Gatewatching Behind the Beating Case of Ratna Sarumpaet in Tribunnews.com and Detik.com

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ABSTRACT

The existence of social media fosters a public role in the production of news in online media. Through social media, the public acts as a curator of crucial issues and news sources. This study uses Axel Bruns's gatewatching theory that emphasizes the role of media audiences in producing news and Gamson's frame theory that explains how journalists tell stories and present constructs of meaning related to news objects. An example of the practice of gatewatching in news production is seen when the mass media created news about the beating of Ratna Sarumpaet on October 2, 2018, which later proved to be hoax information. Detik.com and Tribunnews.com processed information from social media into the news. The framing analysis conducted on the news on both online media shows that the frame was made in line with the perspective of social media users as curators. Consequently, the mass media failed to present news based on facts. Journalists depend on social media users in framing news. The carelessness of the mass media in the practice of gatewatching does not only cause the spread of false news but also violations of journalistic ethics. The mass media might fail to be a guide dog (guide dog) for the reader.

Keywords: Framing Analysis; Gatewatching; News Curation; Online Journalism; Social Media

ABSTRAK

Media sosial mendorong peran public dalam produksi berita di media online. Lewat media sosial, publik berperan sebagai kurator isu penting dan sumber berita. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori gatewatching Axel Bruns yang menekankan peran khalayak media dalam memproduksi berita dan teori bingkai Gamson yang menjelaskan cara jurnalis bercerita dan menghadirkan konstruksi makna yang berkaitan dengan objek berita. Contoh praktik gatewatching dalam produksi berita terlihat saat media massa menyikapi kasus pemukulan Ratna Sarumpaet tanggal 2 Oktober 2018 yang kemudian hari terbukti sebagai informasi bohong. Detik.com dan Tribunnews.com mengolah informasi dari media sosial menjadi berita. Analisis framing yang dilakukan terhadap berita kedua media online tersebut menunjukkan bahwa bingkai yang dibuat selaras dengan perspektif pengguna media sosial yang berperan sebagai kurator. Akibatnya, media massa gagal menyajikan berita yang berdasarkan fakta. Jurnalisme bergantung pada pengguna media sosial dalam membentuk berita. Ketidaktahuan dan kebimbangan media massa dalam praktik gatewatching tak hanya akan menyebabkan penyebaran hoax menjadi luas tetapi juga pelanggaran etika jurnalistik. Media massa bisa gagal menjadi anjing pemandu (guide dog) bagi pembaca.

Kata kunci: Analisis Framing; Gatewatching; Jurnalisme Online, Kurasi Berita; Media Sosial
INTRODUCTION

Press industry impels journalism and mass media to not only spread information and educate people but also to weigh up profits and costs. To gain more benefits, actions relating to diversification, expansion, merger, and acquisition grow to be epidemic in the mass media business. In the last fifteen years, the development of the Indonesian media industry has been driven by capital interest heading for media oligopoly and ownership concentration (Nughroho, 2012:9).

News portals, coupled with the development of digital technology, have commenced arising. Recently, DewanPers (Indonesian Press Council) has predicted that the number of online or cyber news portals have soared to 43,300. However, only 211 online media was recognized to be professional media and administratively qualified in 2014. The figure then dipped to merely 168 online media in 2015. DewanPers has announced the requirements for press institutions to attend factual verification, namely: its legal status should be a company, foundation, or co-operative and the minimum capital of the institutions should be 50 million rupiahs, as well as having a real editorial address and a transparent organizational structure. Also, they should adhere to and perform journalism code of ethics, be certified, and provide their journalists with shield laws in official reportage. Indeed, the media’s owners should be capable of paying the journalists remuneration with at least regional minimum wage 13 times in a year and should not intervene in the news production process (idntimes.com, 2018). In other words, the development of online news portals does not go along with the quality of the news and peers institutions.

