

ORIGINAL ARTICLE / НАУЧНАЯ СТАТЬЯ

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Analysis of hoax news about Russia's Special military operations (SMO) in the Indonesian media

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION. Russian-Ukrainian military conflict often makes headlines in media globally, including media in Indonesia. In Introduction the number of news related to the military conflict from February 23 to April 10, 2022 reached described as 143,809 which shared via the Indonesian network 2,509,741 times. The object of the study is Indonesian media coverage of the Special military operation, and the government's retaliatory measures to those media who publish fake news. **MATERIALS AND METHODS.** Materials and Methods of research are based on questionnaires which were distributed between two different groups of respondents in two waves: 329 respondents from the first group and 339 respondents from the second. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.** Results and Discussion focuses on location analyses carried out in Indonesia using data collection techniques through observation in various media in Indonesia showed at least several reports that were suspected to be fake about Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Killed, China assistance to Russia, etc. **CONCLUSION.** In Conclusion pointed out about 70 % of responded netizens stated that the news in the media in Indonesia regarding modern Russia was positive news, though fake news or hoaxes came from <https://kabar24.bisnis.com/>, <https://www.kompas.com/> and other sources. The taken measures had an impact on reducing the number of fakes regarding the current Russian-Ukrainian military conflict.

Keywords: military conflict, media in Indonesia, Special military operation, Indonesian society, hoax news, fakes news

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Шифр научной специальности 5.9.9

Анализ фейков в индонезийских медиа о российской специальной военной операции (СВО)

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Аннотация

ВВЕДЕНИЕ. Российско-украинский военный конфликт часто попадает в заголовки СМИ по всему миру, в том числе в Индонезии. Отмечено, что количество новостей, связанных с военным конфликтом с 23 февраля по 10 апреля 2022 г., достигло 143809, индонезийская социальная сеть размножила их 2509741 раз. Объект исследования – освещение в индонезийских СМИ специальной военной операции и ответные меры правительства в отношении тех медиа, которые публикуют фейковые новости. **МАТЕРИАЛЫ И МЕТОДЫ.** Методы исследования основаны на анкетировании, проведённом с интервалом между двумя группами респондентов: 329 респондентов из первой группы и 339 респондентов из второй. **РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ.** Результаты обсуждения базируются на анализе, проведённом в Индонезии с использованием методов сбора данных посредством наблюдения в различных средствах массовой информации Индонезии, выявившем несколько предположительно ложных сообщений о якобы убитых украинских солдатах на Змеином острове, помощи Китая России и т. д. **ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ.** Отмечено, 70 % опрошенных пользователей Сети заявили, что новости в СМИ Индонезии о современной России являются больше позитивными, хотя фейковые новости исходят от ряда порталов, как <https://kabar24.bisnis.com/>, <https://www.kompas.com/> и др. Принятые правительством меры в целом повлияли на снижение количества фейков относительно текущего российско-украинского военного конфликта.

Ключевые слова: военный конфликт, СМИ в Индонезии, специальная военная операция, индонезийское общество, мистификации, фейковые новости

Для цитирования: Музыкант В.Л., Сюркани П. Анализ фейков в индонезийских медиа о российской специальной военной операции (СВО) // Неофилология. 2024. Т. 10. № 1. С. 164-176. <https://doi.org/10.20310/2587-6953-2024-10-1-164-176>

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INTRODUCTION

Every citizen certainly wants to live in peace because living in peace is one of the human rights [1]. In Article 9 paragraph [2] Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 39 of 1999 Regarding Human Rights, living peacefully is equated with living in peace, security, happiness and prosperity physically and mentally [3]. The right to live in

peace is very important because related to establishing normative standards of peace necessary to realize human dignity [4].

Even though the right to live in peace is a human right, in reality, this situation can be threatened or even eroded due to military conflicts both within countries and between countries [5]. The Russian-Ukrainian military conflict that will occur in 2022, precisely on February 24, is quite the

world's spotlight because it causes losses for both parties and because it has a negative impact on the world economy [6].

The object of the study is Indonesian media coverage of the Special military operation in term of the consumption of fake news in the country, and the government' retaliatory measures to those journalists or media who publish fake news.

The Special military operation often makes headlines in several media globally, including media in Indonesia. Reporting is information about the event that occurs, the event is identical to what is happening and has a long time span [7]. Reporting can also be a complete interpretation where an information has been presented after being edited by the news editor or in the form of investigative reporting which is a study of facts with background, trends or tendencies that will occur in the future [8].

