

RESEARCHES ON LINE TODAY AS NEWS AGGREGATOR

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Abstract. News aggregator is as a process of taking news from published sources, then reshaping the news, and republishing it in a shorter form in one presentation. LINE today as news aggregator appeared on the third stage of the time line of online journalism in Indonesia. This paper attempts to highlight previous studies findings about LINE Today as news aggregator. News aggregator faces domino effect in which audiences think that news aggregator is not credible as a result of data mining gibing repetitive information. On the other hand, it is urgent that there should be encouragement of digital journalist competence to be familiar with aggregation. Later, this leads to the idea of slow technology as an antithesis of interactive technology (news aggregator) that is based on human-centered activity.

Keywords: news aggregator, line today

Abstrak. News aggregator adalah sebagai proses mengambil berita dari sumber yang diterbitkan, kemudian membentuk kembali berita tersebut, dan menerbitkannya kembali dalam bentuk yang lebih singkat dalam satu kali penyajian. LINE hari ini sebagai news aggregator muncul di etape ketiga dari lini masa jurnalisme online di Indonesia. Makalah ini mencoba menyoroti temuan studi sebelumnya tentang LINE Today sebagai agregator berita. News aggregator menghadapi efek domino di mana audiens berpikir bahwa news aggregator tidak kredibel sebagai akibat dari data mining gibing informasi yang berulang. Di sisi lain, urgensi kompetensi jurnalis digital untuk mengenal agregasi menjadi urgen. Belakangan ini mengarah pada gagasan slow technology sebagai antitesis dari teknologi interaktif (news aggregator) yang berbasis pada aktivitas yang berpusat pada manusia.

Kata kunci: agregator berita, baris hari ini

INTRODUCTION

The technological development in information and communication has recently created new ways of disseminating news in multi platforms. News aggregator is the techniques as a process of taking news from published sources, then reshaping the news, and republishing it in a shorter form in one presentation (Coddington, 2020).

Having a mobile device continuously within an arm's reach has changed everyday life. A retrospective glance shows that the mobile phone has enjoyed a broad diffusion around the globe during the 1990s and 2000s. This development has made possible mobile communication at any time and any place. A study from Ling (2012) as cited from Westlund (2015) stated that mobile device functioning as a tool for interpersonal communication—via voice calls and texting—it has become a taken-for-granted part of everyday life. Until recently the diffusion of mobile phones was twice as high as the diffusion of Internet access, but with mobile phones having become equipped with Internet functionality this gap is losing its relevance. Feature phones have increasingly been displaced by more and more smart mobile devices equipped with advanced hardware and software that facilitate not only communication but also the production and consumption of media. These personal and portable mobile devices provide ubiquitous connectedness through computer-like functionalities (Westlund, 2015).

As a release from Hootsuite (We Are Social & Hootsuite, 2020), there was an increase of internet users by 25 million (+17%) and total of internet penetration that stood at 64% and 175.4 million internet users who spent their time using the internet 7 hours and 59 minutes. That research is updated in a survey by the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association

(APJII) for the 2019-quarter II / 2020 that the number of internet users in Indonesia reached 196.7 million. This number increased by 23.5 million or 8.9% compared to last 2018 (Kominfo, 2020). Moreover, Indonesia is in fourth rank of the large-number of internet users right after China, India and The United States (We Are Social & Hootsuite, 2020) and the most users are millennials (age 24 to 39) as 70.4 percent of millennials access digital media to find out the latest news supported by easy access, multi-tasking, and speed which are the main reasons for selecting digital media (Utomo, 2019).

Before the digital age, people used to read print newspaper by the first page or watch television news programs but now millennials are consuming news not only from online web but also social media platforms. The most accessed was the LINE Today platform which collects and summarizes news content from other news media such as IDN Times, Detik.com, and Kompas.com (Utomo, 2019). This platform model is called news aggregation which is opposite from reporting considering those two terms relatively has the same meaning in journalism as evidence-gathering techniques that largely built around quickly pulling together scraps of information from a variety of other accounts and validating it as knowledge for the public. Aggregation covers a broad set of practices, and the people and organizations that involve in those practices produce a widely contrast range of informational products (Coddington, 2020). This paper attempts to highlight previous studies findings about LINE Today as news aggregator.

As cited from Dimitrova (2006), Pavlik in 1997 suggested that there are three main stages of online journalism (1) Repurposing the traditional news content and simply putting it online; (2) Augmenting the text content with evolving online news

elements such as interactivity; and (3) The use of advanced technologies for user immersion in the online news content.