Online journalism is also called contextualized journalism or journalism that integrates three features in communication. Those three features are multimedia capability in using the digital platform, interactive quality of online communications, and hypertextual (Pavlik in Santana, 2005). The nature of online media contents tends to be spoiling the audiences because it can be accessed anytime and anywhere. The capability of delivering news for 24 hours nonstop and the needs of keeping the number of loyal audiences that come to their webs are the reason for which current online media put pressure on the latest news to relevant or essential ones (Chakraborty et al., 2015).

On the other hand, social media is defined as internet and mobile-based service that enable the users to participate in online sharing, content productions, and online community (Dewing, 2012). Social media has transformed the process of message delivery from one step flow to multistep one. As a result, the number of existing message traffic has increased dramatically and imposed society on putting up with spillover of communication (Nuru, 2013). Social media users then do not only gain advantages but also shock culture.

The mass media purposefully allow the public to contribute and collaborate in producing news so that they can actuate the media business itself to develop (Laughey, 2009:56). Once the readers have commented on the comment section of an article, anyone on the internet can access them (Shoemaker et al., 2010). Also, apart from giving opinions on the comment section, the public could participate through their social media, which in the end might be made as news too, as long as it is potential. With this phenomenon in mind, namely drawing report on social media, users now can be called prosumer, or people who upload their opinions and thoughts and, in the same time, consume their concerns by themselves in the mass media.

Research carried out by the Indonesian Press Council in 2012 towards 147 journalists reported that 76 percent of the respondents use social media for monitoring, 46 percent for news sources, and 31 percent for looking for interviewees. The same survey showed that 75 percent of respondents always verify their news by contacting the cited persons, although the other 14 percent do not verify invariably (Kompas, February 18, 2012).

In the online media industry, online news portals do not only compete with competitors from other media companies but also social media. Social media is a set of internet-based application that found ideology and technology Web 2.0 and enables content productions and sharing among users (Kaplan &Haenlein, 2012). With social media, the mass media do not work single-handedly in affecting public policies. The public itself now possess a common sphere to publicize their opinion through citizen journalism.

Digital technology enables almost all individuals to share anything in social media. Social media allegedly turns to be threats for journalists and the mainstream mass media even though the validity in social media genuinely calls for further justifications owning to the prevalence of hoax (Alejandro,
that being said, the online news portals also take advantage of social media as their source of news. It suits with research conducted by Chung et al. (2012) saying that online news comprises three news sources: mainstream, independent, and index of news. A study performed by AnangSujoko (2017) found social media interventions on the shift of journalism activities in Malang. Interviewed journalists claim that they use social media as the news source, reference of ideas and issue, and tools for expanding news compounded. In effect, journalism principles have shifted from objectivity to authenticity, verification to transparency, and the gatekeeper to collaboration.

Collaboration between the gatekeeper and gatewatcher takes place between citizen journalism and traditional journalism. It is illustrated by Glabeva (2012) investigating Middle East news published on the Storify. Empirical findings of this study showed that the gatewatching process is a production of the news based on social media. Therefore, in this process, the writer can refer directly to the creator of the story. Similar research in Nigeria (2016) reported that social media use alters the ways journalists gathering and sharing information. Consequently, journalists' role which initially is the gatekeeper has begun to change. The journalists' function as the watchdog gradually becomes the guide dog, which mostly figuring in directing society to gain correct information (Cui & Liu, 2016).

As a guide, a journalist in the digital era has eight societal functions (Hamma, 2017). Those eight functions are: 1) authenticator or the one who ratify reliable fact; 2) sense maker or the common sense guide figuring in establishing meaning in readers' mind; 3) investigator; 4) witness bearer or the witness of community that slip from public eyes; 5) empowering or putting the public as a part of the news production process and not only as audiences; 6) smart aggregator function in filtering webs with the algorithm capability to support journalistic works; 7) forum provider or helping to hold active public discussion; 8) public role model bearing evidence as citizen journalists products.