The main function of journalism is to inform the public about news, and therefore, all information must be taken into account for its useful value for the benefit of society [9]. There are three things that press media need to pay attention to in fulfilling their use value or benefits for the public, namely: News must be able to be used as general knowledge; News must be used as a tool of social, political, health, educational control and much more; News not only conveys pleasant information, but also unpleasant information, or what is often called bad news [10].

The word hoax began to be known and used in England in the 18th century precisely at the same time as the book: A Glossary: Or, Collection of Words, Phrases, Names and Allusions to Customs. written by Robert Nares in 1822. Nares wrote about The origins of the word hoax. According to him it's a hoax derived from the word "hocus" in "hocuspocus". According to Nares, hocus pocus is a spell cast by wizards. The word hocus pocus is taken from the name of a famous Italian witch namely Ochus Bochus. The word hoax was then used by magicians to perform their tricks [11].

Hoaxes are information that is engineered to cover up real information. In other words, hoaxes are defined as attempts to distort facts using information that is convincing but cannot be verified [12]. Hoax is a chaos of information or what is usually called fake news which has crimi-



Fig. 1. Fakes classification: from Satire and Parody to Fabricated Content because of a Couused Harm (Syurkani & Muzykant, 2023)

nal aims, both crimes in cyberspace and in the real world [13]. A hoax is a trick in which someone tells people a lie, for example that there is a bomb somewhere when there is not, or that a picture is genuine when it is not [14]. There are even several media sources that spread hoax news, which could be classified accordingly to the level of their harm (fig. 1).

There are three main factors in the emergence of hoaxes, namely: the ease of creating accounts on various social media; Individuals or groups who are easily influenced by news issues whose existence is not yet clear; the lack of interest in reading until the end is because hoaxes are usually born from a half-hearted reading attitude and not knowing the source received [13]. There are at least four dangers arising from hoax news, namely: hoaxes waste time and money, hoaxes become a diversion of issues, hoaxes as a means of deceiving the public, and hoaxes as a trigger for public panic [15].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

At the start of the research, questionnaires was distributed between two different groups of respondents in two waves to see media consumption habits of Indonesians, the dynamic of the process as well as to find out the sources of information used to collect information about modern Russia. The research expires 329 respondents from the first group and 339 respondents from the second group. Based on a questionnaire distributed to 329 respondents (first group), it was found that 255 people (77.5 %) know about modern Russia from the Internet,

245 people (74.5 %) from Social media, 101 people (30.7 %) from TV, 34 people (10.3 %) from Newspaper, 6 people (1.8 %) from Radio, 2 (0.6 %) from Friends, and 15 (4.6 %) from others sources. The analysis of the second group media consumption habits revealed that 254 out of 339 of respondents (74.9 %) know about modern Russia from the Internet, 236 people (69.6 %) from Social media, 100 people (29.5 %) from TV, 30 people (8.8 %) from Newspaper, 8 people or by 2.4 % from Radio, 2 people (0.6 %) from Friends, 2 people (0.6 %) from Youtube, and 18 people (5.4 %) from others sources.

This research was conducted with a qualitative descriptive type, meaning that the obtained results will be conveyed in various sentences that are easy for readers to understand. The location analyses was carried out in Indonesia using data collection techniques through observation in various media in Indonesia and it was recorded that there were at least several reports that were suspected to be fake news or hoaxes in the media in Indonesia related to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022. The reports were: Ghost of Kyiv, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Killed, China providing assistance to Russia, Russia Preparing to Use Chemical Weapons, and Russia firing missiles targeting a village in Poland.

Descriptive qualitative method was used with a case study approach. This analysis focuses on conducting intensive studies of a particular object and studying it as a case. The data obtained was then analyzed in depth to determine the research results. Apart from that, this study also conducted a review of various literature that examines themes related to the topic so that the presented results can be more robust. Then, the data was analyzed to find out the results and discuss them systematically as per the desired research, namely regarding fake news or hoaxes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before discussing this further, let's first understand several aspects, namely:

First, military conflict. Military conflict can be defined as an action carried out physically or non-physically between two or more groups of people to control contested territory. Currently,

modern military conflicts are more developed than ancient military conflicts because they lead to technological and industrial superiority [16].

