

# The Influence of Group Cohesiveness on the Intentions of Spreading Fake News (Hoax) on Adulthood in Three Cities in West Java

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**Abstract**---This study aims to determine whether or not the influence of group cohesiveness on the intentions of spreading hoax in West Java. The method used in this study carried out a quantitative method, the sample used in this study were 245 people drawn from the order of the top cities in the use of social media in West Java. The technique used for sampling in this study is snowball sampling, data collection using a Likert type scale that is the scale of group cohesiveness and the scale of the intention to spread the hoax issue. The analysis in this study uses a simple linear regression analysis to determine the effect of group cohesiveness (X) on the intentions of spreading hoax (Y). Based on the results of data analysis shows that there is a strong influence of group cohesiveness on the intention of spreading hoaxes in West Java with the acquisition value of  $F = 166.014$  with a significance of 0,000 less than 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ) which means, the higher the cohesiveness of the group the higher also the intention of the spread of hoax that occurred in West Java. The rate of the Cohesiveness value of 63.7% so that it can be interpreted that 36.3% of the occurrence of the intentions of the spread of hoax is influenced by other factors.

**Keyword**---Group Cohesiveness, Hoaxes, Adulthood

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Today's technological developments have an impact on how people communicate. It is no longer just a two-way communication as we've known so far, the development of technology enables people to connect without the obstruction of distance and time. Today's technology also gives access to communication freedom, while also being able to provide convenience in the search for unlimited information. The ease of access to the internet allows people to find almost about anything. Prasetyo (2017) states that in 2016 internet users in Indonesia have reached about 132.7 Million People, and 40 % of them were active users of social media. This number increased by 51.8% from 2014, where there were only 88 million people using the internet and social media users.

Easy and free internet access to be enjoyed by the community influences the changes in things on how people want to see and enjoy. Research conducted by Tidwell (2002) shows how communication carried out through social media with the help of internet networks affects the community. Based on data obtained from KEMKOMINFO in 2018, Bandung ranks first in the list of the largest active social media users in West Java, Karawang ranks second, and Bekasi third. The Ministry of Communication and Information received a total of 733 complaints about hoax content in 2018 from whatsapp from August 2018 to January 21, 2019. The Ministry of Communication and Information also found content reports containing hoaxes distributed via instant messages as many as 43 content. Based on the annual recapitulation, the Ministry

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of Communication and Information received the most complaints, namely 733 reports in 2018. CNN Indonesia said that in the data presented by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology there were 800 thousand websites in Indonesia that were indicated as spreading fake news (hoaxes) and hate speech (Pratama, 2016).

Hoax became one of the news that began to bloom lately through social media. Fake news (hoax) are news articles that are intentionally made to mislead readers (Firmansyah, 2017). The purpose of making a hoax although at first was a joke, but it caused many hoax recipients to go ahead and spread it to their colleagues so that the hoax was quickly spread (Dedi Rianto, 2017). Hoax about bombings, mass-shooting, and killings can cause a commotion in many kinds of people.

People are more likely to believe in hoaxes if the information is in accordance with their opinions or attitudes. Hoax can change one's mindset affect the way of thinking and act due to excessive beliefs about hoaxes. Bramy Biantoro (2016) mentions that there are four risks from hoax namely, wasting time and money, being a diversion of issues, and as a means of public fraud, as well as triggering public panic. Usually the spread of hoax is done by several groups consciously. Hoax is just ordinary news contained in social media without any clear facts and this will become ordinary news if there are no spreaders or the desire to spread it (Abdillah, 2012).

In psychology, the desire to do something is called intention. Intention is a determination to carry out certain activities or produce certain conditions in the future and intention is a vital part of self-regulation which is motivated by one's motivation to act (Abdillah, 2012). Intention can occur due to several factors, one of which is the attachment of an individual to his group that can make individuals follow the will of the group. Research conducted by Abdillah (2012) states that group cohesiveness contributes 60.21% to intention, these results indicate a positive correlation between group cohesiveness and intention, the higher the group cohesiveness the more likely the intention appears.