Those eight societal functions are bred by changes in ways of working out of the presence of social media. Now, journalists, who only used to run gatekeeping practices, should execute role as the gatewatching too because of new communities established resulted from the internet. Internet users take over the gatekeeper role from the media and decide news and information appropriate for them autonomously. On the internet, anyone could publish any topic desired. The media organization is not the only gatekeeper (Bruns, 2011). Bruns introduced a concept called gatewatching to reflect a news production and selection process engendered by audiences. Bruns (2003) stated that this phenomenon depicts a public new active role in the three-step of the news production process and gate news functions, namely input, output, and response.

In the input process, rather than entrusting that chain to journalists, users opt to choose themselves by drawing on available online information and decide any news appropriate for them. Likewise, the output process, which generally plays a role as a stage for determining which story will be published and managed by selected editors, is changed by many users involvements. How far users decide their information autonomously vary depending on the context. Concerning response, the news is mostly shaped and developed by user’ comments, discussion, and rating. This process is performed transparently.

In the gatewatching process, source of information is made transparent and accessible for many other internet users, and when the information is used for news products, bias and misleading information will be disposed to the audiences (Slabeva, 2012). Gatewatching process, therefore, implies that users’ limitation in producing or responding information has vanished.

The practice of gatewatching involves social media users, ranging from Twitter, Facebook, to YouTube, as the curators. Eyewitness journalism performed by social media users rarely has clear sequences and plot. For that reason, curation is demanded to select the best information and contents. Social media curation thus should found on solid effort on managing information with a more holistic process of identification, selection, verification, organization, picturing, conservation, and integration.

The practice, however, is not unproblematic. Consider alleged assault case of a woman activist, who also takes a role as a campaigner of PrabowoSubianto-SandiagaUno, that turned out to be fake and induce much uproar as an example. The information regarding the beating case initially began viral on social media before being reproduced to be news which politically valuable and can be sold quickly to the public. Content and information uploaded and consumed by users become a marketable commodity (Nasrullah, 2017). Almost all online media conducted the practices although two news portals massively broadcasted the news with more than 20 reports in a day, on October 2, 2018. Those two media were tribunnews.com and detik.com and respectively become two most read news portal according to Alexa.com (2019).
The previous studies only spot that journalists use social media to produce news. Journalist use gatewatching collaboration process to gather and decide which information and issues will become a public concern. In light of the findings mentioned, the researcher considers seeing the result of the gatewatching practice use in the news produced and consumed by the readers. It is essential to grasp the functions of journalism in the digital era that provide more opportunity for the public to access and produce information autonomously through social media.

With this in mind, the researcher explored how Detik.com and Tribunnes.com process the information taken from social media. News observed and investigated relates to beating case of a woman activist Ratna Sarumpaet, which in the next day, October 3, 2018, declared that the information was misleading and incorrect.

METHOD

The research used constructivism or interpretative as the paradigm and qualitative-descriptive as the approach. The research strategy used was framing analysis from William A. Gamson affirming that framing is the way to tell a story or a cluster of related ideas which present construction of meaning associated to object (Eriyanto, 2018). Framing, according to Gramson and Modigliani, then consist of two aspects: framing devices and reasoning devices.

The framing device is pointed out by a discourse used in the text and creates central notions or ideas. Aspects categorized in this discourse are the using of metaphor, catchphrase, example, or exemplary, depictions, visual image. On the other hand, reasoning devices are considered to be notions comprising not only words and sentences but also evidence, argumentations, and reasoning. Aspects categorized in this device are causal connection identification (roots), the moral premise for corroborating notions or ideas (appeals to principle) and putting pressure on effect or consequences of actions or activity. All those devices support each other and fabricate a central notion of a text.