Suciati and Puspita (2019) describes the time line of online journalism in Indonesia using Pavlik's three stages. First stage, at this stage journalism practice in Indonesia had not implemented real-time news reporting and publishing. In 1995, *Republika* (first known as Islamic daily printed paper) displayed news through online platform *republika.co.id* then followed by *kompas.com* (major readership of printed paper), *detik.com* and *tempo.com* (now *tempo.co*) (Masha, 2020). Second stage occurred in 1998 when Indonesia reformation as the new order ended and *Detik.com* applied real-time and up-to date in news reporting. Third stage, online journalism offers infographic and visual interactive as seen on *Tirto.id*. Besides that, at the third stage, new form of online journalism was introduced new form of journalism—citizen journalism that people can contribute in reporting or sharing the news. Moreover, at this stage, content aggregator sites have started to appear and fascinate the audience and one of the sites is LINE today.

Looking back at the early stage of digital journalism, Cameron (2008) stated that increased use of mobile technology by reporters has also started to raise questions about how to best incorporate this form of newsgathering into existing publication activities. He proposes mobile journalism model that involves the shifting from print-based newsrooms to adding multimedia devices. Later, Westlund (2011) emphasizes the journalist multi-tasking work as they think one step ahead when reporting on breaking news to ensure that it was also displayed on mobile devices. The first mobile devices equipped with internet access, camera functionality and messaging services became precursors to a growth in using

mobile devices for reporting news. More recent technological landmarks have significantly improved such possibilities. This has, on the one hand, led to journalists working for legacy news media adopting such mobile devices in their reporting.

The term “multi-platform” is used and understood in differing ways and has potential to raise some issues of definition. In the current context, “multi-platform” refers to a strategic approach where media companies are focused on making or putting together products and services with a view towards delivery and distribution of that content proposition on not just one but across multiple platforms. A significant aspect of a widespread migration towards a multi-platform approach is that, for many firms, it has fundamentally transformed their understanding of what the business of supplying media is about. Not only that, the move to a multi-platform approach has in many cases, altered the sense of organisational identity of media firms.

The shift to delivery across multiple platforms, including digital platforms which involve two-way connectivity, has entailed and necessitated a new sort of thinking on the part of media managers and strategists whereby, rather than focusing largely on production and distribution of content, a consideration which now occupies considerable importance is how to build and sustain relationships with audiences. In managing a more complex and more dialogical interface with digital end-users, the need for tools that are effective in sustaining engagement is increasing (Doyle, 2015).

The rise of news aggregator sites is a notable phenomenon in the contemporary media landscape. Outperforming traditional news outlets, online news aggregators, such as Yahoo News, Google News, and the *Huffington Post*, have become major sources

of news for American audiences. Facing economic hardships, some news organizations cast blame on news aggregators for stealing their content and audiences. However, the relationship between news aggregators and traditional media outlets on the demand side has not received sufficient scholarly attention (Lee & Chyi, 2015).

A study in 2019 by Ginting, Zaini, Agustina & Septiani found that one of news aggregator media in Indonesia Tagar.id already practiced journalism although it is still not recognized as journalism since the principle of collecting data in first hand has not been met as this is important in the process of verifying sources. However, this study has not explained how Tagar.Id implemented journalism practice besides using Artificial Intelligent and moreover, this study did not provide arguments from Indonesian Press Council (Dewan Pers Indonesia) about whether the practice of news aggregator can be considered as journalism work. Another study suggested that there are only few studies in Indonesia that examine how social media used as media for reporting and presenting news (Puspita & Suciati, 2020).

LINE today Indonesia has multi platforms in disseminating the news besides web online as they use some social media platforms—Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube as they play a pivotal role in how broadcast media in general connects and engages with their audiences. However the workflow of journalism practice remains the same from gathering the evidence from credible sources, create news stories and publish them (Martin, 2014; Mills, Egglestone, Rashid, & Vääätäjäc, 2012). A study result assumed that technological use in form of computerized system creates reframing gatekeeping process that significantly removes journalists from the

process of deciding what is newsworthy (Edo, Yunquera, & Bastos, 2019).

Despite the technological development in journalism practice, it brings forth latest practice—news aggregation, there is a growing concern in questioning whether in news aggregation there is an implementation of journalism characteristics. However, this paper attempts to highlight previous studies findings about LINE Today as news aggregator.

News aggregation as defined by Coddington (2020) is as a process of taking news from published sources, then reshaping the news, and republishing it in a shorter form in one presentation. Aggregation can be classified into three types: (1) those that have a focus on providing a container of content or as content hosts; (2) those with indexing types or categorizing content differently from other existing content or as the gateway; (3) traditional aggregator that has a license over the entire text content or full text.

A study conducted in 2015 found that aggregators have various points in their favour: a) They make a vast quantity of news and information easily accessible and offer a high level of personalization; b) They allow busy, active users interested in staying constantly up to date to set their own personal news agendas; c) They allow local and specialized publications that would otherwise remain below the radar to reach vast new audiences; d) They dramatically improve the national and international visibility of and access to a broad spectrum of digital publications and their content; e) They open up new business opportunities for news organizations that generate rapid revenue for those that learn how to exploit them successfully. They nevertheless have their downsides as well: a) As it is impossible to wade through the vast volume of content they offer, and this unmediated surfeit of news can quickly devolve into a dearth of information,

users must spend time learning how to organize their feeds and reduce their sources to a manageable number if they don't want to be perpetually overwhelmed; b) Aggregators' methods of content selection, most of which are focused on automated, random searches and based on user preferences and advertising considerations, are not professional from a journalistic perspective; c) Their modus operandi disrupts the relationship between readers and news organizations; d) The proliferation of these increasingly technologically advanced platforms is causing ever-deeper fractures in a saturated market in which fragmented audiences use various products simultaneously (Edo et al., 2019).

