

## Information Disorder and Online Gatekeeping Mechanism Struggle in the Post Truth Era

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### ABSTRACT

*Online journalism practice in Indonesia has become a special phenomenon in the digital era. Along with the rapid development of communication technology, the news portals in this country are also growing. The ease of access to any information; which is able to be accessed by anyone and anywhere has emerged to be one of many factors why online news sites tendecially being used as the main reference for any kind of information. Oppositely, there has been a wide spreading of misinformation, malinformation as well disinformation, which are circulated on social media and micro-blogging media. The concepts authors initiate in this research are the gatekeeping mechanism and disorder information. This has become the focal point of the paper to observe how the gatekeeping mechanism struggle with the occurrence. This paper method is qualitative, preserverving the interview data collecting technique. Informants in this paper are the editorial team of Liputan6.com and Detikcom. The conclusions of this article are : (a) Liputan6.com implemented traditional gatekeeping yet a gatewatching for the reader(s), Detikcom performing a processing journalism, (b) both media stated Information selection based on certain criteria, (c) Liputan6.com expending SCTV East Java Bureau for disseminating the local news, Detikcom has representative in the back office in East Java for the local news, (d) both media having the awareness whether the selecting information leading to online news term's and phenomenon nowadays.*

**Keywords:** Information Disorder; Gatekeeping Mechanism; Online News Portal, Post Truth Era

### ABSTRAK

Praktik jurnalistik online di Indonesia telah menjadi fenomena tersendiri di era digital. Seiring dengan pesatnya perkembangan teknologi komunikasi, portal berita di negara ini juga semakin berkembang. Kemudahan akses ke informasi apa pun; yang dapat diakses oleh siapa saja dan di mana saja telah muncul menjadi salah satu dari banyak faktor mengapa situs berita online cenderung terutama digunakan sebagai referensi utama untuk segala jenis informasi. Sebaliknya, telah ada penyebaran luas misinformasi, malformasi juga disinformasi, yang beredar baik di media sosial dan media micro-blogging. Konsep yang digagas penulis dalam penelitian ini adalah bagaimana mekanisme gatekeeper dalam menghadapi gangguan informasi. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif, dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa wawancara. Informan dalam makalah ini adalah tim editorial Liputan6.com dan Detikcom. Kesimpulan dari artikel ini adalah: (a) Liputan6.com melakukan gatekeeping sekaligus gatewatching, Detikcom melakukan jurnalisme berproses,, (b) kedua media menyatakan memilah informasi berdasarkan kriteria tertentu, (c) Liputan6com menggunakan sumber berita dari SCTV Biro Jawa Timur untuk keperluan berita lokal, Detikcom memiliki biro di Jawa Timur yang menangani berita lokal, (d) kedua media memiliki kesadaran akan pilihan informasi yang sesuai dengan terminologi dan fenomena berita online saat ini.

**Kata kunci:** Gangguan Informasi; Mekanisme Gatekeeping; Portal Berita Online; Era Pasca Kebenaran

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## INTRODUCTION

Digital era is conveying many new terms into our life to be consumed, professed and valued in our perceptive belief. According to Pradeep et al, post truth is one of terminologies that aggravate fake news and sinking boat of the media itself, aside from the truth of the facts. This era's ascent has been going on since digital journalism being in a favorite stage (2017).

Fuller examined the post-truth era as its own, as a consequence of the universalization of symmetry. If the post-truth era starts by blowing up current knowledge structures, then it isn't very likely to be democratization, and in fact most likely leads to authoritarianism. Fuller also suggests that the emergence of a post-truth era might be more possible than most considered as a *modern* fact, arising out of particular configurations of practices, discourses, epistemic politics and institutions (2018).

In Indonesia, Prasetyo shared fact whether media has been entering transition phase as a result of digital technology development. Press likely has been experiencing vagueness and trailing the true heroines. Some media uprising issues about what netizen has been discussed over the internet as main material of coverage or show topics on television. Hence, this circumstance espousing the rapidly escalation of online news portal in presence (2019).