The framing analysis from Gamson and Modigliani was used to analyze news concerning Ratna Sarumpaet beating case in the two online news portals, namely Tribunnews.com and Detik.com on October 2, 2018. The analysis was upheld by other studies. As a result, the influences of social media users in the news production process and the gap that needs to be enhanced by journalists while reproducing news that initially drawing on social media will be clear.

ANALYSIS

Digital Footprint of Ratna Sarumpaet Beating Case

Alleged beating case of woman activist Ratna Sarumpaet appeared for the first time in SwaryUtamiDewi’s Facebook account at 09.00 October 2, 2018. The profile showed Ratna’s face with persistent swollen and her eyes that cannot be opened appropriately. Swary observed in her descriptions “is it because we are different a person deserve assaulted? My sympathy to Ratna Sarumpaet. Say no to any form of violence #2010staysense.” The post then tweeted on Twitter by @ayuning_2 at 10.00. The account also showed the same picture. She tweeted: “Mrs. Ratna Sarumpaet was battered this morning. The hospital was still concealed because she was still in a terrible condition after beaten by some people. Oh God, whoever they are, whether the culprit or the planner, take their lives in the lowliest way.”

After two posts on the different social media platform, a confirmation was delivered by Gerinda’s politician Rachel Maryam at 10.50 through her twitter @cumarachel. Rachel wrote, “Innalilahi, mother @RatnaSpaet had been beaten by a group of people last night. She is unbelievably battered currently. Hei, you only dare to an old woman! Do not you have a mother too? So, how do you come to live?” in her next Twitter, Rachel said that Ratna did not have enough courage to meet her colleagues out of fear and trauma.

Another further confirmation came from Gerinda’s vice chairman FadliZon through his tweets in @fadlizon at 12.50. He posted, “Sister @RatnaSpaet did truly underwent an assault and beating by unidentified criminals. It was extremely ruthless.” He also tweeted, “I visited sister @RatnaSpaet when she was in recovery process two days ago. This assault was completely heartless.” Tweets which were written by FadliZon also described that Ratna was beaten by two until three people.
The discussion on the social media then proceeded with other tweets from other national figures that also parts of the presidential candidate Prabowo-Sandi. Those politicians were the former acting ministry Rizal Ramli, the vice speaker of the Indonesian People’s Representative council Fadli Hamzah, the Prabowo-Sandi’s spokesman Dahnil A. Simanjutak, a writer Hanum Rais, a member of regional representative council Fahraaldris, A higher officer of Democratic Party Ferdinand Hutahean, and many others. The narration made was that Ratna Sarumpaet was assaulted, beaten, or punched. Indeed, posts about this accident were followed by accusation to the president Joko Widodo as posted by a Democratic Party’s politician Benny K. Hamman: “there are three possibilities for which the president does not speak. Firstly, the president is hectic and thinks that it is a nuisance. Secondly, the president keeps the offender and strongly alleged that the one that punched Ratna is his men. Thirdly, this method suit with the mental revolution.”

Posts about Ratna Sarumpaet did not merely take place in Prabowo-Sandi’s team but also the incumbent supporters, such as a surgeon Tompi and the former chief justice of Indonesian Constitutional Court Mahfudz MD. Both of them doubted the validity of the case since the swell on Ratna Sarumpaet’s face seemed suspicious. Even Tompi observed that her swelling was more close to the after-effect of surgery.

The discourse on social media on Ratna Sarumpaet’s assault continued for a day, October 2, 2019. Both posts had been responded by internet audiences or users with their pros and cons. Some hashtags, such as #SaveDemocracy, #SaveCommonSense #2019StayHealthy #2019ChangePresident, became viral. Tweets of those figureheads which went viral were drawn on by online journalism, including Tribunnews and Detik.com.

Online News Framing towards Ratna Sarumpaet Beating Case

Robert M. Entman defined framing as a selection process of reality so that specific facts seem prominent than others by prioritizing definition over problems and the cause of the problem, as well as making a capitalistic decision and recommending some resolution (Eriyanto, 2018). That definition was perfected by Gamson. Framing, in his position, was considered to be clusters of ideas and events. Gamsonian and Modigliani then believed that framing does not concern entirely to protruded news but also to people understanding on seeing issues.