Second, mass media. Mass media is a tool used to convey messages from sources to audiences using mechanical communication tools, such as newspapers, radio, television, films and so on [17].

Third, fake news or hoaxes. Hoax is a chaos of information or what is usually called fake news which has criminal aims, both crimes in cyberspace and in the real world [13].

Fourth, Law. Law is a set of rules consisting of various norms and sanctions. Law is a right that is closely related to human life [18]. Below we will describe the results of the analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict from various media.

Indonesia's view of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Almost every day the Indonesian media reports about many of citizens to flee abroad. The Ukrainian Armed Forces lost more than 330 thousand people killed and missing. This was stated on April 7, 2023 by former US Marine Corps intelligence officer Scott Ritter, commenting on data voiced by the commander-in-chief of Ukrainian forces Valery Zaluzhny¹. On the other hand, quite a few pro-Western countries are taking various measures to prevent Russia from expanding its attacks by imposing sanctions on Russia by several countries, providing both moral and material support to Ukraine.

Based on the results of analysis on digital monitoring and analysis platforms, *Evelo* provides an understanding that the intensity of social media users, especially in Indonesia, is very high. This is proven by data recorded by *Evelo*, the number of news articles related to the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine from February 23 to April 10, 2022 reached 143,809 news, which were then shared via the Indonesian *Facebook** (social network is recognized as

¹ Yanuar Y. Soldiers Killed: Russia Loses 120 Thousand, Ukraine 70 Thousand. Tempo.Co. Available at: <https://dunia.tempo.co/> (accessed: 20.10.2023)

* Social network Facebook* (owned by Meta**) are prohibited in the Russian Federation. On March 21, 2022, the Meta** company was recognized in Russia as an extremist organization and the holding's activities on the territory of the Russian Federation are prohibited. The de-



Fig. 2. Russia vs Ukraine conflict in Evello notes big data analysis. Source: <https://evello.co.id/>

extremist and banned on the territory of the Russian Federation) network 2,509,741 times. It doesn't stop there, various social media platforms are also in great demand by netizens as references in searching for various information. *Evello* noted that there were 886,896,749 views on *YouTube*, 752,014,266 on *TikTok*, 85,369,714 on *Instagram** (social network is recognized as extremist and banned on the territory of the Russian Federation), and 26,025 unique accounts active on *Twitter*. *Evello* concluded that the majority of Indonesian netizens tend to side with Russia. This data can be seen more clearly through the following image (fig. 2).

The majority of reports appearing in Indonesian media are known to be more inclined to defend Russia and criticize countries that defend Ukraine. Contained in the media *rmol.id* which was uploaded on March 11, 2022, a military and defense observer named Connie Rahakundini Bakrie tends to defend Russia. Because, according to him, the decision taken by Russian President Vladimir Putin to launch a special military operation into Ukraine was not made without reason, but rather to warn the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) not to be too big-headed in

leading the world. Apart from that, Connie also has no idea that Russia will carry out invasion or annexation because she has no desire or intention to occupy or seize Ukraine's independence².

It didn't stop there, Connie even considered that the various sanctions imposed by the United States and NATO on Russia were unreasonable, which actually made Putin even bolder. Apart from that, Connie also reminded Indonesia not to interfere in the Russian and Ukrainian conflict which he said was created by America and NATO considering that Indonesia is in a free and active political position³. Apart from that, *Kompas.com* also published an article about the Ukrainian-Russian military conflict with the title "Why do the majority of Indonesian netizens support Russia's invasion of Ukraine and are amazed by Putin?" on March 15, 2022. This article was prepared based on data obtained from *Evello* where in the analysis period of the last one to two weeks articles on Indonesian social media were dominated by siding with Russia and admiration for Vladimir Putin. The reason is that the Indonesian people do not like the United States and NATO⁴.

Mass Media in Indonesia: Hoax News Regarding Special Military Operation

Hoaxes are information that is engineered to cover up real information. In other words, hoaxes are defined as attempts to distort facts using information that is convincing but cannot be verified [12]. Hoax is a chaos of information or what is usually called fake news which has criminal aims, both crimes in cyberspace and in the real world [13].

According to Cangara, mass media is a tool used to convey messages from sources to audiences using mechanical communication tools, such as newspapers, radio, television, films and so on [17]. According to Nurudin, the history of mass media in Indonesia began during the Dutch colonial period, and only experienced significant

cision was made by the Tverskoy Court of Moscow and it came into force immediately.

