitative and qualitative descriptive analysis. Quantitative analysis is an analysis that aims to transform raw data collection into an easily understood form, in the form of more concise information (Sugiyono, 2013). While qualitative analysis is an analysis that tries to understand data by breaking it down into narrative techniques based on relevant theory (Moleong, 2006). In this case, the data findings regarding the respondent's attitude in accepting and checking information

about the candidates from hoaxes are then analysed by qualitative analysis methods based on relevant theory.

Questionnaire Questions

In connection with the relevance of this research, the following questions are stated in the questionnaire, while other questions are related to the respondent's educational background as stated in this following TABLE 2.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION Research result

Based on findings obtained in the field of research sourced from 600 respondents in 6 locations, data obtained about voter attitudes towards various information(s) that is not credible during the 2019 Presidential Election campaign period in West Sumatra as described in TABLE 3

On the other hand, in terms of the information sources that are used as reference by voters at the 2019 Presidential Election in West Sumatra as

TABLE 2. Questionnaire Questions

Questions	Answers
1. Eduacational Back-ground?	 a. Elementary b. Junior High School c. Senior High School d. Bachelor e. Post-graduate f. Not attending school
2. What do you do when you receive hoax news?	a. To confirm through checking and rechecking from various sources.b. Doing confirmation through discussion(s).c. Absorb information without confirmation d. Others
3. From what source(s) do you get information about candidates?	 a. Internet (browsing). b. Social media. c. Newspaper/TV/Radio/Magazine. d. Discussion with others. e. People opinions. f. Trending issues. g. Rarely in hunting information. h. Others.

TABLE 3. West Sumatra Voter Attitude towards Information That is Not Credible in the 2019 Presidential Election

Attitude	Amount	Percentage
To confirm through checking and rechecking from various sources	141	24%
Doing confirmation through discussion(s).	99	16%
Absorb information without confirmation	305	51%
Others	55	9%

described in TABLE 4:

Meanwhile, in terms of the educational background of voter in West Sumatra in the 2019 Presidential election as described in Table 5:

The findings shows that more than half (51%) on average West Sumatra voters choose not to check or recheck information. On the contrary, only about a quarter (24%) of the voters has doing confirmation or check/recheck of information. Meanwhile the number who intelligently responded the media exposure through discussion with their social environment reaches only 16% of all respondents.

Meanwhile, from various types of information media and methods used as references for information regarding candidates in the 2019 Presidential Election, interesting data were also found. First, in detail, television, newspapers, magazines and radio are the majority choices by voters in West Sumatra with a percentage of 29%. Moreover, the next

choice is social media at 26%. Then the next source of information on the internet media occupies the next choice as much as one fifth of the overall, 20%. Next, the discussion method becomes the choice of 8%, listening to information based on interactions with other individuals (opinions of people around) and passively listening to issues that are trending is a minority choice, each chosen 6%. Interestingly, there are about 3% of voters who admit that they rarely seek information actively, and 2% who do not clear / do not take action that is included in the category of actively hunting for information.

Second, if we look deeply, there is a predominance of reference choices for new media as seen from a combination of choices for information sources from social media and the internet. On one hand social media is the choice of 26%, on the other hand information from the internet gets a portion of 20%, in

TABLE 4. Media Option/Source of Information by West Sumatra Voter in the 2019 Presidential Election

Media Option	Amount	Percentage
Internet (Browsing)	306	20%
Social Media	401	26%
Newspaper/ TV/Radio/ Magazine	440	29%
Discussions with others.	131	8%
People opinions.	88	6%
Trending issues.	100	6%
Rarely in hunting information	52	3%
Others	25	2%
Total	1.543	100%

TABLE 5. Educational Background of West Sumatra's 2019 Presidential Election Voter

Educational Background	Amount	Percentage
Elementary	33	5%
Junior High School	67	11%
Senior High School	345	58%
Bachelor	130	22%
Postgraduate	12	2%
Not attending school	13	2%
Total	600	100%

total this is 46%. This phenomenon has actually been predicted from the beginning by media experts, especially based on developments and new media revolutions that increasingly overcome the dominance of conventional media. It is stated by Blumler and Kavanagh (in Ward & Cahill, 2004) who realized the emergence of media phenomena where print and broadcast media began to lose their place as the main channel of political communication in an era of information overload. Consequently, ideas, information and political news are now even more dominant in new media rather than in mainstream media.

In terms of educational background, 58% of respondents had high school education background. Less than a quarter, namely as many as 22% have a bachelor's degree (equivalent S1). While those with a junior high school background are 11% and elementary schools are 5%. In the meantime, an equal data was obtained in terms of minimum graduate background and not attending school, which was 2% each.