This is in line with research conducted by Falikhatun (2007), which states that cohesiveness has a positive and significant effect on the relationship of individual participation. Another study conducted by Mohammad (2011) revealed something similar that group cohesiveness had a positive and significant effect on the desire to participate individually. Another study revealed by Jivi (2013) stated that the group cohesiveness had a positive and significant positive effect. From the research mentioned above, it can be concluded how significantly influence group cohesiveness is towards participating for group purposes.

Robbins and Judge (2008) define group cohesiveness as the level of interest among group members so that they can remain in it by becoming similar like the members in the group. The existence of cohesiveness within a group makes its members willing to do the same activities among group members. This shows that individuals will do and behave in accordance with the group, including spreading hoaxes. Issues that began to circulate in the community in recent months have become the public spotlight and can change people's mindsets instantly.

Based on the explanation above, it can be seen that there is an effect between group cohesiveness, the intention to spread hoaxes. On a scientific basis, researchers are interested in conducting research related to the influence of group cohesiveness on the intention of spreading hoaxes on adulthood in three cities in West Java, such as Bandung, Karawang, and Bekasi.

### **Group Cohesiveness**

Bachroni (2011) defines cohesiveness as an increase in the commitment and interest of individuals to join a group. Carron, Bray, and Eys (2009) define group cohesiveness as a dynamic process that is seen through the tendency of group attachment and unity in meeting the goals or affection decisions of group members. Forsyth (2008) says that group cohesiveness is formed from relationships or ties to group members. Robbins and Judge (2008) define group cohesiveness

as the level of interest among group members so that they can remain in it by becoming like the people in the group. The similarity with the people in a group will make the members of one another more unified in their groups.

Characteristics of groups cohesive are, the closeness between members of the group so that they can influence each other, a sense of tolerance, mutual sharing, mutual support especially in dealing with problems, interdependence to remain in the group (Forsyth, 2008). Mutual trust arises which turns into a sense of comfort (such as feeling safe at work, to express opinions, and interact with one another), there is awareness as part of a group. Summing up, cohesiveness is the emotional attraction of fellow group members where there is a sense of mutual liking, help, and together to support each other to stay in the group.

Carron, et al (2009) suggested that there are four aspects of group cohesiveness, namely:

Individuals' interest in group assignments (individual attraction to the group task) is the desirability of individuals towards group goals and to achieve the goals and success of the group.

Individual attraction to the group social is the feeling of each group member about one's acceptance and social interaction with the group when the group hold a routine agenda to gather as a whole of the group's goals, group members have a sense of reassurance to be on the agenda.

Group integration task is the perception of closeness, and bond in a group as a whole social unit. Group members see the group as a means of interaction that fosters comfort and is more than a place to achieve the group's goals.

### **Intention**

Intention is a position in a dimension where the subjective possibility of an individual can involve a relationship between himself and some actions. Intention can show how much a person's willingness to try to do something certain behavior. This intention is the result of disposition to behave until there is an appropriate opportunity (Riyanti, 2007). Intention consists of several elements:

Specific behavior

Objects that are directed towards behavior

The situation is behaved

Time of conduct

The intention is a possibility that is subjective, that is a person's estimation of some of the possibility of someone in certain behaviors. Based on the above definition it can be concluded that intention is the desire of a person to perform a behavior to achieve what he wants. Fishben dan Ajzen suggested that there are four aspects of intention:

Behavior, i.e specific behavior will be expressed.

Targets are objects that are targeted for behavior. Objects that are targeted by specific behavior can be classified into three, namely certain people or particular objects, groups of a class of objects, and people or objects in general (any object).

The situation is a situation that supports the conduct of behavior (how and where the behavior will be manifested), the situation can also be interpreted as the location of the behavior.

Time is the time the behavior occurs which includes a certain time, for example, a specific time (certain days, certain dates, certain hours), certain periods (certain months), and unlimited time (next time).

## **II. METHODS**

Sample

The sample in this study will be taken using the Snowball sampling technique. To determine the sample in this study we used the Cochran formula (Sarwono, 2012). The number of samples for the city of Bandung 91 respondents, for the city of Karawang 87 respondents, and the city of Bekasi 67 respondents. The total number of respondents is 245 respondents.