* Social network *Instagram** (owned by *Meta***) are prohibited in the Russian Federation. On March 21, 2022, the *Meta*** company was recognized in Russia as an extremist organization and the holding's activities on the territory of the Russian Federation are prohibited. The decision was made by the Tverskoy Court of Moscow and it came into force immediately.

² *Andimi R.* In Connie Rahakundini's eyes, Putin's attack on Ukraine is not an invasion but a warning to the US and NATO. Available at: <https://rmol.id/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Adhi I.S.* POPULAR GLOBAL: Reasons why the majority of Indonesian netizens support the Russian invasion. Available at: <https://www.kompas.com/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

Konflik Rusia Ukraina

'Hantu Kyiv' Dikabarkan Tembak Jatuh 5 Pesawat Rusia, Netizen Jadi Penuh Harap

Sabtu, 26 Februari 2022 00:33 WIB



Fig. 3. Fake Reports about Kyiv Ghosts. Source: <https://medan.tribunnews.com/>

China Terbuka Akan Berikan Bantuan Makanan hingga Militer ke Rusia, AS Peringatkan Konsekuensi

Susi Susanti, Okezone · Selasa 15 Maret 2022 12:05 WIB



Fig. 4. False news about China providing assistance to Russia a. Source: <https://news.okezone.com/>

development after the reform era began at the end of the 1990s [19].

The development of mass media in Indonesia is: Newspapers, Magazines, Film, Radio, Television, Tabloids and Online Media. The first Indonesian news portal *republica.co.id* started its work on August 17 1994. Then, in 1996, this step was stopped due to the ban of the New Order regime in 1994, after which *tempointeractive.com* was created [17]. Last time there are at least 5 reports that are suspected to be fake news or hoaxes in Indonesian new media related to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022. The six re-

ports are: Ghost of Kyiv, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Killed, China who provided assistance to Russia a, Russia Prepares to Use Chemical Weapons, and Russia fires a missile targeting a village in Poland (fig. 3).

In the *Medan.com* Tribune entitled "Ghosts of Kyiv" Reportedly Shoot Down 5 Russian Planes', it was said that: "The achievement of bringing down five or more planes in an air battle is called an ace, and if true, "Ghost of Kyiv" could be the first to record this feat in the 21st century. Unconfirmed reports about the pilot's heroism were said to have come from informants on the war front and quickly spread on social media"⁵.

In *Kompas.tv*⁶ and *Sindonews*⁷ it was said that: "The ghost from Kiev, whose identity has not yet been revealed, is one of the sources of Russian fear in the skies of Ukraine. He is reported to have downed 10 Russian planes, and this has been verified. The ghost from Kiev is one of 124 Ukrainian fighter jet pilots using MiG-29 Fulcrums made in the 1980s".

In the news contained in *Okezone* entitled "China Openly Will Provide Food and Military Aid to Russia, US Warns of Consequences" (fig. 4) stated that: "A senior government official said that although China has not officially stated that it will help Russia and in diplomatic cables, the US conveyed to its allies in Europe and Asia that China has conveyed its willingness to help Russia, which has requested military support"⁸.

In the report written by BBC Indonesia on the *Detik News* website entitled "What Assistance Can China Give to Russia in the Midst of Biting Sanctions?" is written that: "Russia is aggressively looking for allies amidst the increasingly intense war in Ukraine and increasingly biting international economic sanctions.

⁵ Tim Tribun Medan, Kyiv Ghosts' Reportedly Shot Down 5 Russian Planes, Netizens Become Full of Hope. Available at: <https://medan.tribunnews.com/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

⁶ Jati H. Ghost Appearance from Kiev, Ukrainian Pilot Who Downed Russian Planes 10 Times. Available at: <https://www.kompas.tv/internasional/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

⁷ Berlianto. Kiev Ghost Appearance, Sends Threatening Message to Russian Soldiers. Available at: <https://international.sindonews.com/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

⁸ Susanti S. China Openly Will Provide Food and Military Aid to Russia, US Warns of Consequences. Available at: <https://news.okezone.com/> (accessed: 18.10.2023).