Online portal news practice in Indonesia has been upward along with the evolving of popular issues to be posted, such as political agenda and citizen reaction. This dynamic progress so well with numerous online news portals presence year after year. In 2014, merely 211 online news portals that have conceded data requirements parted from 43.000. This number was shrunk into 168 in 2015. Throughout 2016 up to 2017, abound with was being informed this number was sustained (Nashrillah : 2018).

In the year of 2017, Indonesian Press Council planned to elucidate online news portal regulation by accommodating barcode so that netizen get to scan the verified online news portal. However, this policy does not stop the sequence of fake news. Fake news has been all around not only in unregistered online media, but also the registered ones Yusuf : 2017).

Later in year of 2018, Rudiantara declared, that as far as it has been recorded, aside from 43 thousand online news portal in Indonesia nonetheless only 100 are registered. This recordkeeping cooperatively has been steered by Press Council of Indonesia (Anni : 2018). In 2020, there are 224 online news portal in Indonesia, both checked as in administrative and fact substances ([www.dewanpers.id](http://www.dewanpers.id)).

This growth is in line with the increasing of visitor of online news portal in Indonesia. Based on a research conducted by Riset ilmuOne, the data shows whether the growth of Total Unique Visitors (TUV) of news portal industry were up to 27,7% during January 2018 - January 2019. The highest growth emerged by kumparan.com with total TUV data from 1,7 million increase to 6,5 juta on January 2019 (Setyowati : 2019).

Setyowati also wrote some online news portal with high TUV, such as Kompas Gramedia, KLY also Transmedia Corp. The highest contribution from Kompas Gramedia featured by Tribunnews.com, Kompas.com, dan Grid.id. For KLY, the biggest contributors are

Liputan6.com, Kapanlagi.com also Merdeka.com. Meanwhile for TransMedia, are supported by Detik.com, CNNIndonesia.com and lastly, CNBCIndonesia.com (2019).

The escalation in both perspectives; the online news portal as well the visitor or the reader, can not be separated from the occurrences of disinformation and misinformation. This existences have power over the society; such as in political context, concerning on elections, and to the very idea of democracy as a human right (2018). The disinformation pursues, particularly during a poll, is not the ability to convince the public to believe that its' content is true, but to influence on agenda setting; on what people consider is essential (Lipson : 2018).

This explained the statement of performer ministry of communication and information Rudiantara by the end of 2016. Rudiantara clarified there were at least 800.000 sites in Indonesia that indicated have content in fake news and hate speech (Pratama : 2017). Further Widodo stated there are three significant causes of fake news dissemination in online media: (a) the development of technology allow netizen to edit the texts themselves, (b) the number of internet use by the end of 2016 gained to 132,7 million; also (c) the interaction between internet user is on high level (2017).

Responding to singularities like fake news as well as hate speech, as result of post truth era emergent, this research questioning how online journalism practices in Indonesia have been both struggling and implementing the gatekeeping mechanism in producing and disseminating news. This research is focusing on how the gatekeeping mechanism is conducted by Liputan6.com and Detikcom.

### **Post Truth Era and Information Disorder**

Modreanu enlightens the concept of post truth has been existing for more than a decade. In fact, the post-truth era has emerged because of several long-cycle trends that affect how we make sense of the world around us. This phenomenon - agnotology, is a study of culturally induced ignorance or doubt. Nowadays we have truth, lies, and some sort of statements that might be false, but are contemplated too benevolent to be really precluded. We'd rather use "the truth improved." The political precision lead us to a bizarre impersonation (2017).

