Public views of the fake news in the argument between media organization and Donald Trump

Haochen Guo

Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia
1871514060@qq.com

Abstract: In the white house press conference, president Donald Trump said that some of the media organizations are writing fake news, for example CNN. He uses fake new to described the news he doesn’t like. Donald Trump refuse to answer questions and interviewed that from newspaper reveal his mistakes to prevent his supporters hear it. In addition, he said fake news is the enemy of people, and he has said that CNN and other newspaper are fake news in the speech, which made newspaper become his enemy. Twitter is another place for Donald Trump publish his information. However, it is different compare to the newspaper that information goes to the reader directly without verified by professional media editor.

Keywords: Public views; argument; Donald Trump

1. Introduction

People express their opinions on social media are more like We Media, for example people publish information themselves, rather than through traditional media, such as newspaper. The content Donald Trump wrote also needs evidence and data to back up, but he cannot provide it. Jack Dorsey, a Twitter chief executive announced that there three suspicion warning on president’s tweet on June 2020. Moreover, New York Times investigate that there are at least 26 false claiming in his 139 Twitter posts between 24th and 30th May 2020 (Qin, 2020). Donald Trump now has over 80 million subscribers on Twitter, his views and ideas have a huge and direct influence to his followers. He needs to be responsible to what he said. In this paper, I am going to explore the answer that the fake news controversial between President Donald Trump and News media improve people’s vigilance towards content.

2. Body

People realized fake news debate between News media and Trump government is no different, they arguing each other basically equals to the controversy between politics and journalism. American president has to deal with the press since the first American president Washington has had a bad attitude towards the journalism (Douglas, 2018, p.230). As expected, Donald Trump also use media as his tools in the election 2016. However, George Edwards, a presidential scholar concluded that Trump provides more fake news than any other presidents (Carpini, 2018, p.35). According to the Brenan (2020), people tends to trust journalism more than government congress but less than major corporations, such as medicine and education. This situation changed when the social media come out traditional media have not stood firm yet in the social media, and it had been changed the structure. Carpini (2018, p.41) mentioned that readers Directly bypass the traditional media and talk to the public. Then content and information lack verified and certification authority from the editors. While Trump hold this chance and he uses social media to contact voter. Meantime, the journalism environment is changing affected by external factors, for example content competition with social media that facts gradually become opinions and belief; be targeted by Trump candidate that professional news become entertainment around Trump instead what he proposes (Carpini, 2018, p.38). Robinson (2018, p.320) argued, “Mainstream information exchange is subsumed by fake news driven by highly polarized networks that keep people from having dialogue across differences”. Comparing to read which is one-way disseminate, people prefer to get into it and participate with others. In 2016, based on Gallup poll that 32 percent of Americans trust news organizations and it is continuing drop (Robinson, 2018, p.323). At same time, journalism focus on the Trump’s social media speech and privacy, rather than his empirical evidence and political identity (Kreiss, 2018, p.171). Therefore, Trump has chance to build his own media announcement to against the journalism exposure his fake information and attract his voters. This also shows that the
posting fake information has low cost, and no corresponding penalties on social network. People have to beware the information they see online, be careful to make a conclusion after understand the cause and effect. Because the human social is complicated and most of information conforms to pluralism that not a simple right or wrong question. The election 2016 and 2020 are good examples that people figure out what they need to find is data and evidence but not the social media in primary. Trump lose the election 2020 is a democratic self-correction based on the traditional media keep fighting for the truth and transform structure to social media, also people realized what Trump said have no evidence to support. In election 2020, Pew research center (2020) published that over half voters choose Biden is because he is not Trump, and if Trump wins 61 percent Biden supporter will angry which is more than 37 percent of Trump’s supporter. There 11 percent of voters like Trump personality from social media than his policies and leadership performance, which Biden’s supporter did not vote for that. Biden wins the trust from suburbs where Trump did not mention in his speech and tweet (Bryant, 2020). Some of people understand that President Trump send information good for himself but not the facts about his policy, and they tend to the Biden to resolve this contradiction. People are considering the context on social media. Social media corporation also helped people to judge, they ban Trump’s Twitter in 2021 after he seems to incite crowd to create chaos in white house. To be a rational person on internet cannot avoid the lead from social media corporation and journalism.

To improve people’s vigilance towards the information on social media, we should decrease their vigilance towards the media industry first. Mainstream media losing viewers because of the over-commercials, massive misinformation comes out from social media and professional journalism industry slow transition (Pickard, 2018, p.335). News media organizations stepping into social media field is certain. The fake news debate also gives traditional media a tip to rebuild the relationship with publics. Boczkowski & Papacharissi (2018, p.9) stated, “media played an important role in the both the news and social media individually”. Journalism should use social media to interact with people, send photos, reply a comment, and even write some words with self-conscious but not divorced from the will of the whole organization. Trump becomes a good example for journalism to think about what kind of relation with the people in the social media. Although, Donald Trump’s tweet lack factual basis, but he truly builds the connection bridge with his followers and his political faction. News media organization relatively have more choice of online connection. Schudson (2018, p.83) introduced what a journalism should do, first, correct and apologized for misstatement, second, stick the professional ethics such as be accurate, find a contrary evidence, follow the story not the evidence, furthermore, journalists should have some recognizable characteristics for example, be calm in controversial subject, provide different viewpoints for audiences and use trusted sources. These is not enough or incompatible for social media where people sharing life time. People like information about their surroundings and what they care about, which means they chose you. Therefore, on the basis of Schudson proposes, mainstream media should post more non-serious news posts close to life, for example, funny moments and subjective opinion about a movie to let audience comment. Moreover, conversation with people online, such as post and reply. In addition, add more commercial interactions what people love to see than commercial advertisements. When you get good a relationship with publics on social media, it means people might trust you, and then it is time to teach and show the standard of objective and evidenced in the news. Output the professional news media opinions and standards about the fake news will increase people’s vigilance in social media information.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, first, mainstream news media and government debate the fake news it is a good chance for people learn how to identify the information content. Politics and journalism have against each other decades, but this time is different, in 2016, president election, Trump skipped media and use social media to talk with people, meantime, traditional media have not transit success in social media, and the numbers of users is decreasing. It leads Trump occupied the most places to speak, people pay attention on his fake information but no one think about his policies and response measures. This is the mistake for news media, it also indicates that people are willing check information from their social media than newspaper. Because of the shortage in fake news considering, publics have to think their decision another four years until 2020. Second, social media company and journalism industry have responsible to help people and lead them to judge information. For example, in 2021, Trump’s twitter account banned because of inappropriate words. Media organizations have to rebuild trust with audiences through social media, so that people could see and learn the professional ability in identify the information whether in social media and newspaper. Although, subjective thoughts still predominate online society, the extreme and unthoughtful words may be decreased in a certain extent. In particular, it still depends on the operation
of the media in improving relations with the masses and conform to the developing media.

References