UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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

MUHAMMAD DANIAL BIN IDRIS

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

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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.

Name of Student : Muhammad Danial Bin Idris
Student I.D. No. : 2012165999
Programme : Master of Arts (Media and Information Warfare Studies)
Faculty : Communication and Media Studies
Dissertation Title : Keyboard Warriors: Kansei Analysis Of Malaysia’s Political Hashtags on Social Media

Signature : ........................................
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.
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