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PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

PROPOSAL:

The Ethical Issues among Journalists in Malaysia

GROUP:

N5 MMC110 5A

PREPARED BY:

AINA ARRMIZA BT RAZIF	2016986665
MUHAMAD FARITH DANIAL BIN KAMARUDIN	2016143589
NURSYAFIQAH BT MOHD ZAKUAN	2016710213
NUR ALIAH BINTI NOR AZMAN	2016703813
SARA NUR SYAHEERAH BINTI RASHIDI	2016150495

PREPARED FOR:

MADAM NOOR ASHMALIA MOHD ASHRAFF

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In today's era, where technology has been conquering our lives, the researchers can clearly see the usage of social media is uncontrollable. People are sharing news especially those with a shocking content without ensuring the truth. These habits has caused tons of fake news has been shared throughout the whole social media. Plus, people are waiting for something unique and different to be discussed on. That is why more fake news are generated by irresponsible people in order to get more attention and views.

In Malaysia, there is one article that was published to clear about fake news has been spread about Badul, a Malaysian comedian. People have been sharing about his death while he is still alive and his health has improved. This kind of fake news that has been widely spread on social media will not only affect the victim, but also make people believe on the untruth. It also could affect the victims' feelings because it has touched the sensitivity, especially about a big issue such as death.

Furthermore, the researchers can see many unethical actions done by media practitioners in journalism industry such as creating a misleading title, inserting inappropriate photo of a victim, bias in their writing and much more. What are the actual reasons until these happen widely? How much does journalists aware of their ethics in journalism and what their practices in completing their job professionally is.

In this paper, the researchers will conduct a research on how much journalists aware about ethics in journalism. Are they doing their job professionally or they will proceed with unethical doings for money?

2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Badul makin sihat, nafi berita palsu



MyMetro | Rap



Above is the newspaper cutting from Harian Metro on Saturday, 23 February 2019 with a title 'Badul Makin Sihat Nafi Berita Palsu'. This article explains about how some people whether the normal people or even the media practitioners who love to spread false news especially on social media. In this article, he claimed that some people have been spreading news about his death while he is actually recovering. This problem occurs when some media practitioners are not aware of the real ethics in writing and spreading news to the public. This issue will lead to more unethical act among the media practitioners. Therefore, with this kind of problem is happening it will create more unethical journalists in writing and spreading news, lack of audience sensitivity among journalists and the low level of ethics awareness among journalists.

The first problem on this research is creating more unethical journalists in writing and spreading news. This problem can be seen when there are a lot of fake news had been spreading around every medium of media such as newspapers, magazines and social media. Some journalists do not even make a full research regarding issue that he/she about to post. This is a very dangerous as they might be spreading wrong news that will lead to misunderstanding and even slander to that particular individual. Furthermore, some journalists only concern about the profit and money that they will receive if their news make it to the front cover of the newspapers.

Moreover, the next problem that the researchers found in this research is the lack of audience sensitivity. Unethical journalists tend to write news that are only sensational and will grab the attention of the readers. However, they also tend to abandon the sensitivity of the individual that are involved in the news. For an example, inserting the disturbing graphics when it comes to reporting a news about a car accident. A good journalist will not insert those graphics as it is very crucial to understand the sensitivity of our society especially to the family members involved. However, most journalist lack of this value and it is very worrying.

The next problem is that most journalists have a very low level of ethics awareness when it comes to writing news for the public. From the newspaper cutting, it is very obvious that journalists nowadays are not aware of the ethics in journalism. There are so many reasons that can lead to this problem. This is because they tend to take this matter for granted and assume that these ethics are not important as long as they can create sensational news without concerning the other consequences of their act. Plus, these journalists also lack of exposure when it comes to ethics in journalism so they tend to be ignorant and not be sensitive of the surrounding.