Loyalty toward online food delivery service: the role of e-service quality and food quality

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ABSTRACT
This study assesses the direct influence of food quality and e-service quality on customer loyalty toward online food delivery (OFD) service and its indirect influence through the mediation of customer satisfaction and perceived value. This study uses a survey of 405 OFD service customers from Bandung, Indonesia. By applying variance-based partial least squares to evaluate the proposed model, this study confirms the direct effect of food quality on online loyalty, but not e-service quality. Further, this study discloses the partial mediation role of customer satisfaction and perceived value on the relationship between both food quality and e-service quality on online loyalty toward OFD services.

KEYWORDS
E-service quality; food quality; loyalty; online food delivery service

Introduction
The progress in internet technology which facilitates the e-commerce activities has altered the behavior of both consumers and firms. The availability of e-commerce platforms as a shopping medium enables customers to shop conveniently, compare products and prices effectively, and arrange the delivery of the product immediately (Chang, Chou, & Lo, 2014; Yeo, Goh, & Rezaei, 2017). In the restaurant context, the availability of online technology enables customer to order the food through restaurant websites or via online food delivery services such as Eat24, GrabFood, and GoFood. For the restaurant industry, the availability of online delivery service technology enables the industry, which is in a saturated market, to improve order accuracy, increase productivity, and enhance customer relationship (Kimes, 2011), and extend their market (Ng, Wong, & Chong, 2017; Yeo et al., 2017). Among online shopping, recent development shows that food has become one of the most preferred shopping and is growing rapidly, 12% per year (Chang et al., 2014). This development is an opportunity as well as a challenge for restaurants, as it creates a fierce competition. In this challenging environment, having loyal customers is imperative for online business firms (Pee, Jiang, & Klein, 2018).

The importance of customer loyalty, as well as its determinants, is well discussed in the literature. Among the loyalty drivers, literature tends to agree that quality of product or services, perceived value, and customer satisfaction are building blocks of loyalty (Wirtz & Lovelock, 2016). However, although a plethora of researches on loyalty have been...
conducted in various industries, scholars (Abou-Shouk & Khalifa, 2017; Caruana & Ewing, 2010) believe that the formation of customer loyalty is still not thoroughly understood. In addition, the result of studies in one industry will be difficult to generalize to other industries due to characteristic differences; thus, scholars recommend examining loyalty formation in other new industry sectors (Gursoy, Chen, & Chi, 2014). Although the OFD service business is currently flourishing and promising in the future (Kedah, Ismail, Haque, & Ahmed, 2015; Yeo et al., 2017), surprisingly, literature seems to be silent in understanding what drives customer loyalty toward OFD services.

Studies in the restaurant context (Kedah et al., 2015; Yeo et al., 2017) reported that the customer experience is substantially affected by food quality and e-service quality. Despite the importance of both qualities, literature seems to be relatively absent in addressing the simultaneous effect of those qualities on customer online loyalty, especially in the OFD services environment. Driven by this research gap, this study examines how e-service quality as well as food quality impacts on loyalty toward OFD services. More specifically, this study proposes to evaluate: (1) the direct influence of e-service quality and food quality on online loyalty and (2) the indirect influence through perceived value and customer satisfaction mediation role. Conducting such a study will provide an avenue for restaurateurs to develop more effective strategies to target their market and will extend the existing consumer loyalty knowledge from the perspective of the OFD services.

A report (Statista, 2018) shows that even with a penetration of only 50.4%, the absolute number of Indonesians using these services is enormous, given that there are 132.7 million internet users in Indonesia. Further, the report reveals that the Indonesian segment for food delivery market is paramount as the value of transactions is US$ 968 Million in 2018 and is expected to grow at 13% per annum. The players of the OFD business in Indonesia are not only international fast-food restaurants such as McDonald’s and Kentucky Fried Chicken, which operate their own delivery services but also many small and medium casual dining and fast-food restaurants which use food delivery service intermediaries such GoFood and GrabFood. This indication clearly shows an intense competition in the Indonesian OFD service industry. Therefore, by the value of the market alone, it is reasonable to study online loyalty toward OFD services in the Indonesian market.

