



Phenomenological study about “Remaja Jompo” in autobase @CollegeMenfess users at social media Twitter

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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This study seeks to understand why certain Twitter users conform to the "Remaja Jompo" (Old Teen) personal identity motif on the @CollegeMenfess autobase. Henry Jenkins' Uses and Gratification, New Media, and Participation theories are all used in this study. In addition, this study employs phenomenological research techniques to uncover the causes of the phenomena of senior teenagers. Three research subjects were chosen based on their ages, how frequently they used Twitter, how they interacted with "remaja jompo" (old teens), and how well they knew about autobase between the months of August and September because there was a correlation between these factors. These results suggest that self-expression, self-actualization, and informational needs all play a role in the motivations of older adolescents.

1. Introduction

Technological and information advancements have fueled the rapid rise of new media in the form of applications that are used to build social relationships online via the internet (Klinger & Svensson, 2015). The phenomena on social media is a type of new media development defines new media as a dynamic, flexible, and open container for diverse types of information (Rahman & Mannan, 2018). Twitter is a popular social media platform. Twitter users are thought to be open, responsive, quick to respond, and critical of the information they receive (Mannay, 2020). Aside from that, members are generally active and don't mind who they communicate with in a live forum. Autobase is a Twitter feature that was first introduced in 2016. Autobase is an account with a capability for automatically and anonymously sharing information in the form of menfess, an acronym for mention confess. Menfess is an Autobase feature that is run by a bot whose use has been restricted by the admin due to the existence of a third party. To send tweets, Menfess requires triggerwords or trigger words as keywords (Moradi Korejan & Shahbazi, 2016).

The existence of an anonymous autobase attracts users on Twitter, particularly those in the millennial or group Z group. Their fascination with the numerous genres employed on Autobase eventually led them to use it as a forum for engaging with other account users (Machlis, 2018). The instructional genre at the lecture level is one of the most popular (Twitter, 2011). The presence of issues in lecture routines, venues for self-actualization, and ways to express themselves encourages them to congregate in one autobase account, specifically @CollegeMenfess. Users discover that sending messages with complaints or queries is a means for them to express themselves as "decrepit teenagers" in the classroom. The term "decrep teenagers" refers to a phenomena that occurs among student audiences. This term is simply a slang term derived from the phenomena of slang among youths who are connected to their bodily condition at a young age but frequently face unsuitable circumstances, such as aches, fatigue, back pain, and colds as experienced by the elderly (Huang & Li, 2022). The adolescent audience writes messages in the hope of receiving a reaction in the form of

a comparable experience or encouragement from other users. Because of this autobase feature, young Twitter users can always post messages and spread information on social media sites (Burton, 2019). This study focuses on the activities of @CollegeMenfess account users who communicate on Twitter on a daily basis. Alfred Schutz popularised the phenomenological research method, which is used in this study. Schutz's views about phenomenological studies were thought to be helpful for dissecting the social reality of the time. In layman's words, phenomenology is a science that seeks to explain visible reality.

Phenomenology is a study of how humans construct important concepts and meanings within the framework of intersubjectivity, or how our understanding of the world is formed by the relationship between one human and another by connecting scientific knowledge with everyday experience (Nindito, 2005). Alfred Schutz classified two motives that underpin human acts in order to reflect a person's activities. The research method of phenomenology was chosen to determine the because-motive and in-order-to motivation of Twitter users that engage on the @CollegeMenfess autobase account, particularly netizens who connect with each other by discussing the issue of "older teenagers." It is hoped that researchers will collect empirical data from informants through a comprehensive study, and that the data collected will help to expand the repertoire of virtual communication science about subcultures or popular culture studies related to the phenomenon of elderly teenagers.