Because framing sees the prominence of an issue and the way to understand it, the research attempted to understand the problem of Ratna Sarumpaet that was published by Tribunnews.com and Detik.com, especially on October 2, 2019. On that date, Tribunnews.com and Detik.com delivered 25 and 20 news respectively, and the initial information went viral on Twitter and responded by many figures from two opposing sides in the general election 2019. The result of the framing performed by Tribunnews.com and Detik.com is as follows:

| Table 1. Comparison of framing in Tribunnews.com and Detik.com |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Tribunnews.com**                                            | **Detik.com**                                          |
| **Framing Devices**                                           |                                                        |
| Catchphrase                                                   | Ratna Sarumpaet was assaulted.                          |
| Example or Exemplary                                          | Ratna Sarumpaet was assaulted by unidentified persons till swollen and trauma. The police had not received any reports. In the day when the assault happened, Twitter Ratna was still active. |
| Depiction                                                     | Beaten, opposition, #2019ChangePresident movement.     |
| Assailed, no reports received.                                |


**Visual image**

The screenshot of figures on Twitter, Ratna Sarumpaet’s face that is swollen.

Ratna Sarumpaet swollen face’s picture.

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**Reasoning Devices**

**Identification on causal connection or cause and effect (roots)**

Ratna Sarumpaet was beaten since she was activist of #2019ChangePresident movement and the supporter of the presidential candidate from the opposition.

News on Ratna Sarumpaet assault case was still unclear because Ratna or the authority had not given justification.

**The moral premise for strengthening notions or ideas (appeals to principle)**

Beating on activist with a different opinion was conceived to be a disgrace on democracy and humanity.

The validity of Ratna Sarumpaet’s assault was doubted.

**Prioritizing on the consequence of actions or activities**

Condemn the violence toward #2019ChangePresident activist.

The police institution was forced to investigate this assault case.

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Tribunnews.com and Detik.com drew on social media as the news source. Indeed, two media adopted the same phrase users used in social media, namely “beaten,” “punched,” “assaulted.” The same phrases were also written for the tag in the news portal. The sequences and the plot produced by the media was similar to what audiences posted on social media.

However, despite they both exploit the same picture which went viral on social media, namely the swollen face of Ratna Sarumpaet, the frame made by Tribunnews.com and Detik.com was different. Tribunnews.com emphasized for the supporter of #2019ChangePresident that the beating underwent by Ratna Sarumpaet was a violent act. It is clear from the way Tribunnews.com picked tweets outright without any development of information at all. Moreover, the tweet taken came from Rachel Maryam, Fadli Zon, Hanum Rais, and others from the same political side. Accounts supporting incumbent were provided as well, such as Tompi and Mahfud Md. Additional information was from police institutions after the press conference.

The sphere given by Tribunnews.com to social media users was seen from their highlights, such as “Ratna Sarumpaet is battered, the following is condemnations from many figures to the assault case” and “Ratna Sarumpaet allegedly was beaten, Prabowo: cowardice and obviously a crime.” It tacitly showed that framing made by Tribunnews.com followed the plot created by social media.

In the news, new information from the police and the reaction from the incumbent were put at the end of the press while the background of Ratna Sarumpaet and her beating was always placed at the beginning of the news. For example, Ratna’s identity as the supporter of the #2019ChangePresident movement and her visits many regions that often halted by the incumbent supporter. That information was placed as the opener that was told at the beginning of the story. Consequently, it can be said that tribunnews.com tried to identify that there was a connection between this case and Ratna’s status as the supporter of the #2019ChangePresident movement. As a result, the moral premise compounded was physical violence toward a person who had a different perspective was conceived as a disgrace for democracy and humanity. The consequence of this action was condemnation on social media of violence. The criticism was reproduced by Tribunnews.com and put it at the beginning of the news.