**Theoretical framework and hypotheses development**

**Online loyalty**

In a competitive and challenging business environment, such as in the restaurant industry, having customer satisfaction on its own is not enough to ensure business survival, let alone to increase business success (Ha & Jang, 2010). The key for survival and flourishing in this competitive environment is through having loyal clients. Loyalty is “a deeply held commitment to repurchase or re-patronize a preferred product or service consistently in the future despite situational influences and marketing efforts” (Oliver, 1999, p. 34). Loyalty toward a product or service comprises of brand loyalty, vendor loyalty, service loyalty, and retail loyalty. Online loyalty or e-loyalty widens conventional loyalty by involving online technology as the mediation of the relationship between customers and the firm. Scholars (Abou-Shouk & Khalifa, 2017; Kim, Jin, & Swinney, 2009; Pee et al., 2018) commonly describe online loyalty as the customers’ loyalty toward the website, indicating with customer intention to revisit the
website and to make a transaction and to recommend the website to others. This study focuses on online food delivery service. Thus, online loyalty toward OFDs is described as the commitment of the customers toward the online food delivery service that results in repurchase and customer positive behaviors toward the OFD service providers.

Literature suggests that loyal customers increase the firm’s profit through their enduring commitment toward the firm and enable the firm to lower costs in recruiting new clients (Reichheld, Markey, & Hopton, 2000). Further studies (Kim et al., 2009; Suhartanto, Chen, Mohi, & Sosianika, 2018) reveal that loyal customers tend to purchase more than newly acquired customers, pay premium prices, refer new customers to the firm, and lessen operating costs. Thus, having online loyal customers can accelerate profit growth although the expenditure of developing online loyalty is bigger than that of traditional loyalty (Kim et al., 2009). Fandos and Flavián (2006) suggest that to convert a first-time customer to a loyal customer, managers need to identify customer expectations and provide a unique product and service that exceed their customers’ expectations. Thus, the need for food purchased through OFD services is based on a combination of online processing, food preparation, and prompt delivery service (Kedah et al., 2015; Yeo et al., 2017) and requires that the food and its services are well designed and exceeds the customer’s expectation.

Three approaches are used to evaluate customer loyalty toward a product or service. First, loyalty is conceptualized as behavior. Using this behavioral approach, a loyal consumer is one who systematically purchases the product or services within a certain period (Suhartanto et al., 2018). In the OFD setting, a loyal customer according to this approach is one who orders the food regularly, either directly through the restaurant website or through restaurant intermediate websites. Second, loyalty is conceptualized as an emotional expression of customer intention to repurchase and recommend (Gursoy et al., 2014). Due to the behavioral and attitudinal weaknesses, experts (Gursoy et al., 2014) recommend a third approach, a combination of the behavioral and psychological, known as composite loyalty. The composite approach suggests that customer’s loyalty toward OFD services is measured by their online purchasing and tendency to re-purchase and to recommend the OFD firm to others. This approach enables the researcher to understand not only current customer loyalty behavior but also future customer loyalty behavior. Thus, this study treats customer loyalty toward OFD services as composite loyalty.

E-service quality

The most commonly cited definition of e-service quality is “the extent to which a website facilitates efficient and effective shopping, purchasing, and delivery of products and services” proposed by Zeithaml and colleagues (2002, p. 363). The Zeithaml and colleagues description denotes that e-services quality is the customers’ inclusive assessment of the electronic services offerings. Customers expect quality service of websites when making online purchases (Caruana & Ewing, 2010). Thus, the quality of websites is crucial for the firms to market their products and services. This is particularly important in online business such as OFD services, where the interaction between the firms and their customers is only through online devices. Jeon and Jeong (2017) suggest that upholding the website quality is imperative to retain customers, persuade them to revisit the web, and finally to secure their loyalty. Consequently, keeping a high-quality website is essential for the success of online businesses (Parasuraman, Zeithaml, & Malhotra, 2005; Pee et al., 2018).
For online businesses, an innovative and well-developed website is equal to an excellent distribution channel in conventional business. Studies on e-service quality mainly focus on two issues, the dimensionality and its antecedents and consequences. An important study on e-service quality dimensionality was conducted by Parasuraman and colleagues (2005) resulting in an e-service quality measurement scale called the ES-QUAL, consisting of four dimensions: system availability, efficiency, privacy, and fulfillment. Subsequently, researchers (Bressolles, Durrieu, & Senecal, 2014; Chang, Wang, & Yang, 2009; Mihajlović, 2017) offer additional dimensionality models consisting of varied dimensions. In terms of the e-service quality consequences, studies have progressively taken into account the link between customer interaction with the website and their subsequent behaviors. Most previous studies suggest that customer e-loyalty is determined by customer experience with the e-service quality (Chang et al., 2014; Jeon & Jeong, 2017; Kedah et al., 2015; Mihajlović, 2017; Pee et al., 2018). Thus, in the OFD context, the following hypothesis is formulated.