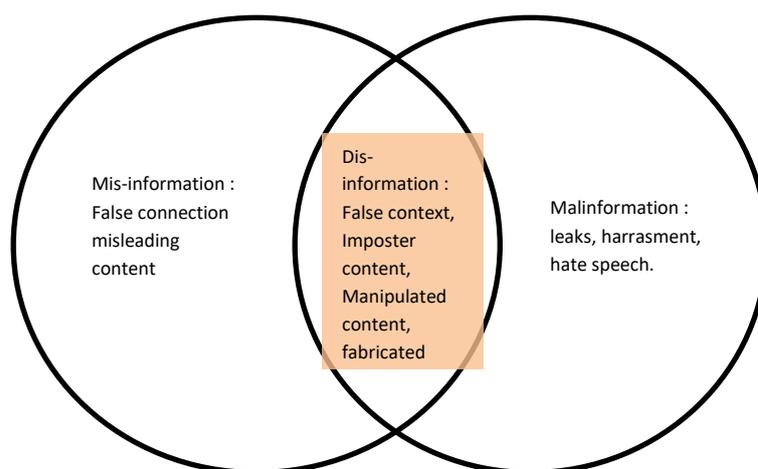
In the year of 2016, Oxford make the term "post-truth" as the "Word of the Year". It is because the use of "post truth" arose 200% compared to 2015. Oxford dictionary define post-truth as condition where facts less useful in opinion making. This occurrence culminating in political moment driven by the emotional sentimentality as brexit and Trump election. Aside from hoax dissemination, post truth era also marked the hesitation of the media and the journalist in dealing with questioned statements from politician (2017).

Manan in Artini stated whether the report of AJI (Aliansi Jurnalis Independen) in 2018 "*Ancaman Baru Dari Digital*" initiated digital media as inevitable transformation for the demand of the market as well as the technology development. However, this occurrence is emerging big consequences toward modern media, in line with the demand of journalism quality (2019).

The consequence of the digital era, in the contexts of polarisation, the risks eclipsing the role of journalism. Even more, the journalism based on variable information shared in the public interest can itself become discredited when precautions are not taken to avoid it being manipulated. When journalism becomes a vector for disinformation, this further reduces public trust and promotes the cynical view that there is no distinction between different narratives within journalism on the one hand, and narratives of disinformation on the other (2018).

Numerous studies discuss 'fake news' and emphasize two concepts: misinformation and disinformation. Nonetheless, a study on 2018 explicates disinformation as a part of information disorder. Other two parts are; misinformation and mal-information. Misinformation is defined as false information however the person who is disseminating it believes that it is factual. Disinformation is false information nevertheless the person who is disseminating it comprehends it is false. Furthermore, mal-information defined as information that is based on reality excluding it is used to destruct a person, organisation or country.

The authors of the study, Wardle and Derakhshan, initiate the concept as follows :



**Figure 1** : Information Disorder Concept

### **Gatekeeping Mechanism in Online Journalism Practice**

Tapsell concluded whether the term convergence is of course not new in this digital era, however through digitalisation of media entities, which were previously specialised, the future of media in Indonesia is large multiplatform news providers. This has numerous implications for media freedom, including increased concentration of ownership (2014).

Conversely the dialog about media freedom lead us to a conclusion whether everyone is nowadays, an eyewitness (2015). This occurrence will somehow emerge the question, whilst everyone is the eyewitness, what is the journalists? So this prexcision will provide new approaches for journalism, the concept of online journalism.

Allan and Matheson inductee the concept of online journalism in their study (2004) henceforward the big picture of online journalism are fulfilled by : (a) the online newsroom, (b) practices of newsgathering and writing, also (c) news texts and contexts.

According to Allan and Matheson, the changes in newsroom – converted to online; are not merely about technology expertise. There is also cultural pressure upon news organisation (2001). Within online news packages, the news product can simply become more unsolidified, and the chore of the journalist include more arranging of script, sound, motionless images also audiovisual. The multimedia coverage emerging on news sites; termed as ‘backpack journalism’, where a reporter on assignment conveys a range of equipment for further editing in the newsroom (2002).

According a study by McAdams, a journalist with minor experience in online world minds to consider in terms of stories even news value that are worthy to be consumed. However a correspondent or photo journalist with a lot more proportion of online experience, will contemplate more about networks, corporation, movement within and among series of information, and communication among different people (1995).

Online journalism, is an ideal model of the supercession of industrial clock time. In the years to come, we might see some online journalists finding themselves operating much further from the codes of objectivity, preserving judgements of sequence in the writing and editing. Therefore unlocking the door to the ideal gatekeeping mechanism is very significant.