2. Method

The phenomenological approach, as defined by Alfred Schutz, is employed in this study to gain a better understanding of how humans develop important concepts and meanings within the context of intersubjectivity. Simply put, one's understanding of the world is developed by the relationship between one human being and another, and then by combining scientific information with everyday experiences. Alfred Schutz is noted for synthesising phenomenology scientifically, practically, and exhaustively, and for focusing on consciousness where the subject perceives, remembers, and evaluates objects (Nindito, 2005). In this situation, how young Twitter users interpret their experiences such that they might be created as part of phenomenology. When using the @CollegeMenfess autobase, they interact, the motives behind the phenomena that occur among users, and how they portray themselves in satisfying personal identification motives (Harry Fajar Maulana et al., 2022).

This study took a descriptive qualitative strategy, minimising data, presenting data, and generating findings (Zinaida et al., 2020). Primary and secondary data sources were gathered by seeking to obtain comprehensive information relating to occurrences that occurred after interviews were performed. By inquiring about numerous variables that serve as the foundation for determining the motivations behind the phenomena of old teenagers (Husain et al., 2016). The three sources chosen based on the criteria must be able to define the conditions, what the problem is, and how the sources intend to fix it. Such as the primary motivations for using Twitter, the time spent interacting on Twitter, their interest in anonymity as a means of expressing themselves, and how they feel after utilising the confess tool and receiving affirmation from other Twitter users (Solihin et al., 2021).

Qualitative research is based on data collection techniques that are then analysed by reducing the collected data into a detailed report after selecting the core (Sumardiono, 2022), reducing and summarising it into details that are considered important, and then drawing conclusions according to established procedures so that they can be accounted for (Surya et al., 2021). The descriptive form of this research employs Henry Jenkins' New Media theory, Uses and Gratification theory, and Participatory theory to support the informants' explanations or descriptions into the chosen theory (Auemaneeikul et al., 2020).

The @CollegeMenfess autobase account as a means of fulfilling self-identity is the subject of this study. Teenagers aged 18 to 24 years old, living in the Yogyakarta Special Region province, possessing a Twitter account, and interacting on the @CollegeMenfess autobase account page to submit menfess at least once a week were the research subjects. Face-to-face interviews were done at different times for each interviewee. The first interview took place on August 23, 2023, at a cafe in Yogyakarta City. Aside from interviews, data was gathered by gathering proof of the resource person's participation in communicating on the @CollegeMenfess autobase account.

3. Result and Discussion

The purpose of this study is to use qualitative methodologies to discover the motivations behind the phenomena of old teenagers. The interview method is used in the data gathering strategy to answer the motivations behind youth activities and interactions in the @CollegeMenfess autobase. In presenting the data, the researcher employed a descriptive method that was thoroughly discussed to grasp the concept of teenagers being anonymous on Twitter. The research findings will be presented in depth in the following sub-chapter.

4.1. Presenting the Results

The motifs in this study were derived from data from face-to-face interviews done by researchers with informants. The informant described the social acts as a process that produced meaning. The employment of the theoretical framework correlates with the motivations of each informant in social media activities. Twitter, as a social media platform, has interactions in which users subscribe to one of Marshall McLuhan's theories. One of the theories used to understand the major structures that occur in human existence is cold media theory or cool media.

McLuhan divided media into two categories: hot media and cold media. Hot media is media that demands focus to understand since it contains all of the information and does not allow the audience to participate in fulfilling their information needs. Meanwhile, visual information is scarce in cold media. Cold media has a high level of participation as a media because it allows the audience to become a part of the media without having to re-imagine what they receive because the information they receive is complete. This is based on the level of influence on media viewers (Munandar & Suherman, 2016). Because of the high level of user interaction, Twitter autobase falls under the cold media category in this scenario. As a result, online disinhibition develops.

In the production of social acts, there are two processes in the form of motives, which refer to the reasons individuals carry out these actions. Schutz categorises it as having two motifs: Because Motive and In-Order-to Motive (Hadit Prasetyo & Purnamasari, 2021). Because-Motive is an activity that refers to the past, or in other words, an action performed by someone must have a cause from the past when that person performed the action. According to the theory, the three informants' participation in Twitter was their way of responding to the rise of New Media.