#### Instrumentation and Operationalization of Constructs

Group cohesiveness is a condition where the individual is close to the group. Group cohesiveness data is obtained through a group cohesiveness scale that refers to aspects from Carron (2009) that is, individual's interest in group work, unity in duty, and individual interest. The scale is using Likert type scale.

The intention of spreading hoax is an individual's desire to disseminate information received without thinking about what the information is. Intention data are obtained from the intention scale which refers to the aspects of behavior, goals, situation, and time described by Fishben and Ajzen (in Safitri and Sonny Andrianto, 2015).

#### Procedure

Participants were primarily recruited through snowball sampling via whatsapp, where they were provided with brief information about the study and a link which directed them to the grup cohesiveness questionnaire and intention of spreading hoax questionnaire.

### III. RESULTS

The results showed that the most respondents were 128 women around 52.2%, and male respondents as many as 117 people or around 47.7%. In terms of the city of residence the respondents who participated in the study from the city of Bandung 97 respondents or around 39.5% Karawang as many as 81 respondents or around 33%, then Bekasi 67 respondents or about 27.3%.

#### Scale Validity Analysis

Validity testing uses the corrected item scale technique using the SPSS V.24 application. We used predetermined formula criteria based on the distribution of r values of the corrected item scale table with a sample size of 30 people and a significance value of 5% (0.05). table ( $r \text{ count} \geq 0.334$ ).

On the grup cohesiveness scale, based on the results of trials conducted on 30 respondents taken randomly, this cohesiveness scale has 25 items items with a significance value that meets the value of r ( $p > 0.361$ ), this can be concluded that no items drop for the group cohesiveness scale.

On the intention of spreading hoax scale, based on the results of a trial conducted on 30 respondents taken randomly, initially this intention scale has 29 items with a significance value that meets the value of r ( $p > 0.361$ ) it can be concluded there are no items that drop for the scale.

#### Reliability Analysis

The two scales group cohesiveness and intention of spreading hoax demonstrated high reliability as they had a Cronbach's alpha greater than 0.75.

Table 1. Group cohesiveness reability

Reliability Statistics
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Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,915	25

Table 2. Intention of spreading hoax reability

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,911	29

**Data Analysis Result (Hypotesis Analysis)**

Hypothesis testing is intended to determine the effect of group cohesiveness on intention. The hypothesis test used is a simple linear regression test using the SPSS 24 for windows application. The results of the simple linear regression test in this study can be seen from the following table:

Tabel 3. Regression Analysis

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Regression	<b>31266,39</b>	1	31266,29	166,015	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	<b>45765,34</b>	243	188,335		
Total	<b>77031,73</b>	244			

Based on the results of the table above the regression test was performed on the variable (X) group cohesiveness towards the variable (Y) the intention of spreading hoax to obtain a value of F = 166.015 with a significance of 0,000 less than (p <0.005). It can be concluded that there is an influence between group cohesiveness on the intention of spreading hoaxes.

Tabel 4. Simple Linear Regression

<i>Coefficients<sup>a</sup></i>				
<b>Model</b>	<i>Unstandardized Coefficients</i>		<b>T</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
	<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>		
(Constant)	22,389	4,748	4.810	.000
TOTALKOHE	.756	.059	12,885	.000

a. *Dependent Variable: TOTALINTEN*

Based on the table above the equation of the simple linear regression function in this study becomes:

$$Y = 22,389 + 0,756$$

Looking at a constant value of 22,389 shows if there is a positive influence of group cohesiveness with a consistent value of intention of 22,389. If there is an increase of 1 unit in the intention variable then group cohesiveness will increase by 0.756. A positive regression constant is seen, so it can be concluded that the group cohesiveness variable influences the intention variable.

#### **Determination Coefficient Test Result**

Looking at the results of the coefficient of determination test, group cohesiveness from social media users in West Java is 0.406. It means that these results show the degree of the effect of group cohesiveness on intentions by 40.6% while the remaining 59.4% community intentions are influenced by other things outside group cohesiveness.