Paula Shoemaker initiated the concept of gatekeeping mechanism back in 1996 to 2001. According to Shoemaker gatekeepers evaluate and interpret information, gatekeepers also decide what will appear in the media. Shoemaker originate the concept of gatekeeping below:

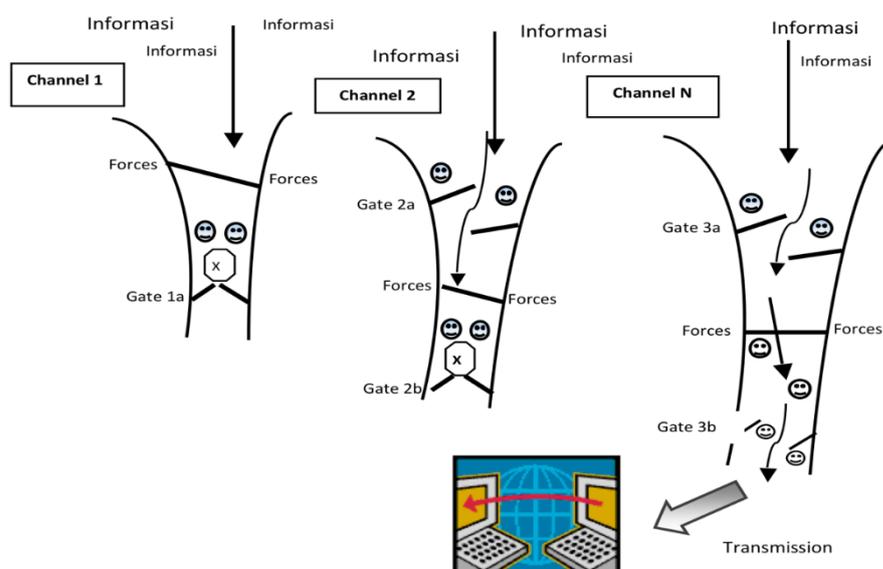


Figure 2. The Basic Concept of Gatekeeping Mechanism

The basic elements of figure 2 illustrate substances related to the gatekeeping process, not all items are selected. Some of them go through channels that are sometimes

still divided into sections, which can only be passed through the gates. Gatekeepers can be manifested in various formats, for example humans, professional code of ethics, company policies, and computer algorithms. All gatekeepers always aim to make decisions, nonetheless having different degrees of authority (2009).

Febrianita, et al. concluded whether gatekeeping mechanism is the core of the news. The procedure involving gatekeeping activity that is functioned to select and sort, to eliminate, to reduce, also to exclude and decide what information is agreed to be included in a news package until the news goes live and is conveyed to viewers (2017).

According to Doris Graber (2009 : 205), the criteria in selecting information are :

- a. Strong Impact. To be included in news selection, an information must have the capacity in describing phenomenon that will be impacted strongly toward audience. Local phenomenon is more effected toward audience compare to less unknown international news.
- b. Violence, conflict, disaster and or scandal. Certain topic such as homicide, war, mass shooting are more sought by the audience.
- c. Familiarity. News gets more attention if it has a problem related to the audience or if it includes a situation that is known by most of the audience. Journalists try to turn international events or crises into stories that can reconnect audiences with related phenomena.
- d. Proximity. People prefer the local news. People pay attention to the local news more than the activities relate to international or national affairs.
- e. Timeline and novelty. The information must be something withdrawn audience and not occurred in everyday life or else, not being the part of society's life, also has the novelty element.

The mechanism of online news' gatekeeping, as in multimedia news, is identical to traditional and electronic media at time it was commenced. According to Welbers (2016), print editions of newspapers are still influential gatekeepers in the contemporary media landscape. However, the power to select what the news is might no longer be limited to a small number of professional newsrooms, and instead more spread out over various, autonomous news outlets.