According to Henry Jenkins' Participation Theory in Social Media, the occurrence of collaborative problem solving is a sort of cooperation in a group, both formally and informally, to produce new knowledge. Circulation is a type of participation that produces the flow of information in the media to sharpen the information in it (Domingo et al., 2015). Expectations emerge from mass media or other sources when someone engages in an activity to carry out interactions so that they finally meet their expectations for a need they are looking for (Elvianto, 2014). However, they chose Twitter as a medium of contact for a variety of reasons.

The first reason is the information-filling process. When the three informants used Twitter, they used it to find the information they wanted. One of them is completing lecture-level information. Concerning assignments, prospect information, the procedure of accepting new students, and the everyday operations carried out on each institution. This is demonstrated by the number of tweets they have marked and retweeted on their Twitter account. The second reason they use Twitter is because of activities in lectures that prompt them to want to voice their complaints with other users anonymously.

Two of the three informants felt connected to the phenomena of decrepit teenagers, which had become a hot topic of discussion on the @CollegeMenfess autobase. Many more anonymous users share their sentiments. They believe they have been gathered in a single container that is meant for the same purposes in the sphere of lectures, namely the Colle account. Despite the fact that there are many other comparable autobase accounts, @CollegeMenfess is the largest account they are aware of that covers college concerns. It was derived from the outcomes of user interactions in a dialogical environment in production processes such as meme production, problem solving processes, and information circulation, as evidenced by the number of users, including informants, who contributed to answering anonymous questions via menfess.

In-order-to Motive which is a person's motivation that refers to future actions. Where the actions a person takes must have a predetermined goal. The phenomenon of the emergence of anonymous features in menfess submissions is a phenomenon that has arisen because many teenagers today are afraid of other people's judgment against them. Apart from that, they want to carry out the self-actualization process without including their real identity. Two of the three informants said that they were anonymous because they were worried about the comments that would arise when they said something wrong or when they were less accepted by their real identity. The first informant said that he wanted to get validation from other users that he was a decrepit teenager who got tired quickly and wanted to get married quickly but didn't want his college years to end in vain. Contradictory things like that are what sometimes trigger other people's comments to comment harshly on other users. The second informant said that he just wanted to send a statement containing complaints or entertainment in the form of a starter pack related to college activities but did not want his identity to be known if the narrative he sent was not pleasing to other people's opinions. Using the Uses and Gratification theory, this second informant also wanted to seek satisfaction from other people's responses conveyed through the reply column. Because he doesn't always send serious messages containing questions.

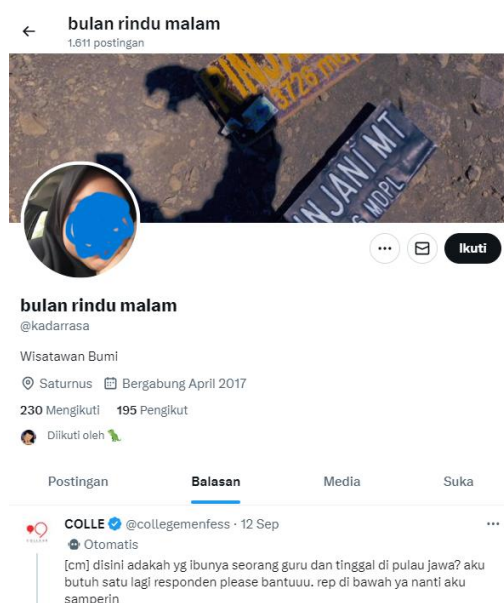


Fig 1. Kadarrasa profile on Twitter

The researcher recruited three participants to serve as informants in this investigation. On the matter, one informant, SR, a former Communication Science student at a university in Surakarta, acknowledged to using Twitter under the handle @kadarrasa. SR adopts the identity of a student who enjoys photography with an aesthetic theme while adhering to the principle of anonymity. SR uses her current username because she enjoys poetry and considers herself a sanguine. Her main reason for using an anonymous account is because she wants to obtain validation from other people without having to worry about indirect comments from other users, that she enjoys beautiful things, and that there is no correlation between her background and the things she likes. She began using Twitter in 2016 and has been following the @CollegeMenfess account since 2018, when she was a new student, and she continues to follow the @CollegeMenfess autobase.