Media Literacy

Talking about media literacy as well

as political literacy should begin from a basic understanding of the importance of information as a message delivered to the public through the media. Furthermore, information contained in the media, especially digital media is the main base that determines how the level and skills of media literacy must be implemented when dealing with the media. Furthermore, information is an essential factor for the development of fundamental democratic competencies, formulating opinions, creating trends, examining choices, and functioning in a fundamental arena of decision making. Moreover, information will play an important role in the ownership of rights and opportunities to participate in democratic decision making (Mahmudah, 2016).

Media literacy is briefly the ability to access, analyse, evaluate and create media (Aufdherheide and Firestone, 1993, in Ashley, et al, 2017). It can also be simply explained the notion of media literacy as an effort to how media audiences or consumers, whatever the type of media; print, electronic and online (online), not only consume media content as it is, but also understand what lives behind the text or context of the media content (Rosyidin, in Heryanto, 2019: 121).

In general, media literacy can be conceptualized as the ability to access, analyse, evaluate and communicate messages in various forms of medium and a perspective that is used actively when dealing with media with a view to interpreting the meaning of the message being encountered.

Tamburaka (2013) describes etymologically from the root of the word. In this case, media literacy comes from English, 'media literacy', consisting of two words, media, is a place for exchanging messages, and literacy which can be interpreted as the ability of audiences to media and mass media messages in the

context of mass communication. At this point, we can emphasize the importance of media factors as the initial subject of literacy (media). In this case, a world media literacy expert, W. James Potter, further said that the media has a great influence on how individuals perceive the world around them and form trust as well as expectations. By becoming more literate, anyone can avoid the potential negative impacts of the media and on the other hand seize a lot of positive potential behind them (Potter, 2013).

Baran and Dennis (2010, in Tamburaka, 2013) said that media literacy is a media literacy movement designed to increase individual control over the media they use to send and receive messages. In this case media literacy is seen as a skill that can develop in a series where we are not always literate to the media in all situations, all the time and towards all media.

Political Literacy

If we refer to various references regarding the concept of political literacy, one of them can be defined as a concept that is not much different from media literacy, even closely related and contributing to each other. The slight difference is possible only in terms of categorizing the object or target terms. If media literacy refers to media consumers as targets, then political literacy refers to it as citizens (citizens) (Rosyidin, in Heryanto, 2019: 122). Furthermore, quoted based on the same source, political literacy is an effort to make every citizen to participate politically critically by equipping themselves with capabilities as well as political knowledge. In addition to the next section from the same source, Denver and Hands (1990) as quoted by Casel and Celia (Hervanto, 2019) describe political literacy as knowledge and understanding of political processes and issues that allow audiences to play their role as citizens. According to Bernard Crick (2006, in Putri, 2017), political literacy is a practical understanding of concepts taken from daily life and language. It is an attempt to understand the political issues, the beliefs of the contestants, how their tendencies affect themselves and others. In short, political literacy is a compound of knowledge, skills and attitudes about politics.

Associated with the uniqueness of digital media, where information is interactively sent and received in a multi-directional and reciprocal way, media literacy also has unlimited benefits in terms of counteracting the manipulation of negative constructions contained in media content including political content. In this case, critical power is needed so that it can check the credibility, authenticity and truth of the news, especially if the content is politically charged (Kazakov, 2017).

Focusing on the news as one form of information that is packaged in its delivery to the public, based on the framework of constructionism, it can be concluded that there is no any neutral news. News in the mass media depends very much on: (1) the ideology of each media, both macro in the form of influence from the political system adopted by the country where the media is located and micro, namely politics in media institutions; (2) editorial management; and (3) meaningfulness of news for audiences (Stuart Hall, 1978, in Nasrullah, 2016: 41).

Furthermore, because of the influence of these four factors, media news will be able to stimulate the public, in this case voters in a political contestation. This is coherent with what Kim and Miejeong said, 'The role of news media in stimulating political interest is important because interested citizens in general are more likely to participate (Kim, Miejeong, 2005 in Kazakov, 2017:92). In other words, the urgency of media

literacy that is strengthened by political literacy is increasingly significant when we realize that the media has the potential to convey incomplete and inaccurate information, as conveyed by Hobbs and friends; media literacy centres on the idea that media representations of reality are often incomplete or inaccurate (Hobbs & Frost 2003; Kellner & Share 2005; Thoman & Jolls 2004, in Maksl et al: 30).

Consequently, a systematic effort is needed from various elements in terms of carrying out media literacy education that contains political literacy. Empowering all elements of society will indirectly target media literacy and political literacy towards every citizen who has political rights. It is hoped that through media and political literacy at an optimal level will have an impact on citizen participation and involvement in the democratic political system. Ashley, Maksl, and Craft, citing research results from Jeong, Cho, and Hwang (2012, in Ashley et al, 2017: 81) conclude that media literacy educational interventions are often successful and have positive effects on media knowledge, criticism, perceived realism, influence, behavioural beliefs, attitudes, self-efficacy, and behaviour.