Looms clearly stated gatekeeping in digital media other than television is pervasive and its nature is neither well-documented nor comprehended by the population. Gatekeeping need not be subtle if the control mechanisms are see-through and the implications are well-defined. There are three elements to reinforce the clearness of and in gatekeeping : (a) make full use of the legal and regulatory mechanisms, (b) make full use of investigative journalism and academic research to understand the works and consequences of the gatekeeping, also (c) create a greater awareness of media production and distribution in education field.

**METHOD**

This type of research is qualitative. Qualitative research intends to understand the phenomena by means of descriptions in the form of words and languages, in a particular natural context and by utilizing various scientific methods (2016). Researchers' sensitivity is needed to be able to uncover social phenomena by exerting all of their senses (2007).

Qualitative research aims maintain the shape and content of behavior humans and analyze their qualities, instead of changing them into quantitative (2008). Regarding the descriptive type, Rachmat explains that descriptive research only describes the situation or event. This study does not seek or explain relationships, do not test hypotheses or make predictions (2002: 24).

Liputan6.com is selected as research object because since July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Liputan6.com was declared to have passed the International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) verification along with 54 media organization throughout the world.. Liputan6.com since then is being the part of IFCN's initiative to fight false news, false information or hoaxes in the society.

All IFCN verified media organizations are required to carry out five principles, which are : (a) commitment to the non-partisan and fairness principle, (b) commitment to transparency of sources, (c) commitment to funding and organizational transparency, (d) commitment to methodology transparency also (e) commitment to open and honest corrections.



Figure 3 Liputan6com' page containing International Fact Checking Feature

On the other hand, Detikcom is selected because often preserving errors in writing online news. Bayu examined whether Detikcom errors also occurred on data or statements of news resource persons. This kind of errors should be rectified through revised news, not by erasing and replacing them with the newfangled news (2018).

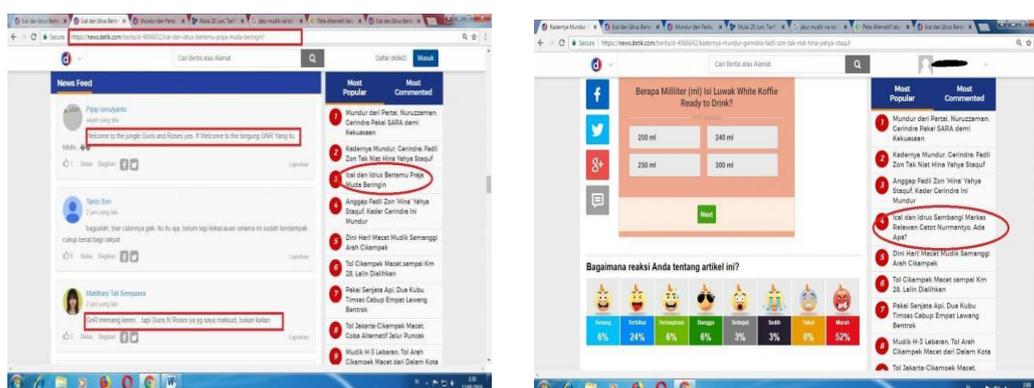


Figure 4 Before and After Deleting Post by Detikcom

According to Dewan Pers Regulatory *No. 1/Peraturan-DP/III/2012* there are Guidelines for Cyber Media Coverage, such as : (a) Erratum, correction and/ or the right to reply should be linked with the revised news, (b) in any news correction must insert the correction's time of uploading also state an apology according to the Pasal 10 Journalistic Code of Ethics (*Kode Etik Jurnalistik*). Therefore, Detikcom has been inappropriate in uploading and erasing the news.

The technique in selecting informants used in this research is purposive sampling method; which is selecting the informants according to the necessities of the author(s). The informants in this study are: (1) DM, Multimedia Manager of Liputan6.com (2) TN, vice of chief editor of Detikcom.

## DISCUSSION

Chin-Fook (et all) inspired by Shoemaker & Vos gatekeeping model; acknowledged that the digital era is increasing the opportunity for the interactivity and two-way conversation. This validated the possibility for others to participate in the dialogue, interacting directly with businesses, institutions, and newsmakers. This idea is the multidirectional flow by which the everyday individuals, the networked individuals, the professional communicators, and the institutions all have the potential to influence one another and the flow of information online. This model initially conceived to profound the audience to also relates in the idea and the decision making (2011).