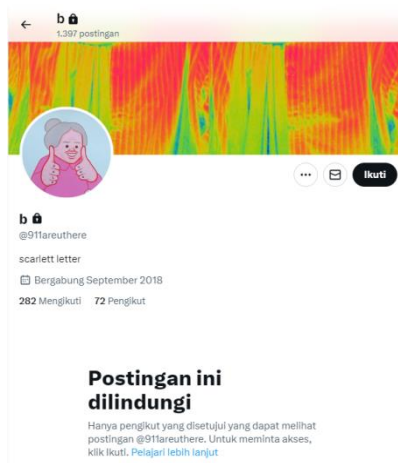


Fig 2. RM's Profile with @911areuthere username

The second informant, RM, attends a state university in Yogyakarta. RM uses the account @911areuthere, her identity is anonymous, and she defines herself as a student with the label of a humorous adolescent because her tweeting activity implies that she is a teenager. She safeguards her account based on the reasons she chose this particular identity. Aside from that, she make her account private so she could freely express herself on Twitter without being read by many other users. RM is a member of Generation Z who is well-informed about current events. She uses an animated avatar as her username since she does not want her identity to be known by anybody other than those closest to her. Her account features various items that do not always include educational elements or her activities as a student, therefore she utilises Twitter for enjoyment and entertainment. Since she began studying in 2020, her daily life as a student has inspired her to begin following the @CollegeMenfess autobase.

IS is the final informant, whose user name cannot be revealed for privacy reasons. IS first discovered Twitter in 2020, when she was experiencing fomo (fear of missing out) and didn't want to lose out on her buddies. IS is not always up to date and frequently uses Twitter. IS, on the other hand, is intrigued and follows the phenomenon on the @CollegeMenfess autobase, which talks a lot about the world of lectures. IS attended a private university in Yogyakarta. Her current job is as an elementary school teacher in Yogyakarta. Her account has a real identity and does not employ anonymous labels, yet she still uses anonymous aliases when interacting with other Twitter users. She believes that she should continue to use her original profile in order to remain loyal to herself, but that she may use the anonymous option for the objectives she need without being judged. She says she wants to preserve her original profile to stay herself, but that she can utilise the anonymous option for the objectives she need without being criticised.

4.2. Twitter Activity and Responses

On this study, three informants described their Twitter activity. When they access Twitter, the intensity with which they use Twitter, their participation in interactions, and the number of times they send menfess to the @CollegeMenfess autobase all influence their Twitter activity. This is consistent with participation theory, which states that providing comments and sending narratives containing criticism and suggestions are activities that are included in the process of information production and information consumption, which no longer has boundaries between the two. Where users can become producers or consumers of the dispersed information (Jones & Hafner, 2021). The occurrence of benign disinhibition or disinhibition that interprets a positive form of online disinhibition where this form of disinhibition is open and provides positive feedback from online new media users (Bovet & Makse, 2019). Rather than focusing on the message communicated, the theory of uses and gratification focuses on the audience as the object that consumes mass media. This theory also explains why and when audiences as media consumers become more or less active in utilising media as a result of the repercussions of doing so (Morissan, 2015). Similarly, there is follow-up on informants' hopes for developing a culture of social media involvement. They sometimes feel compelled to do something else in order to obtain answers to the different questions

they have expressed through Menfess, but the responses from other users fall short of their expectations.

As an informant in the creative field, SR's first informant is obliged to constantly monitor changes on social media. Apart from her personal time, SR has been struggling with his social media for quite some time because her profession demands her to constantly track new trends on social media. She spends virtually the entire day on social media. She does, however, spend a significant amount of time both during the day and at night. She responds to menfesses that interest her with short or long narratives in the form of tips or jokes depending on the subject of the menfess, and she can send up to four menfesses every month. Her Twitter activity highlighted her goal of finding peers as a new student. She responds that if the responses of other users do not match what she expected, she will look for friends on other platforms or autobases.