\[ H1: \text{E-service quality positively influences customer loyalty toward OFD services} \]

**Food quality**

The term food quality refers to an overall performance of food to fulfill customer need and is considered an important element of the customer experience with the restaurant (Ha & Jang, 2010; Sulek & Hensley, 2004). Although past studies emphasize the importance of food quality, in terms of what attributes constitute food quality, past studies have no consensus as to its constituent aspects. Ha and Jang (2010) use food attributes of taste, nutrition, and variety to assess the influence of customers experience with food on their satisfaction as well as their intention to return to the restaurant. Liu, Lee, and Hung (2017) utilize the menu, presentation, size, and variety as indicators of the quality of restaurant food. Further, Sulek and Hensley (2004) state that appeal, safety, and dietary factor are the common characteristics customers use to determine the quality of food. Other scholars (Namkung & Jang, 2007) propose variety of the menu, food presentation, healthiness, taste, freshness, and food temperature to evaluate food quality. Along with service quality, the quality of food is regarded as basic element that influences customers’ experience with the restaurant (Ha & Jang, 2010; Liu et al., 2017; Namkung & Jang, 2007).

Due to its important role, along with other variables, food quality has been empirically examined in various restaurant studies. Liu and colleagues (2017) confirm that customers’ restaurant choice is mainly dictated by the food quality factor. In casual dining restaurants, Mattila (2001) suggests that the quality of food is a major determinant of customer loyalty. Compared to service quality and restaurant environment, Sulek and Hensley (2004) report that satisfaction with the restaurant is influenced mainly by the quality of food. Another study to explore customer behavior in the restaurant environment (Namkung & Jang, 2007) reports the significant role of food quality in affecting satisfaction and intention to purchase and to recommend the restaurant (indicators of customer loyalty). Although it is the fundamental element for restaurants, none of the studies in the OFD context have assessed food quality as the determinant of customer post-purchase behavior. Referring to past studies, it is logical to assume that food quality will impact on customer loyalty toward the OFD services.
**H2: Food quality positively influences loyalty toward OFD services**

Literature in restaurant studies has also reported the link between food quality, service quality, and e-service quality (Ha & Jang, 2010; Kedah et al., 2015); however, none of the past studies have examined the impact of e-service quality on food quality. The Spillover theory postulates that experience within a particular life area will leak to other areas of life (Sirgy, Efraty, Siegel, & Lee, 2001). Based on this theory, a customer’s experiences in one part of their consumption process could affect his or her experience in the other parts of the consumption process. Testing in the hospitality sector, Kim, Woo, Uysal, and Kwon (2018) report the applicability of this theory in explaining the effects of employee perception on corporate social responsibility on job satisfaction and overall quality of life. Another study reports the applicability of this theory to assess the relationship between tourist behaviors in both their home and holiday environments (Sthapit & Björk, 2017). In the OFD services industry, it is expected that the customers’ experience with online service will spill over and affect their feelings toward the food purchased. The purchasing and delivering process comes first, prior to the customers’ receipt and consumption of the food. Thus, it is suggested that the customer experience with the quality of e-service will affect the customer experience with the food.