### **IV. Discussions**

The purpose of this study was to find out about the effect of group cohesiveness on the intention of spreading hoaxes in West Java. From the results of a simple linear regression test states that  $H_a$  has a value of  $F = 166,015$  with a significance of 0,000 with a rule value of less than 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ) which means that  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_0$  is rejected, this states that there is an influence of group cohesiveness on the intention to spread hoaxes in adult individuals in three cities in West Java namely Bandung, Karawang, and Bekasi. This can be interpreted that there is an influence between group cohesiveness towards the intention of spreading hoaxes in West Java. Group cohesiveness is an attachment between the individual and the group so that the individual can tend to follow the group's decision and obey the decision that comes out of the group to follow for the continuity of the group together, high cohesiveness is a dynamic process that reflects the tendency of all group members to maintain common goals (Man and Lam in Rachmawati, 2009).

Simple linear test results state the constant value of  $\text{sig } F = 22,389 > 0.05$  which means  $H_a$  is accepted and group cohesiveness affects the intention to spread the hoax. Each member who has the factors that have been explained before allows high cohesiveness, because of better communication, mutual cooperation and can influence each other to achieve group goals (Shani in Muniroh, 2013). Every individual who has every factor both internal and other factors that affect the individual attached to the group can affect attitudes.

The group cohesiveness scale dominates the medium range but is more likely to be high for the age range of 18-25 having a large percentage of 35.1% as well as the age range of 26-30 having the same value and being in a moderate period during the early adult period it looks way to reduce their stress levels by looking at the contents available on social media especially Instagram (Gladstone & Koerig in Darmayanti, 2012). The age range of 31-35 has a percentage of 20% in the categorization and is included in the medium range in responding to outstanding hoaxes because the frequency for the age range of 31-35 is not as often as the age range of 18-30 who accesses the internet especially social media. Likewise, with the condition where respondents live in Bandung have a high group cohesiveness 39.6% where the level of cohesiveness in Bandung is high, and in Karawang 33.1%, and Bekasi 27.3% for the level of cohesiveness.

The scale of the intention of spreading hoax when viewed in terms of female gender dominates by getting a score of 52.2% for men 47.8% which means that women are more likely to have a higher intention to spread hoax than men. This difference concerns how to express their conflict and disappointment. Viewed from the age side, the age range of 18-25 years has a value of 35.1%, which is the same as the age range of 26-30 years, with a value of 35.1%, which means that the productive age is the highest number that has the intention of spreading hoax in line with those described by Fishbein and

Ajzen , Khairul Anwar, et al argued (Safitri, A and Sonny Andrianto, 2015) that intention is a subjective possibility, that is a person's thoughts about the possibility of taking a particular action such as spreading information obtained without knowing its contents.

## V. RECOMMENDATION

As the result, we found some suggestions as follows:

The results of the data obtained and analyzed by researchers, prove that the group cohesiveness variable has a high coefficient of determination of the intentions of the spread of hoaxes. So, social media users is expected to be smarter to use the internet and social media to be used in a more positive direction. Because there are many benefits that we can take by using the internet and social media that make us lead to more positive directions.

Future researchers

Further researchers are advised to:

Conducting research with other regional settings so that they can better generalize the results of their research to the community.

Conduct research with other variables that affect the intensity of the distribution of hoaxes such as conformity.

Using probability sampling techniques such as random sampling so that research results can be generalized to the population.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data analysis test and the discussion above, we concludes that:

There is an influence between group cohesiveness with the intention of spreading hoaxes in West Java.

There is a different level of cohesiveness between the sexes of men and women for the cohesiveness rate of 52.2% and men of 47.8% to have the intention of spreading hoaxes. Age range also affects someone's intention when viewed from the results above, the highest value is in the age range of 18-30 years.

There is a strong influence between group cohesiveness with the intention of spreading hoax when seen from the coefficient of determination of 40.6% cohesiveness affects the intentions of spreading hoax and the remaining 59.4% is influenced by other factors.

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