METHODS

Qualitative research (Creswell, 2017) is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. Those who engage in this form of inquiry support a way of looking at researches that honour an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of a situation. this paper attempts to highlight previous researches about Line Today as news aggregator from accredited Sinta journals from 2017 to 2021.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

At the LINE Developer Day 2019 event, LINE claimed that LINE Today has become

the favorite news aggregator platform among Indonesian users with the average length of time users spend enjoying content on LINE Today until October 2019 and then for 27 minutes 13 seconds. As of November 2019, LINE Today visitors spend about 30 minutes on the service (Luthfi, 2019).

LINE today made its first appearance in the third stage of Indonesian journalism stage and as a content aggregator site which has started to fascinate the audience (Suciati & Puspita, 2019). News aggregation as defined by Coddington (2020) is as a process of taking news from published sources, then reshaping the news, and republishing it in a shorter form in one presentation.

In journalism practice, news aggregator has been a main issue about ethics as Priliani (2017) stated that content aggregator as news gathering becomes a serious phenomenon for the continuity of journalism production that obey journalism rule and principle such as collecting news and producing journalistic writings have been a custom though without media permission. There are two ethical issues in content aggregator—news presentation and news gathering. Thus, it is considered necessary to involve media industry in applying journalism properly from the beginning of strict regulation for media industry in creating web or portal that collect news so that this later would be a basis of creation and enactment of media convergence legislation. Meanwhile Erawaty & Irwansyah (2019) address in their findings that the news aggregator is not a journalistic media since its practices do not apply requirement in fulfilling Indonesian Law no. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, as well as the Cyber Media guidelines. News aggregator helps its audience to simplify the search for news and information. Furthermore, the results of this study show that in the future, mobile users will still use news aggregators, either because

of interest in content generated by individual algorithms, or because of the need for work. Maulana (2021) states that the presence of news aggregator LINE Today with its impact on the quality of journalism in Indonesia, encourages the media to make changes both in journalism products and also in developing the competence of digital journalists to be more familiar with new modes of journalistic norms, routines, and expertise in Indonesia. news aggregation area, as cited by Maulana of Chyi et al. (2016). Furthermore, Maulana added from Choi & Kim (2017) that there are things that can threaten news aggregators, namely the domino effect due to repeated reporting and is not seen as credible by readers. As a result, a number of these news publications will experience data mining by AI and machine learning which is then presented to news aggregators. Readers have the power to choose news stories presented by aggregators. Therefore, in order for media companies to survive in the navigation flow, online news needs to adjust to the preferences of the news aggregator readers. Media companies may have conducted gatekeeping but have difficulty in providing news exposure due to advertising demands so the impact of adjusting articles on reader preferences, criteria, and later aggregation can assist and provide news exposure.

Maulana & Irwansyah (2020) proposes that there is still a threat for news aggregators to experience a domino effect—which is not seen as credible by readers because of the repeated distribution of news stories by the media industry that competes to provide news distribution speed to the public. LINE Today as a news aggregator is considered to be able to spread news with actual issues and various topics that have been curated to present higher quality news. This research offers the idea of developing digital journalism and news aggregation through the concept of slow technology that puts humans

within technology to fill academic debates about the shortcomings of news aggregators. Slow technology itself is the antithesis of interactive technology (news aggregation) that are more rapidly being depicted, fabricated, applied, re-purposed, discarded and destroyed (Odom, Banks, Durrant, Kirk, & Pierce, 2012). Maulana & Irwansyah (2020) suggests that in order to develop a news aggregator, it must be based on the integration of roles between stakeholders by introducing awareness of the balance between the increasing speed of information and communication technology with the speed of processing human information which is more limited using the concept of slow technology based on human-centered that Maulana and Irwansyah cite Deloitte (2020) that Information Communication Technology must reflect human values, such as trust, integrity, and honesty — all perceived emotional factors.

CONCLUSION

LINE today in Indonesia has been an object for researches on news aggregator in Indonesia and mainly about a growing concern in questioning whether in news aggregation there is an implementation of journalism characteristics and press council affirm that news aggregator is not a journalistic media since it does not apply the law about press. News aggregator faces domino effect in which audiences think that news aggregator is not credible as a result of data mining giving repetitive information. On the other hand, it is urgent that there should be encouragement of digital journalist competence to be familiar with aggregation. Later, this leads to the idea of slow technology as an antithesis of interactive technology (news aggregator) that is based on human-centered activity.

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