**H3: E-service quality positively influences food quality**

The mediation role of perceived value

The term perceived value is associated with a relative comparison between benefits and sacrifices associated with the product or service offering. The conceptual basis of perceived value is equity theory which postulates the proportion between the provider’s outcome and the consumer’s input (García-Fernández et al., 2018). Customers feel treated fairly if they feel that the proportion between their sacrifices and experiences with the product or services is equivalent (Chang et al., 2009). The perceive value’s importance in online business is because customers can easily compare product features and prices. Caruana and Ewing (2010) maintain that the cost of searching in online market places is low, causing the online firms to have better competitive prices. This cost reduction increases the probability that the customers will compare the prices and the benefits offered by the product or services they buy. The relationship between the customers and the e-retailer is stronger if the customers perceive that they gain higher value for their sacrifice in both monetary terms as well as the non-monetary aspects (Anderson & Srinivasan, 2003). Further, research also strongly provides evidence of the influence of e-service quality on perceived value (Caruana & Ewing, 2010; Chang et al., 2009; Jeon & Jeong, 2017). This discussion suggests that the link between e-service quality and online loyalty is mediated by perceived value. Thus, the following hypotheses are formulated.

**H4: The relationship between e-service quality and loyalty toward OFD service is mediated by perceived value**

**H5: The relationship between food quality and loyalty toward OFD service is mediated by perceived value**
The mediation role of customer satisfaction

Satisfaction is a subjective assessment of product performance associated with customer prior expectation (Suhartanto, Brien, Sumarjan, & Wibisono, 2018). Oliver (1999) defines satisfaction as “the consumer senses that consumption fulfills some need, desire, goal, or so forth and that this fulfilment is pleasurable” (p. 34). When the customers perceive that the performance of the product or service is higher than their expectation, they are satisfied. The literature suggests that the product and service purchased affect customer satisfaction (Liu et al., 2017; Ryu & Han, 2009; Suhartanto et al., 2018). In the online context, studies suggest that e-satisfaction influences e-loyalty (Anderson & Srinivasan, 2003; Pee et al., 2018). Satisfied customers with their food consumption may intend to repurchase the food in the future, endorse the OFD services to other potential customers, and voice positive remarks about the OFD services. In contrast, customers who are dissatisfied with their OFD services are less likely to repurchase or recommend the services to others. This discussion implies that in the OFD service industry, customer satisfaction mediates the relationship between e-service quality as well as food quality on online loyalty.

H6: The relationship between e-service quality and loyalty toward OFD service is mediated by customer satisfaction

H7: The relationship between food quality and loyalty to OFD service is mediated by customer satisfaction

Research method

Scale measurement

Although studies in e-service quality are abundant; none of the identified studies are set in the OFD context. Therefore, the measurement items for assessing the e-service quality variable (Table 1) are developed with reference to the existing studies.

Past studies show that the dimension of e-service quality varies; thus, it is necessary to examine the dimensionality of e-service quality as applied in this study. The dimensionality of e-service quality was assessed by using factor analysis. A factor analysis uses the extraction method of principal component resulting in two factors, covering 69% of Eigen value and the loading factor range from 0.723 to 0.838. However, the loading values of all items are well loaded into factor 1 and only a minor value to factor 2. Further assessment using rotation methods results in a similar number of factors and their loadings, signifying that the e-service quality dimension is single. The factor analysis shows that Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measurement of the adequacy of sampling value is 0.993 and Barlett’s test of Spericity is significant at $p < .05$, indicating that the results of the factor analysis test is robust. The single construct for measuring e-service quality is consistent with Harris and Goode (2004) study in the online retail sector. Further, the items used are consistent with the elements of efficiency, privacy, fulfillment, and system availability proposed in Parasuraman et al. (2005)’ ES-QUAL model.

Following past studies (Ha & Jang, 2010; Namkung & Jang, 2007), this study treats food quality as a single dimension, consisting of variety, taste, attractiveness, and healthiness as
indicators. Thus, the exploratory factor analysis was not conducted to assess its dimension. Perceived value is measured with three items: reasonable price, overall convenience of website use, and cost and benefit ratio of transaction (Anderson & Srinivasan, 2003; García-Fernández et al., 2018). Customer satisfaction was gauged with a 5-point, “dissatisfied” to “satisfied” and “terrible” to “pleased” (Suhartanto et al., 2018). The online loyalty is measured by intention to repurchase, to recommend, to write positive comments on social media, and to switch to other online providers (Caruana & Ewing, 2010; Srinivasan, Anderson, & Ponnavolu, 2002). The measurement items for e-service quality, food quality, perceived value, and loyalty were based on a 5-point Likert scale (1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree). To warrant that the questions and instructions are well comprehended, the questionnaire in Indonesian language was pre-tested on 20 OFD customers, resulting in minor adjustments to the questionnaire wordings. There was no need for translation.