Pertahankan 'Pulau Ular' dari Rusia, 13 Tentara Ukraina Tewas

Tim detikcom - detikNews
Sabtu, 26 Feb 2022 10:37 WIB



Fig. 5. False Report about 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Killed. Source: <https://news.detik.com/>

Presiden Polandia: Penggunaan Senjata Kimia oleh Rusia Akan Mengubah Segalanya

Kompas.com - 14/03/2022, 08:01 WIB

Dinar Lambang Priestandaru
Penulis



Fig. 6. False Reporting about Russia's Use of Chemical Weapons. Source: <https://www.kompas.com/>

China, which has long been known as a close ally of Moscow, appears to be trying to maintain a diplomatic distance from the conflict, with one abstaining from voting at the UN condemning Russia's invasion"⁹.

The news from *Detik news* entitled Defending "Snake Island" from Russia, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed (fig. 5), it was written that: "A total of 13 soldiers guarding a small island called Zmiinyi in Ukraine did not want to surrender when the Russian army attacked. As a result, 13 soldiers died defending the island and as reported by the BBC (26/2/2022), Ukraine gave awards to the 13 soldiers who died. Just

⁹ BBC Indonesia. What Assistance Can China Provide to Russia Amid Biting Sanctions? Available at: <https://news.detik.com/> (accessed: 18.10.2023).

before they died, they cursed at Russia"¹⁰. In the news obtained by Okezone, it was written that Ukraine had paid tribute to 13 soldiers who died defending a small island, Snake Island, after reportedly refusing orders from Russian troops to surrender"¹¹.

In a report found on *Kompas.com* entitled "Polish President: Russia's Use of Chemical Weapons Will Change Everything" (fig. 6) was written that: "Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine will change everything and NATO must think seriously about how to respond. This was conveyed by Polish President Andrzej Duda in an interview with the BBC on Sunday (13/3/2022)"¹².

In a one more article *Kompas.tv* entitled "Convinced Putin Has Lost, Polish President Says Russia Could Be Desperate to Use Chemical Weapons" was claimed that: "Polish President Andrzej Duda said Russia has the opportunity to use chemical weapons because it has not conquered Ukraine since February 24. Duda said that Russian President Vladimir Putin could have acted recklessly because he was in a very difficult situation"¹³.

In the article from *Bisnis.com* entitled "Russian Missile Hits Village in Poland, 2 People Killed" (fig. 7) was mentioned: "The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that a Russian-made missile had fallen in the village of Przewodow, Poland, near the Ukrainian border, on Tuesday (15/11/2022) at 15.40 local time"¹⁴. The news from *Okenews* entitled "Russian Missile Hits Polish Village, Killing 2 People" pointed out: "A senior United States intelligence official said a Russian missile

¹⁰ Defending "Snake Island" from Russia, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed. Available at: <https://news.detik.com/> (accessed: 18.10.2023).

¹¹ Susanti S. Defending Snake Island, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed by Russian Troops. Available at: <https://news.okezone.com/read/> (accessed: 18.10.2023).

¹² Priestandaru, DL President of Poland: Russia's Use of Chemical Weapons Will Change Everything. Available at: <https://www.kompas.com/> (accessed: 18.10.2023).

¹³ Judge, IA Believes Putin Has Lost, Polish President Says Russia Could Be Desperate to Use Chemical Weapons. Available at: <https://www.kompas.tv/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

¹⁴ Dawarti E. Russian Missile Hits Village in Poland, 2 People Killed. Available at: <https://kabar24.bisnis.com/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

Rudal Rusia Hantam Desa di Polandia, 2 Orang Tewas

Rudal buatan Rusia jatuh di desa Polandia Przewodow, di dekat perbatasan Ukraina, pada Selasa (15/11/2022) pukul 15.40 waktu setempat.

Erta Darwati - Bisnis.com
Rabu, 16 November 2022 10:14



Rudal Rusia Hantam Desa di Polandia, 2 Orang Tewas. Reruntuhan apartemen di Donesk, Ukraina, yang terhantam rudal Rusia /Pavlo Kyrylenko/Handout via REUTERS

Fig. 7. False Report about Russia firing a missile targeting a village in Poland. Source: <https://kabar24.bisnis.com/>

into Poland, hit a village and killed two people, the Associated Press reported (AP) on Tuesday, (15/11/2022)”¹⁵.

Clarification Regarding Hoax News in the Media in Indonesia Regarding the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

After verifying, it was discovered that the news above was fakes, and therefore several media in Indonesia clarified and spread news about the actual incident.