Unlike Tribunnews.com, Detik.com directed the readers to think that the assault of Ratna Sarumpaet was still not apparent. Detik.com demonstrated direct interviews, not from social media—whether with the opposition or incumbent. Detik.com also attached their confirmation with Ratna Sarumpaet that was done by a short message. Ratna Sarumpaet replied with “no” for all question sent
by Detik.com. The story of Ratna Sarumpaet’s assault was located in the end so that it is not the primary information that preserved. In other words, Detik.com did not follow the plot produced by social media users for its news. Detik.com also exerted information from social media to frame that information regarding Ratna Sarumpaet’s case was not correct. It can be seen from a highlight entitled “Tracking Digital footprint of Assault news toward Ratna Sarumpaet.”

It can be concluded that there was a difference in marshaling facts between Tribunnews.com and Detik.com in terms of framings. Tribunnews.com gathered information and interviewees from social media and became highlight while Detik.com merely used social media information for the background made and as a trigger for developing the contents.

Nonetheless, the similarity was found from their news constructions, which were event-oriented, and the connection between one newsand another. It is also seen from information about Ratna Sarumpaet developed to many reports without in-depth investigation. Tribunnews.com and Detik.com packed the news and articles titles with sentences that attracted many people and it made more people curious and read the news. It was applied for giving the prominence of the news.

The Role of Social Media Users towards News Framing

Considering the framing made by those two online news portals, there were differences in the roles of users in producing news. On the one hand, in the story production process, Tribunnews.com exploited social media as news sources and a place for journalists to find events and information regarding the informants. On the other hand, Detik.com merely used social media as a place for discovering the initial news but developed it with the help of additional reliable information. Another noticeable disagreement is that while Tribunnews.com allowed users to be a guide in directing the story so that the framing would follow the plot given by the users, Detik.com only took advantage of the information produced by users without following framing created by the users.

In the gatewatching process, what is called by users are both the public figures and their social media’s followers. Users, such as the vice speaker of the Indonesian People’s Representative Council and the vice chairman of Gerindra Fadli Zon, a Gerindra’s political Rachel Marya, a member of Indonesian Regional Representative Council Fahira Indris, and the former chief justice of Indonesian Constitutional Court Mahfudz MD, tacitly stirred online news portals to publish next articles according to their views. Subsequently, as steps in the gatewatching practice, the stories were processed and improved by considering comments and discussion of social media users.

It is worthy to note that Information on social media would not be noticed and heeded by online journalism if the events only involved a small number of users and did not go viral. That is to say, in this case, users have a significant role in trending the information and preventing them to not disappear from social media by always tweeting the issue in a different time. This gatewatching process suits with Slabeva’s account (2012) that, because the amount of information is overwhelming, readers contribution to soaring the news to remain trending on social media by discussing it relentlessly regardless of many different perspectives that join in the discussion is substantial to keep the vibe.

Information spreading about Ratna Sarumpaet assault on social media was viral on October 2, 2018. It was the ground for which it was approved to be leading issues in many online news portals. In light of that, users have demonstrated their functions to be curator that support online news portals to curate and select appropriate issues to be published. Because of the role and importance of the curation activity mentioned, online portal news utilized it to pick specific posts of the curators thoroughly. The characteristic of figureheads being a curator is that they had many followers and responds from social media, as well as own unique and political relationships with the news background. Owing to that, the curators mostly came from the people who were on the same side as Ratna.

Viral information about Ratna Sarumpaet beating case then was reviewed with pros and cons. The groups that did not believe with the matter, via their social media, tried to reveal the suspicion lying on Ratna Sarumpaet’s face and the beating case’s chronology. One of the examples was the surgeon Tompi. Differently, others, who were conceived with the exposition, initiated a solidarity action named Blue Wednesday Movement (Tribunnews.com, 2018). The debate then turned to be new news by the mass media. It was demonstrated that the curation occurred on social media. Social media users processed the information with action relating to the identification, selection, verifications,
organization, picturing, maintaining, and integrating to be intact news. They contributed to the guiding phrase and angle made by online news portals.