### Data collection and sample

This study focuses on consumers who had an online food delivery purchase experience as the sample. To conduct empirical research and test the proposed model (Figure 1), non-probability sampling method was applied as the population is not known and the sampling frame is not available. The purposive sampling is selected to collect the required data, as it can enable researchers to gather a population representative sample. The data were collected from OFD service customers in Bandung City during November and December 2017. The self-administered questionnaires were distributed conveniently to customers who had purchased food through OFD services within the last two weeks before participating in the survey. Of the 439 participants, 405 questionnaires returned were complete. Thus, the requirements of using structural equation modeling were met, 10 respondents minimum for each survey instrument item (Chin, Peterson, & Brown, 2008). Additionally, the requirement of a 322 sample for the level

### Table 1. E-service quality item and sources.

| # | Item | Source |
|---|------|--------|
| 1 | In the web, I can find easily what I need | Caruana & Ewing, 2010; Jeon & Jeong, 2017; Kedah et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2009; Parasuraman et al., 2005; Srinivasan et al., 2002 |
| 2 | The web makes it easy to get anything | |
| 3 | The web is uncomplicated to operate | |
| 4 | Whenever I need the web always available | |
| 5 | The web launches straight away | |
| 6 | The delivering order is as promised | |
| 7 | The items ordered is sent out promptly | |
| 8 | The web offering is honest | |
| 9 | The web accurately inform the delivery promise | |
| 10 | The web keeps my shopping behavior information | |
| 11 | My personal information is not shared by the web | |
| 12 | My payment ID is safe with the web | |
of confidence at 95% and ±% error margin was also fulfilled as recommended by Zikmund, Babin, Carr, and Griffin (2013).

**Data analysis**

To assess the dimensionality of e-service quality, exploratory factor analysis was performed as proposed by Hair, Black, Babin, and Anderson (2010). The measurement model was examined by applying confirmatory factor analysis using variance-based Partial Least Squares (PLS). The PLS was also used to verify the structural model and test the proposed hypotheses. PLS enables a researcher to assess latent constructs using a small and medium sample size and non-normality distributed data (Ali, Rasoolimanesh, Sarstedt, Ringle, & Ryu, 2018; Chin et al., 2008). Additionally, SEM-PLS is a noted technique to estimate coefficient paths in structural models (Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2017).

**Results**

Table 2 indicates that the respondents are dominated by young customers (under 30 years old) and female customers. These demographic characteristics are consistent with other online food studies (Chang et al., 2014; Kedah et al., 2015; Kimes, 2011).

**Data analysis**

The data analysis was conducted into two stages. The first is intended to check the validity and reliability of the variable constructs. To assess the construct validity, this study assesses factor loading, Average Variance Extracted (AVE), and Composite Reliability (CR). As shown in Table 3, all indicators of validity satisfied the recommended cut-off.

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Figure 1. Conceptual model.
value, factors loading of more than 0.6, CR of more than 0.7, and AVE of more than 0.5 (Chin et al., 2008; Hair et al., 2010).

To assess the discriminant validity, Henseler, Ringle, and Sarstedt (2015) recommend Heterotrait-Monotrait method to judge the construct’s discriminant validity with cut-off value of not more than 0.9. Using this recommendation, the discriminant validity of the
constructs tested is satisfied as all Heterotrait-Monotrait values are less than 0.9. These values suggest that the discriminant validity between the variable constructs is satisfied.

**Structural model**

Following the measurement model, the second stage of the data analysis process was evaluating the structural model and testing the hypotheses developed. For these purposes, this study applies SmartPLS. The path coefficients assessment, as Chin et al. (2008) recommend, was conducted by using a bootstrapping procedure with 5,000 iterations. Following Tenenhaus, Vinzi, Chatelin, and Lauro (2005) suggestion, this study uses the Goodness-of-Fit (GoF) index to gauge the model fit. The GoF assessment result shows that the model tested has a value of 0.677, suggesting that the fitness of the model is good. Further, to check the approximate fit indices, normal fit index (NFI) and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) were applied. The results show that SRMR has a value of 0.067 (lower than the suggested value of 0.8) and NFI has a value of 0.905 (larger than the suggested level of 0.9) demonstrating the model fitness (Hair et al., 2017).