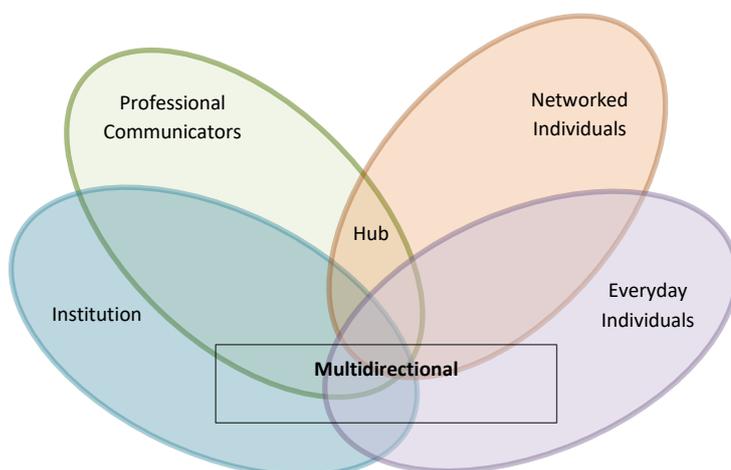


Figure 5. Multidirectional Flow of Gatekeeping Mechanism

According to DM, in Liputan6com everyone in newsroom and termed as journalist are able to initiate the idea or topic of coverage although not everyone is delicate for the ability in decision making. DM emphasize whether gatekeeping mechanism in Liputan6com has always been started from the projection meeting. The multidirectional flow model is adequated to the occurement in Liputan6com working environment.

However, the news angle assortment is determined by the editor in chief also the head of multimedia. DM conferring that the agenda setting has always been the part of the decision making in any news projection, news angle or else news framing since never have ever the media been in neutral place. Nevertheless, DM emphasize that it it always depends on the media paradigm where and to whom the media will choose sides.

McQuail examined that the gatekeeping concept, despite its usefulness and its potential for dealing with many different situations, has a built-in limitation in its implication that news arrives in ready-made and unproblematic event-story form at the 'gates' of the media, where it is either admitted or excluded. The gatekeeping framework is mostly based on the assumption, , knowable reality of events in the 'real world', from which it is the task of the media to select according to appropriate criteria of representativeness or relevance (2010).

In accordance with DM statements, TN counterbalance the idea that the gatekeeping mechanism is not merely implemented in news production. The gatekeeping mechanism in Detikcom initial with the arrangement of the topic, as in already selected and sorted by the editorial team. The editorial team are consist of Managing Director, Vice of Managing Director, Chief Editor, Deputy of Chief Editor.

<b>LIPUTAN6.COM</b>	<b>DETIKCOM</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Gatekeepers : Anyone in the newsroom, including the coverage team on assignment</li> <li>2. The Topic : has not been decided yet</li> <li>3. The News Angle Selection : Chief Editor and the head of multimedia</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Gatekeepers: The Decision Maker/ Editorial team</li> <li>2. Topic : arranged.</li> <li>3. The News Angle Selection arranged by Managing Director, Vice of Managing Director, Chief Editor, Deputy of Chief Editor.</li> </ol>

Table 1. Projection Meeting Comparison

In news projection conceived the news values that are being believed differently by each media paradigm. This news values are delivered as consideration in deciding news angle, news projection as well the sources of information (2012).

DM stated Liputan6com has these kind of values, as follows : (a) is the phenomena attracting the audience? (b) can the information be consumed by the public or the society even some communities? (c) working rhythm adjustment between the newsroom and coverage team on assignment.