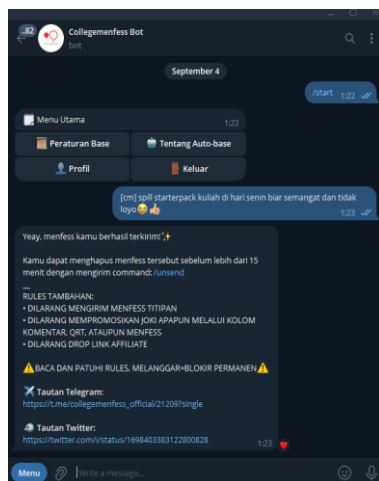


Fig 3. Menfess Send Through Autobot Telegram

For RM, who is an enthusiastic student, the activities she conducts in lectures are often overwhelming. RM claimed that she was formerly a passive user but has now become more active due to her need to air her grievances. Twitter is a place for him to find entertainment and relax after a long day of lectures. The most popular time to access Twitter is in the evening, after university activities have concluded. RM frequently interacts by sending tales with meme images in the reply column of a menfess and can send up to two menfesses per week. Because the purpose of sending a menfess inviting others to respond is not always busy, it will only check for answers from other users via comments straight from the reply column on one of the menfesses.

Furthermore, IS, a member of the teaching faculty, stated that her Twitter participation was purely recreational rather than a search for information, which she claimed was always circulating and up to date. IS's daily life prevents her from using Twitter at any moment and forces her to be flexible outside of her teaching hours, when she utilises it from afternoon until nighttime. IS's participation took the shape of two comments, and she tended to submit brief tales in the form of ideas expressed in response to other anonymous users.

4. Conclusion

The findings of this study are conclusions on a new media phenomena that is gaining popularity among many users, namely the social media platform Twitter. This study explains why this phenomena of elderly teenagers has become so popular, owing to the large number of anonymous Twitter users. Their various circumstances explain their motivation for accessing and using anonymous identities, as well as their relationship to decrepit teenagers. There are two cause motives (because-motives) that are previous motives that can be determined by using menfess to convey complaints. First, consider the motivation for gathering information. The concept of supplying information to the three informants is inextricably linked to their function as members of the current generation, where the majority of their lives are spent participating in the development of new media. They use autobase as a container or community for many types of information from diverse people.

This information can take the shape of course information such as lecture schedules, lecture materials, or information regarding the final assignment they are currently working on. Second, they indicated that the activities in lectures prompted them to express their feelings. They channel it in whatever form it takes as part of the process of channelling unpleasant feelings like as exhaustion and tension that they experience after their lecture activities sap their intellect and energy.

The following motive is the order motive (in-order-to motives), which is a person's motivation that alludes to future activities, in this case the usage of anonymity when using social media. First, they felt that anonymity allowed them to express themselves more freely. As a result, the birth of the phrase decrepit adolescent is a depiction of their inconsistent self-identity. Informants were concerned about the consequences of what they said with the identity of a decrepit youngster, which often had pros and cons, so the informant opted to communicate it through an anonymous autobase. Second, there is a desire to be validated and recognised as a means of gaining self-satisfaction through interactions with other users.

The different activities carried out by users, including informants, on the capabilities available on Twitter demonstrate how interactions occur in this new media era. How can they carry out online disinhibition in the form of benign disinhibition, in which users open up to each other and interact voluntarily and knowingly sharing their experiences with people they have never met before? The distribution of information via social media activities demonstrates substantial changes in the delivery of information that was previously only available through select parties or conventional media. Different backgrounds have different purposes for establishing self-identity.

According to the research findings, modern society, particularly the current generation, enhances the notion of social phenomenon as humans want to make sense of every action they take. A motive is defined as a sense of purpose in attempting to realise one's hopes and desires. So the conclusion in this study resolves all doubts about the motivations for using anonymity and its relationship to self-identity as an aged adolescent.

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