Succeeding the GoF analysis, the hypothesized relationships were tested and the results are presented in Table 4. The predictor explanatory power of the respective constructs is indicated by the corrected $R^2$s. Figure 2 shows the e-service quality predicts 37.1% ($R^2$: 0.371) food quality. Both e-service quality and food quality explain 51.4% ($R^2$: 0.514) of perceived value and 52.5% ($R^2$: 0.525) of satisfaction. While all loyalty predictors (e-service quality, food quality, perceived value, and satisfaction) predict 39.2% ($R^2$: 0.392) of customer loyalty. As the range of $R^2$ is between 0.33 and 0.67, the model validity of this study can be classified as between moderate and substantial (Chin et al., 2008).

Besides the $R^2$ value, scholars (Ali et al., 2018; Chin et al., 2008) maintain that researchers should use predictive sample reuse $Q^2$ to identify the effectiveness of predictive relevance. $Q^2$ indicates how well the data can be reassembled by employing the PLS parameters and the proposed model. Based on the procedure of blindfolding, the result of data analysis shows that the predictive relevance ($Q^2$) for endogenous variables is acceptable as their values are positive (Hair et al., 2017). The significant test on the relationships amongst the variables tested shows that hypothesis H1 is not supported; while hypothesis H2 and H3 are supported.

**Table 4. Structural estimates.**

| Path                      | Direct | Indirect | Total effect |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|--------------|
|                            | $β$    | $t$-value| $β$          | $t$-value |
| E-service quality $≤$ loyalty | 0.031  | 0.545    | 0.428        | 8.511**   | 0.459 | 8.010** |
| Food quality $≤$            | 0.256  | 4.146**  | 0.179        | 5.102**   | 0.435 | 7.428** |
| E-service quality $≤$ quality | 0.609  | 11.714** | -           | -         | 0.609 | 11.714** |
| E-service quality $≤$ value | 0.335  | 5.070**  | 0.281        | 7.547**   | 0.616 | 10.522** |
| E-service quality $≤$       | 0.304  | 4.449**  | 0.325        | 6.283**   | 0.629 | 12.156** |
| Food quality $≤$ value      | 0.462  | 8.220**  | -           | -         | 0.462 | 8.220** |
| Food quality $≤$            | 0.230  | 4.088**  | 0.139        | 4.693**   | 0.369 | 6.275** |
| Perceived value $≤$        | 0.300  | 5.131**  | -           | -         | 0.300 | 5.131** |
| Perceived value $≤$        | 0.197  | 3.007**  | 0.072        | 2.727**   | 0.269 | 4.729** |
| Satisfaction $≤$           | 0.240  | 3.700**  | -           | -         | 0.240 | 3.700** |

**significant at $p < .01$
In addition to setting out the direct effect, Table 4 also shows the indirect and total effect of the variables tested. It reveals that although the direct effect of e-service quality on loyalty is not significant, its total effect is significant. This finding suggests that the e-service quality’s effect on loyalty is through strengthening food quality, perceived value, and customer satisfaction. While the food quality, besides directly impacting on customer loyalty, indirectly impacts on loyalty through reinforcing perceived value and customer satisfaction. Further, Table 4 shows that, although the direct effect of food quality on loyalty is much higher than the effect of e-service quality, their total effect on online loyalty is only slightly different, 0.459 (e-service quality) and 0.435 (food quality). The direct relationships between the tested variables are depicted in Figure 2.

**Mediation test**

To test the mediation role of satisfaction and perceived value (H4–H7), scholars (Baron & Kenny, 1986; Nitzl, Roldan, & Cepeda, 2016) recommendation was followed. A comparison between path coefficient value of two different models with and without the mediation variable (satisfaction and perceived value) was conducted. Testing the first model between e-service quality and online loyalty without the perceived value mediation results in a β of 0.445 (significant at p < .01). Testing the similar model but with the mediation of perceived value results a β of 0.321 (significant at p < .05). To test significance of the mediation, the Sobel test statistics was applied resulting in

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ns: Not significant; **significant at p<0.01

Figure 2. The result of tested model.
a significant value ($p < .01$). The reducing of the coefficient implies that the mediation is partial. The mediation test of perceived value on the link between food quality and online loyalty has $\beta$ value of 0.434 (without the mediation) and $\beta$ value of 0.311 (with the mediation). Testing the Sobel test results in a significant value ($p < .01$), suggesting that the mediation role is also partial. Therefore, the support for hypotheses H4 and H5 is partial.