Specifically, Ashley al, recommend the literacy of news in the media as very important in the democratic landscape of political life and so that media news literacy plays an important role in democratic selfgovernance, especially when informed by the empirical findings of the existing scholarship on the limitations of news media (Ashley et al., 2017). Ashley further emphasized how media news literacy will be able to increase citizen political involvement. The study confirms important relationship between certain components of news media literacy and certain types of political engagement, and it offers some support for the widespread adoption of news and media literacy education as a practical component of democratic citizenship (Ashley et al., 2017). This is also in line with the findings of Dimitrova (2014) who examined the diverse uses of various digital media platforms to influence citizens 'motivation to increase their knowledge and political participation, 'different functions and properties of different forms of digital media, in conjunction with the motivations people may have for using them, clearly matters for the effects on political knowledge and political participation'. (Dimitrova, 2014: 111).

Therefore, it can be said, that media literacy education in line with the political literacy movement is the key to the intelligence of voters on every occasion of political contestation. Media and political literacy will contribute to people's intelligence in general and indirectly contribute to social change. This is in line with what was suggested by Masterman (1997, in Ashley et al, 2017: 82), 'the democratization of institutions, and the long march toward a truly participatory democracy, will be highly dependent upon the ability of the majority citizens to take control, become effective change agents, make rational decisions (often on the basis of media evidence) and to communicate effectively perhaps through an active involvement with the media'. At this level, media literacy education is expected to be able to stimulate the critical thinking skills of citizens. There have been many studies that emphasize the importance of the function of critical thinking skills in the context of media literacy. One of them is the study of Silverblatt (2018) that emphasizes the importance of critical thinking as the main modal in the process of media literacy.

Media Validity

In the same context, it is crucial to

realize the importance of the paradigm that the media has a multi-role and is always among various interests, especially the interests of idealism in order to inform, persuade and regulate social change on the one hand and prioritize the power of media owners on the other. Gebner (1995, in Heryanto, 2019) said, this is the time when the paradigm of the concept of resonance is used. This concept emphasizes the tasks and responsibilities of the media which have several tasks due to its powerful position. First, the media has the power to construct reality. At this point, media has the obligation to convey information based on validity and truth. Second, the media has power as agent of change. Third, the media has power in establishing culture and uniting political and national diversity. Furthermore, of course the media has the power the sources of information according to legal standards, codes of conduct and should contain credible and verification content.

CONCLUSION

More than half (51%) of voters in West Sumatra were not critical in absorbing information during the campaign of 2019 presidential election. They received and responded any information related to the campaign without confirmation so that it had the potential to lead to certain perceptions about the Presidential candidate.

Main stream media such as television, newspapers, magazines and radio were the main choice of voters in West Sumatra with a percentage of 29%, while the next choice is social media at 26%. Next, there is a dominance of choices for new media (new media) seen from the combination of choices of information sources from social media and the internet. The combination of social media and information sources from the internet is the choice of 46% of research respondents. Furthermore,

in terms of educational background, the majority (58%) of them have a high school education background, and only a total of 24% (22% undergraduate plus 2% postgraduate) that attained college.

One important point is underlined, if so far it can be accepted that the majority of Indonesian voters are now more critical and rational that the results of Saiful Mujani's research and friends (2019: 293), now it seems to be not valid in West Sumatra. This is based on scientific facts that more than half of the voters in the 2019 Presidential Election in West Sumatra immediately absorbed information without an attempt to examine and critical on it. At least Mujani and his friends' research findings on the rise of rational people in the political contestation event turned out to be invalid and were not found in West Sumatra during the 2019 Presidential Election campaign and election. Perhaps this is also in line with the thesis of the free access of opinion and the dissemination of information in the digital age are indeed has a consequence on the uncontrolled flow of information.

This research suggests two main things to do as soon as possible. First, the achievement of participatory democracy requires and is highly dependent on rational societies that think objectively, not think subjectively that have no connection at all with vision, mission, programs offered and the quality of performance and integrity (track record) of the candidate. It really needs a systematic movement, both from the government, especially the West Sumatra provincial government, media and people to place media literacy that contains political literacy as a priority for future action in order to increase the critical, deterrent power and the disaggregation of citizens as media consumers in every political contestation. Media political and education for voters is the most crucial part of the four general election implementation activities in

addition to election socialization, surveys of elections and quick counts of election results, because it is through the critical power and intelligence of voters that democracy and democratization are more determined.

Secondly, it takes a smart effort by media in carrying out its role as agent of change and education for the audience. It is through media that emphasizes the truth and validity of information, media and political literacy efforts will be easier to implement.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author would like to thank the Ministry of Research and Technology and Higher Education (2014-2019) and the Rector of Universitas Negeri Padang for their recommendations for funding the 2019 PNBP Research schemes as well as their authority for the sustainability of this research.