In a report published in *Tribun Jogja* entitled “3 Most Viral Russia-Ukraine War Hoaxes: Ghost of Kyiv, Ukrainian Reaper and Natasha” (fig. 8), the comment was: “There is no name Natasha Perakov in the ranks of the Ukrainian military. There is only a first Lieutenant in the Ukrainian ground forces named Nadiya Savchenko and thus, information about the first female fighter jet pilot, Natasha Perakov, is not available on the internet, which means it may be fake or misinformed; On February 25, someone in Ukraine tweeted a photo of a Ukrainian soldier with his face blurred for privacy and the tweet claimed it was a photo of Vist, a soldier who had carried out 20 confirmed sniper kills in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, and based on the investiga-

tion, had not there is actual confirmation of the Reaper's existence; There is no confirmation either from the Ukrainian government or from the military that Ukrainian fighter pilots managed to neutralize six Russian fighter planes, and most experts believe that the story about the Ghost of Kyiv was deliberately spread as propaganda to fuel the enthusiasm of the Ukrainian military in the face of the Russian invasion”¹⁶.

The report came out from *Sindonews* entitled Exciting, US Intelligence Lied to Slander Russia in the Ukraine War (fig. 9): “When American media quoted a US intelligence report to warn that Russia was preparing to use chemical weapons in Ukraine, and when President Joe Biden repeated the warning this, they participate in disinformation campaigns; US intelligence reports about Putin being misled by his own military are completely fabricated and Washington has no understanding of the internal affairs of the Russian government; The US intelligence report about Putin asking China for help was completely fabricated, but Washington released it anyway to prevent China from actually doing what the intelligence officials said, namely sending weapons to Russia”¹⁷.

Perang Rusia Ukraina

3 Hoax Perang Rusia Ukraina Paling Viral : Ghost of Kyiv, Ukrainian Reaper Hingga Natasha Perakov

Kamis, 3 Maret 2022 05:33 WIB

Penulis: Mona Kriesdinar | Editor: Mona Kriesdinar



Fig. 8. Clarification Regarding False Reporting about Kyiv Ghosts, Ukrainian Reapers, and Natasha Perakov. Source: <https://jogja.tribunnews.com/>

¹⁵ Asmardika R. Russian Missile Hits Polish Village, Killing 2 People. Available at: <https://news.okezone.com/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

¹⁶ Kriesdinar M. 3 Most Viral Russia-Ukraine War Hoaxes: Ghost of Kyiv, Ukrainian Reaper until Natasha. Available at: <https://jogja.tribunnews.com/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

¹⁷ Muhaimin. Amazing, US Intelligence Lied to Slander Russia in the Ukraine War. Available at: <https://international.sindonews.com/newsread/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

Heboh, Intelijen AS Bohong untuk Fitnah Rusia dalam Perang Ukraina

Fig. 9. Clarification Regarding False Reports about Accusations of Russia Preparing to Use Chemical Weapons, Reports of Putin Being Misled by His Own Military, and Reports of Putin Asking China for Help. Source: <https://www.sindonews.com/>

17 November 2022, 04:54 WIB

Polandia Sebut Rudal yang Mendarat di Negeranya Milik Ukraina
Basuki Eka Purnama | Internasional

Fig. 10. Clarification of False Reporting on Accusations of Russia firing a missile targeting a village in Poland. Source: <https://m.mediaindonesia.com/>

Kala Media Barat dan Presiden Zelensky Buat Hoax 13 Prajurit Ukraina di Pulau Ular Tewas

Mancanegara

Tuesday, 01 Mar 2022, 01:57 WIB



Pulau Ular di wilayah Ukraina, kini dikuasai Rusia.

Fig. 11. Clarification Regarding False Reporting About the Death of 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island. Source: <https://digdaya.republika.co.id/>

In a report from *Media Indonesia.com* entitled “Poland Says the Missile That Landed in Its Country Belonged to Ukraine” (fig. 10), was written that: “We have nothing to refute President (Andrzej) Duda’s initial assessment that the missile was probably part of Ukraine’s air defense system, the White House said in a statement”¹⁸.