A similar procedure was applied to assess the hypothesis on the mediation of perceived value on the link between e-service quality and online loyalty. Testing the first relationship model between e-service quality and loyalty without the satisfaction mediation results in a $\beta$ of 0.364 (significant at $p < .01$). Testing the similar model but with the mediation of satisfaction results in a $\beta$ of 0.345 (significant at $p < .05$). To test the mediation role, the Sobel test was applied, resulting in a significant value ($p < .01$). The reduction of the coefficient between e-service quality and online loyalty due to the existence of the mediator implies that customer satisfaction partially mediates the relationship (Nitzl et al., 2016). Checking the satisfaction mediation role on the link between food quality and online loyalty has a $\beta$ of 0.342 (without the mediation) and 0.234 (with the mediation). The Sobel test results in a significant value ($p < .01$), suggesting that the mediation role is also partial. Therefore, H6 and H7 are partially supported.

**Discussion**

Despite the flourishing demand of food through online delivery services, the manner in which food quality and e-service quality influence loyalty toward OFD service has been ignored. This study represents the first effort to scrutinize the consequences of both food quality and e-service quality on customer post-purchase behavior in the OFD service environment. This study reveals several important points.

First, this study shows the importance of food quality in influencing customer loyalty toward the OFD service. Further, the result of this study suggests that the consequence of the quality of food on online loyalty is partly intermediated by both satisfaction and perceived value. The food quality influence on online loyalty is through strengthening the customer's perceived values as well as the customer level of satisfaction. This result validates Chang et al. (2014) study in online group buying which reports that food's quality affects consumers buying food via online. Further, this study corroborates with past studies in the restaurant setting, that food quality is an imperative determinant of customer loyalty (Mattila, 2001; Namkung & Jang, 2007; Ryu & Han, 2009). When the food is of high quality, customers tend to repurchase and recommend the food in the future. This is also reflected in their behavior of continuously consuming the food. This finding implies that food quality is a fundamental component, not only in a conventional restaurant context but also in the context of OFD services. Therefore, it is important that the casual dining and fast-food restaurants offering OFD service provide high-quality foods that not only match with customer needs but are also superior to the competitors’ foods. To outperform competitors, they should concentrate on food presentation, taste, variety, and healthiness.

Second, in terms of e-service quality, this study reveals that this service is essential in determining food quality, perceived value, and satisfaction, but contrary to past studies in online retail as well as in the restaurant (Ha & Jang, 2010; Kim et al., 2009), it has an
insignificant direct effect on customer loyalty. However, looking at the total effect of e-service quality (direct effect and indirect effect through food quality, perceived value, and satisfaction) on loyalty, this factor has a considerable total effect on customer loyalty. This result implies that e-service quality not only strengthens food quality but also reinforces perceived value as well as customer satisfaction which subsequently create online loyalty. This finding means that high e-service quality per se does not encourage an OFD customers’ loyalty. The explanation of this finding is that the food, not the service, is the main purpose of customers using OFD service. Although e-service quality is not the object that fulfills customer’s need, it will impact the perception of food quality, resulting in a high perceived value and satisfaction which ultimately creates customer loyalty toward the OFD service. Because online food order is self-service (Kimes, 2011), a well-designed self-service ordering system through online devices is crucial in creating satisfaction, perceived value, and continuing online loyalty.

Third, the total effect of both e-quality and food quality shows that the overall impact of both qualities on loyalty toward OFD services is comparable. This result suggests that, in general, food quality and e-service quality are equally important determinants of customer loyalty. This result is different from a past study (Ha & Jang, 2010) which reports that compared to other restaurant elements such as service quality and restaurant environment, the quality of food is the dominant factor in influencing customer experience toward the restaurant. This finding suggests that in developing customer loyalty, the OFD service providers must emphasize both factors, rather than only focusing on either e-service or the food quality itself. This finding suggests that both e-service and food are not only important components in a full service restaurant (Namkung & Jang, 2007) but also important for restaurants offering OFD services. This finding is important as none of past studies have reported this issue. From a theoretical perspective, the fitness of the OFD service model tested in this study extends the existing knowledge (Han & Hyun, 2017; Wirtz & Lovelock, 2016) that quality (product, service, and e-service), perceived value, and satisfaction are the building blocks of online loyalty in the OFD context.

