UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

KEYBOARD WARRIORS: KANSEI ANALYSIS OF MALAYSIA'S POLITICAL HASHTAGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

Centre for Media and Information Warfare Studies Faculty of Communications and Media Studies

DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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Date : July 2014

ABSTRACT

Kansei Engineering was initially designed to accommodate the field of product design and business process in industries. However, it is now seen as potentially suitable to be applied for the purpose of understanding the human emotions in terms of communications and psychological values. The politics in Malaysia has now evolved with the prolific rise of social media. Social media platform is now the battlefield for political parties where political terms and hashtags are bombarded each day. The aim of this research is to understand the perception of Malaysian's towards these various political hashtags and also whether a relationship exist between Kansei and the hashtags. A Kansei approach was implemented for this research which included using Kansei Words to analyse the emotional perceptions of Malaysians towards several political hashtags. From the results obtained from the research, it is evident that the general Malaysians have political awareness, sensitivity and able to respond to the hashtags that represent the various political issues in Malaysia. Additionally, Kansei was able to prove those results, hence proving the existence of relationship between Kansei and political hashtags in Malaysia. These results may be significant in providing an understanding of Malaysians response towards political issues in Malaysia, especially by the hashtags medium. Therefore, it is useful for academicians, political commentators, and political parties respectively should they wish to expand this study further or to devise better political strategies for their campaigns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All my praises and gratitude to Allah, the merciful, for His kindness and for meeting me with many wonderful people who, have had helped me tremendously in the successful completion of this research. First of all I would like to convey my deepest of gratitude and appreciation to Associate Professor Dr. Anitawati Mohd Lokman whose ideas, patience and dedication has guided me along the way in completing this research as it is now.

Family is everything and thus, I would like to thank my father Hj. Idris Hj. Ismail and my mother Hjh. Salina Hj. Kedah who has been continuously encouraging me in completing this research. They are the source of inspiration that kept me going forward until the end.

Next, I would also like to thank my second family which are the people at the Centre for Media and Information Warfare studies (CMIWS) UiTM especially the Director, Associate Professor Dr. Abd Rasid Abd Rahman and his distinguished fellow lecturers for three semesters of knowledge from various disciplines. I would also like to thank the administrative team for all their help and efforts in assisting the students of the centre. A special mention also reserved for Mr. Noor Nirwandy Mat Noordin as my academic advisor for his knowledge sharing and advices throughout all the semesters.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge my friends and classmates for supporting me and exchanging ideas, comments and criticism throughout the completion of this research.

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