Meanwhile TN explained whether in Detikcom the news quantities are very calculated and it can be instigated in different situations, concurring to each context of the phenomena. The consideration of how the information will be appropriated to the rhythm, the flow, and the whole content of the desk also is measured. TN also deliver that the news fact adjustment can be followed. The comparison of news values consideration as delivered below :

LIPUTAN6COM	DETIKCOM
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The phenomena that is attracted the audience.</li> <li>2. The information can be consumed by the public or the society even some communities.</li> <li>3. The adjustment of the working rhythm between the newsroom and the coverage team on assignment.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The news quantities are very calculated and it can be instigated in different situations, concurring to each context of the phenomena.</li> <li>2. The consideration of how the information will be appropriated to the rhythm, the flow, and the whole content of the desk also is measured.</li> </ol>

Table 2. News Values Comparison

The online news portal can not be detached from the real time phenomena. According to the research by Sabir (et all), the media gatekeeping exposed that decision making is based on the principles of the news values, the organizational routines, the input structure and the common sense of human resources Gatekeeping is a vigorous element in the news planning. It is can also be hazardous, subsequently it can lead to an abuse of power by deciding what information to be discarded and what to let passed (2015).

TN stated there are stages that perform in Detikcom related to decision making process. When it comes to news production, sometimes the newsroom are hardly to initiate the ideal rhythm as theoretically proposed.

The stage of the problem identification usually discovering troubles such as; unpredictable events or occurements, the false information or else improper informants. For big events or occurements, categorized as disaster or else crisis, the number of the team are sometimes not available enough to be assigned.

Detikcom, as it is named very clear in the idea that every second is counted in producing the news, it is mentioning the quantity of the uploaded news, as well the promptness. Another problem is disturbed when it is come to the clarification. Detikcom always willing to preserve the real-time news, therefore, some incident of correction as a result from the velocity of the information itself. In this case, the decision maker in the newsroom are performing the big roles.

Nevertheless, the gatekeeping is often a routine, guided by some set of standard of questions. The gatekeeper's selections are a complex grid of influences, preferences, motives and common values. Gate keeping is inevitable and in some circumstances it can be useful. The development to the internet has expanded the views regarding to the gatekeeping process, since anyone or organization can upload anything in the internet (2015).

TN specified whether the solution defining is also executed by the decision maker in the newsroom and in the media. This occurement is the opposite of the promptness principle itself. Anyhow, the decision maker in making and processing decision by reviewing the

relevant information. Therefore, the decision maker propose the policy of channel “Hoax or Not”.

However based on research conducted by Aristiarini, it is showed that the obstacle of Channel “Hoax or Not is relied on the responsive team. This team is the same team who have the responsibility to manage DetikNews. Furthermore, the news value between society and the management team of the channel are barely related, since it is very subjective (2017).

DM explaining the similar information relate to the decision making process. However, in Liputan6com provide peer review in decision making. This means, people on the same level or higher, aside from the decision maker circle are able to present the feedback on idea and solution that is being offered by the decision maker. The decision making process of both media categorized below :

LIPUTAN6COM	DETIKCOM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem identification,</li> <li>• Solution defining,</li> <li>• Reviewing relevant information</li> <li>• Peer Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem identification,</li> <li>• Solution defining,</li> <li>• Reviewing relevant information</li> </ul>

Table 3. Decision Making Process Comparison

Bruns explained in his research whether the development of technology information is biased the online journalism practice itself. However Bruns argued that in someway journalists have the ability to create a significant contribution to the collaborative efforts at working the story. The chances are, however, journalists must accept what is irreversibly disoriented from journalism’s awareness: the part of journalists as gatekeepers of the information (2011). DM emphasize whether Liputan6com not always being in the front of the information line. Most of time, the decision maker are considering the factual side of the information. Therefore Liputan6com sometimes are left behind from the other online news portal in presenting the breaking news in online media.

As the member of the IFCN (along with Tirto.id), Liputan6com giving the space of the readers to interact and join the news correcting, rectifying the facts by providing the features of fact checking. According to DM, this broaden the mediasphere to do the concept of gatewatching, whereas the journalists are not the only keeper for the information.

Along with this phenomena, Bruns added the development of a balance between the generation of original, valuable news content, injected into what is now a shared, distributed, decentralised newshole that exists across multiple online and social media spaces and platforms, and the curation of available materials from internal as well as external sources in ways that are unique and add enough value to attract news users.