Republika Network entitled the news “When Western Media and President Zelensky Make a Hoax 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Die”

¹⁸ Purnama, Polish BE says the missile that landed in his country belonged to Ukraine. *Media Indonesia.Com*. Available at: <https://m.mediaindonesia.com/internasional/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

(fig. 11): “Yesterday the Ukrainian side spread a hoax video that Russia killed 13 Ukrainian soldiers on Zmeinyi Island who refused to surrender.

Real facts: 82 soldiers from Zmeinyi Island have surrendered themselves and are receiving help from the Russian Armed Forces. “After several legal procedures they were returned to their homeland, the Russian Embassy in Jakarta explained”¹⁹.

The Spread of Fake News Regarding the Russian-Ukrainian Military Conflict in Law in Indonesia

The basis for reporting in the media in Indonesia is Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, where the principles contained in this Law are: press freedom belongs to the people and the press carries out the mandate of press freedom with the principle of balance [20; 21]. This law is used as a source of written law and if the press media violate it, they can be prosecuted in court [22].

Apart from Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, the basis for reporting in the media in Indonesia is the Journalistic Code of Ethics [23]. The Journalistic Code of Ethics limits journalists or reporters on what is good and bad to report. This Code of Ethics was issued by the Association of Professional Journalists. Sanctions for violators are moral in nature, namely in the form of social sanctions, suspension, or giving a warning²⁰.

Apart from that, the Code of conduct is also something that places limits on the reporting that is carried out. Code of conduct is a sign issued by a press media about what can and cannot be reported. The Code of conduct binds journalists as workers in a press media, and therefore, sanctions for violators are given by the press media where they work. It is not uncommon for the sanctions to be harsher, such as termination of employment [24].

Apart from the three things above, there is at least one more that also regulates reporting,

¹⁹ *Republika Network Team*. When Western Media and President Zelensky Create Hoaxes, 13 Ukrainian Soldiers on Snake Island Die. *Republika Network*. Available at: <https://digdaya.republika.co.id/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

²⁰ *Bekti Nugroho S*. Quality Press, Smart Society. Press Council, 345 p. Available at: <https://dewanpers.or.id/> (accessed: 19.10.2023).

namely press offenses. Press offenses are violations of the law committed by the press. The violations referred to can be criminal acts against public order, insulting, incitement, spreading false news, and even moral violations. Among the five offenses, there are offenses that are classified as complaints and ordinary offenses. A complaint offense is an offense for which the legal process will only occur if someone feels disturbed or complains about it to the authorities. Meanwhile, an ordinary offense is an offense that without a complaint must be processed according to the applicable legal channels [24].

The government's attitude towards the phenomenon of hoax news is explained in several articles which are ready to be imposed on hoax spreaders, including, the Criminal Code, Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE), Law No. 40 of 2008 concerning the Elimination of Discrimination Race and Ethnicity. Not only that, spreaders of hoax news can also be subject to articles related to hate speech and those which are regulated in the Criminal Code and other laws outside the Criminal Code. Apart from that, in fighting hoaxes and preventing the spread of the negative impacts of hoaxes, the government basically has an adequate legal umbrella. Article 28 paragraphs 1 and 2 of Law no. 11 of 2008 concerning ITE, Articles 14 and 15 of Law no. 1 of 1946, Articles 311 and 378 of the Criminal Code, as well as Law no. 40 of 2008 concerning the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination are several legal products that can be used to combat the spread of hoaxes [25].

Law Number 1 of 1946 concerning Criminal Law Regulations has regulated Hoaxes as a criminal act in several articles, namely Article 14 paragraph: (1). Any person who, by broadcasting false news or notifications, intentionally creates trouble among the people, shall be punished with a maximum prison sentence of ten years. (2) Any person who broadcasts news or issues a notification which may cause trouble among the people, even though he reasonably believes that the news or notification is a lie, shall be punished by imprisonment for a maximum of three years.

Interpretation according to grammar can include the act of broadcasting hoaxes, namely broadcasting "fake news that contains informa-

tion that deliberately misleads people and has a certain political agenda". Based on the provisions above, hoax spreaders can be punished if they fulfill the elements of broadcasting false news or reporting, being intentional, causing trouble among the people. Trouble is greater than anxiety and shakes the hearts of quite a few people. Chaos also contains trouble. Broadcasting means the same as "verspreiden" in Article 171 of the Criminal Code and then Article 15, which states: "Whoever broadcasts news that is uncertain or news that is excessive or incomplete, even though he understands it is at least reasonable to suspect, that such news will or can easily cause trouble among the people, is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of two years" [26].