However, it is also striking that social media users did not only guide the news-making process of online journalism but also misleadingly directed it. The artificiality of Ratna Sarumpaet beating news was the evidence for that claim. Referring to framing strung up by Detik.com and Tribunnews.com, as well as the gatewatching process, journalism online arguably made three primary mistakes. Firstly, both Detik.com and Tribunnews.com emphasized the same phrases as expressed by social media users in framing their design. Tribunnews.com also showed a short version of figurehead’s tweets for their main visual pictures.

Secondly, Tribunnews.com did not draw the source from the first person, namely Ratna Sarumpaet, but from other figures that prefer to political interest. Consequently, the framing guided the readers to tendentious opinions not based on evidence. It happened because that online journalism picked emphasizes written by users without reprocessing it. By contrast, Detik.com’s framing enabled the readers to think that the information was still unclear and incomplete by attaching Ratna Sarumpaet’s confirmation, although it originated from a short message. However, it should be remembered that all figures who did not involve directly and possess political tendencies implicitly stirred the readers to follow the fake issues. To that end, the third mistakes made by online journalism in this practice are that keeping the problem at the surface despite the artificiality.

The carelessness of online news portals in the gatewatching process might impinge the function of journalism and online media as the validator (ratifying correct and reliable facts), commons sense guider, investigator, witness, smart aggregator, and role models. In this beating case, online news portals merely acted as the forum provider and social media user empowerer. Online journalism failed to be a guide dog and helped people to discriminate reliable and correct information from the invalid ones. News production process written by journalists coming from the social media era did not fit with what Gamson said anymore. Rather than relying on journalists’ perspective in seeing an event (Eriyanto, 2018:74), it was shifted to paying attention to the loud voices of social media users.

CONCLUSION

The research has shown that social media influenced the news framing process produced by online journalism. The influence is that the news delivered by the gatekeeper of online news portals followed the plot intended by social media users. Consequently, the online news media was not a people guide anymore for validating news but a tool of users to disseminate information that has been fabricated on social media. It can be seen from gatewatching process in the news production of Ratna Sarumpaet that it had effects on news production and mass media industry internally and externally.

Internally, mass media is more accessible in gathering information, even without sending journalists for reportage. The result of news framing produced by online journalism using gatewatching practice can be witnessed on social media users. The role of social media users behind gatewatching practice in the online journalism is a news source, news referent or place for journalists to find issues, news interviewees or a place to discover origins, highlight information to the public and halt the information to vanish, and being curators of information in social media.

However, these users’ roles and gatewatching practicing still store problems of journalism code of ethics, notably regarding news verification. This recklessness in adjusting gatewatching could spread fake news and impose the issues to the surface. In effect, gatewatching practice might be employed by the users to emerge problems which genuinely are unnecessary for broader society as the outcomes of online journalism.

Therefore, the research aims to give scientific advantages in digital communication and practical benefits for agents in online journalism. This research hopefully can enrich studies on social media influence to online journalism, especially from users’ perspective. Practically, it encourages more online journalism to be careful with information that goes viral on social media and not exploits it as if it is the only news source. The way forward for not contributing to spreading fake news is that online news portal should transform their business model to data journalism and paid newspaper such as The Guardian and New York Times. However, paid services require uniqueness. Social media users should elicit digital literacy to not participate in spreading fake news on social media and not become news which emerges only on the surface relentlessly.
The subsequent studies with in-depth interviews with the journalists are essential to grasp the gatekeeping and gatewatching collaboration process and their process in making the news. With this in mind, the ways journalists work that prompt solutions about formal and useful verification on social media to minimize fake news can be seen.

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