Last, this study reveals an important finding in terms of the link between e-service quality and food quality, which suggests that e-service quality influences food quality. This result is consistent with the service process. In the OFD services, although food is the fundamental element to satisfy customer need, the process of consuming the food starts from when the customers search and order food from the firm website or application. Therefore, the customer experience with the web quality will influence customer perception of the food quality. This finding is consistent with the study in conventional restaurant (Namkung & Jang, 2007; Ryu & Han, 2009) that concludes that the manner of service delivery will influence the customer experience with the food. From conceptual perspective, this significant link between e-service quality and food quality provides a new understanding by supporting the spillover theory in the hospitality industry (Kim et al., 2018; Sthapit & Björk, 2017), more specifically in the OFD services environment.

Managerial implication

First, the e-service quality element in determining customer loyalty toward OFD services provide avenue managers of casual dining and fast-food restaurants offering delivery services an impetus to improve their business performance. This study suggests that
having an excellent e-service quality is essential. In the online environment, food, like other products presented through online media, is not tangible. Unlike the traditional restaurant, consumers in the OFD services cannot taste, touch, smell, and see the food offered. Rather, consumers assess the food quality by relying on the picture and the given description of the foods or services in the web page. Hence, to maximize the degree of trust of the customers, clear and understandable information should be provided in the website. Moreover, comprehensive information with reasonable explanations should be given such as the width and depth of the food and service offerings. In addition, to assist the customer to visualize the offer, demonstration of virtual food or service is also necessary to encourage customers to make the right decisions.

Next, the result of this study highlights the importance of food quality in determining customer loyalty toward OFD services. This result highlights that quality of food needs to get full attention from the managers of casual dining and fast-food restaurant offering delivery services. However, food quality indicated by its attractiveness, taste, variety, and healthiness is considered a basic element that every restaurant has to offer. To compete in this competitive market, restaurant managers must not only provide high food quality, but also need to constantly innovate their food to cope with their customers’ ever-changing demand. As people tend to like tradition and local flavor, offering quality innovative food with local tastes and developed based on local ingredients could help the restaurant to retain their existing customers as well as attracting potential and new customers. Thus, it is imperative for restaurant managers to train the kitchen staff to prepare delicious, nutritious, and attractively presented food with local taste and using local food ingredients.

Last, for small and medium casual dining and fast-food restaurants that do not have their own delivery service as well as the delivery service firms, this study provides useful guidance to improve their business. For the restaurateurs whose food is influenced by e-service quality, this study suggests that to improve their business, they need to select and cooperate with delivery service firms that are excellent in delivering services. Selecting the delivery service firms that have a favorable reputation will help to create a high e-service quality in the customer perception. Similarly, food delivery firms, such as GoFood and GrabFood, need to select restaurants that can provide consistently excellent food quality. The failure to have excellent food restaurant supplier will damage customer loyalty toward OFD services.

**Limitations and options for future research**

Although contributing significantly in extending our understanding on the determinants of loyalty toward OFD services, this study bears some drawbacks. First, data for this study were gathered from OFD customers in Bandung, Indonesia, limiting the generalization of the findings. This issue can be solved by replicating this study in different regions. Second, in addition to the loyalty determinants used in this study, identifying other elements of loyalty formation is also critically needed. To develop a robust model, a future study could incorporate other constructs such as image, trust, and involvement, including sociodemographic factors which potentially affect satisfaction and loyalty toward OFD service. Third, the OFD loyalty model tested in this study assumes the causal effect of the variables tested, in particular satisfaction and loyalty toward OFD services. The results of causal-effect test reported in this study should be taken with caution as the data are collected using cross-sectional method, making this study neither experimental nor longitudinal. Although the
hypothesized relationships between the variables can be examined using PLS, the causal-effect relationships suggested in the model might not signify the factual causal association between the variables. The future studies could use longitudinal data to more accurately represent the relationship changes across a period of time.

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