Both TN and DM delivered the message whether in the news producing, gatekeepers must have the ability in news production experiencing, understanding the business, exploring the frame of references in many fields, as well comprehending the company ideology are basic elements in filtering the information.

Wallace, in other hand, argued that classic gatekeeping theory is no longer adequate in describing contemporary news selection processes online and that recent gatekeeping approaches. First, journalists, individual amateurs, strategic professionals and algorithms were identified as gatekeeper archetypes that differ in access, selection criteria and the framing of information, and the publication choices. Second, publication spaces are uncoupled from gatekeepers. Third, a digital gatekeeping framework was resultant to model the four gatekeeper prototypes and their selection processes in relation to platforms employing collaborative gatekeeping mechanisms (2017).

<b>LIPUTAN6COM</b>	<b>DETIKCOM</b>
1. News Editor	Script Writer
2. Visual Editor	Script Editor
3. Managing Director	Video Editor
4. Manager of Multimedia	Vice of Managing Director
5. Special Topics involving the News Manager	Managing Director
6. The Peer Review	Deputy of Chief Editor
	Chief Editor

Table 4. The Gatekeepers in News Room Comparation

However in 2018 Fereirra re-evaluates the relevance of the concept of gatekeeping in the 21st century. He argued that, in an age marked by new media and digital journalism, a classical understanding of the concept of gatekeeper will narrow the scope of the study of journalism and its relationship with the public, his research also showed the suitability to conventional values and practices of journalism.

TN stated whether the struggle in the gatekeeping mechanism is hardly to be avoided. In multimedia world and engaged to digital era, the outbreak of feedbacks and the responds are not a new things to be dealt with, this similar to the necessity of the speed in delivering story. Therefore TN considered Detik20 a good offering for the situation. According to TN, whilst other stories are in the phase of filtering and being sorted, the news portal reader will be able to consume related information.

<b>LIPUTAN6COM</b>	<b>DETIKCOM</b>
Video Journalist(s) Reporter(s) Videographer(s-everyone on every level can be videographer, if necessary) Reportage Coordinator(s)	Reporter(s) Photographer(s) Video Journalist(s) Reportage Coordinator(s)

Table 5. The Team Of News Coverage/ The Gatekeepers On Assignment Comparation

DM emphasizes whether the struggle in the team must dealing with is the pace of the information and how everyone with social media account is now being able to post, edit, and uploading also downloading almost anything. However DM argued that as long as the online news portal are being able to be objective, factual checked, persistent also consistent in

telling story and delivering news, readers will decide to always follow the news of the media itself.

## CONCLUSION

The gatekeeping mechanism has always been like a chocolate candy with a surprise center during the journalism practices. Era after era, generation after generation, the gatekeeping mechanism has always been reflecting profound idea and new concept anticipating to be more developed by academics and practitioners. Yet the gatekeeping mechanism is also a challenge for the online news portal in Indonesia, specifically, to be performed. This occurrence relates to the perspective of the political economy of the media.

This research concluded the gatekeeping mechanism of Liputan6.com and Detik.com as follows: (a) Liputan6.com conducts traditional gatekeeping yet gatewatching for the reader(s), meanwhile Detik.com platforms processing journalism, (b) both media stated information selection based on certain criteria, (c) Liputan6.com uses SCTV East Java Bureau for preserving local news, Detik.com has representative in the back office and the news management in East Java for the local news, (d) both media having the awareness whether selecting information leading to online news terms and phenomenon nowadays.

This research somehow is encouraging other authors to do research on the gatewatching roles conducted by the news audience or else to research the effectivity of the news projection and the implementation of online news gatekeeping mechanism. To accomplish the data triangulation between the decision maker in the newsroom and the coverage team on assignment is also a recommendation.

## NOTES

Interviews conducted for this research were semi-structured and accomplished with the informants using phone interview and via chat application on December 2018 and July 2019. Two people were selected due to their role and experiences in convergence process in Indonesia online media companies or in the formation of future regulation policy with the concern on media convergence. Interviews were conducted in Bahasa Indonesia.

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