Based on article 15, it states that a Hoax spreader can be punished if they fulfill the elements of broadcasting uncertain news or excessive or incomplete news, even though they understand or suspect that the news could cause trouble among the public. The meaning of uncertain news itself is explained further in the explanatory section of Article This article concerns "hearsay" (uncertain news) and news that is broadcast with additions or deletions [26].

Andi Hamzah explained the paragraph of Article 14 of Law Number 1 of 1946 concerning Criminal Law Regulations which states "Whoever, by broadcasting false news or notifications, deliberately creates trouble among the people, shall be punished with a maximum prison sentence of ten years". According to Andi Hamzah: Paragraph 1 of Article 14 Number 1 of 1946 concerning Criminal Law Regulations is a material offense. Where to criminalize someone there must be trouble among the people [26].

The word riot is translated from *onrust*. In Articles 14 and 15 of Law no. 1 of 1946, the word riot was replaced with the word trouble which was defined as "greater than anxiety and shaking the hearts of a large number of people". The explanation of Article Based on the absence of the impact of chaos or commotion among Indonesian society related to untrue reporting regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict, Law no. 1 of 1946 cannot be applied to journalists and media who create and spread false reports regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict [27].

Article 28 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Law on Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) explains that it prohibits everyone from spreading false and misleading news that causes hatred or hostility towards certain individuals and groups of society based on ethnicity, religion, race and inter-group (SARA). To prove that there has been a violation of Article 28 paragraph (1) of the ITE Law, all elements of this article must be fulfilled. These elements are: elements of every person, intentionally and without rights, spreading false and misleading news, and elements that result in consumer losses in electronic transactions. False reporting regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict in the media in Indonesia does not cause material harm to readers, and therefore, the elements in Article 28 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Law on Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) are not fulfilled [28].

Even though there are many legal products in Indonesia that regulate the spread of fake news or hoaxes, and even though it has been proven that several reports related to the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict above are fake news or hoaxes, the government does not impose sanctions on journalists or media that publish such news. This happened because there were legal elements that were not fulfilled by the actions taken by journalists and the media.

CONCLUSION

Based on a questionnaire distributed to 329 respondents (first group) and to 339 respondents (second group), the majority of respondents from the both groups follow the events in Russia. Based on a questionnaire results, the majority of all respondents stated that the news in the media in Indonesia was positive. Although the majority of respondents stated that the media in Indonesia often reported positive things about modern Russia, when respondents were asked about examples of negative reporting in the media in Indonesia regarding modern Russia.

Nevertheless in the first group of respondents 229 people or 69.6 % stated that the media in Indonesia also depict Russia in a negative image at the very beginning of special military

operation, there were even some cases of spread hoax news, some of them which were considered above. In the second group of respondents there were 197 people or 59.1 % who that noticed several news in Indonesian media that depict Russia in a negative image.

Based on the analysis that has been carried out, it is stated that there are several media in Indonesia which have been proven to have spread false information regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict that occurred throughout 2022. Although it has been proven that some of the reports regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict above are fake news or hoaxes came from <https://kabar24.bisnis.com/>, <https://www.kompas.com/>, <https://news.detik.com/>, <https://news.okezone.com/>, <https://medan.tribunnews.com/> et al. The government does not impose sanctions on journalists or media that publish this news. That happened because there were legal elements that were not fulfilled by the actions taken by journalists and the media.

After verifying, it was discovered that the news above was hoax news, and therefore several media in Indonesia clarified and spread news about the actual incident. This has had an impact on reducing the number of fake news regarding the current Russian-Ukrainian military conflict. It was revealed that the above analysed news was fakes, and therefore several media in Indonesia were clarified and spread news about the actual incident. This has had an impact on reducing the number of fake news regarding the current Russian-Ukrainian military conflict.

Therefore, researchers hope that every Journalist and Media in Indonesia will first verify the news circulating regarding the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict before publishing the news, and if it has not been proven, it would be better if Journalists and media in Indonesia prioritize the principle of presumption of innocence in existing news. The authors hope that the results of this research can contribute ideas to readers, law enforcers and the government in resolving the problem of fake news or hoaxes circulating in Indonesia, especially those circulating in the media in Indonesia so that they do not cause major losses.

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