



## The Influence of Digital Literacy Skills for New Voters on Understanding Hoax News in the 2024 Election

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to determine the level of political understanding of new voters through digital literacy and also the perception of new voters towards the spread of Hoax information around the 2024 election, as well as to determine the relationship and influence between digital literacy skills and understanding of hoax information in the 2024 election. This type of research is a Quantitative Approach. The sampling technique used simple random sampling with a sample size of 276 new voters who had just voted for the first time in the 2024 Election. The data analysis used in this study was descriptive statistics and inferential statistics of the Correlation and Simple Regression tests. The results of the study showed that there were 51 (54.7%) new voters who had high digital literacy and 125 new voters (45.3%) who had low digital literacy. The research findings also showed that there were 179 (64.9%) new voters who had an understanding of Hoax news in the high category. Digital literacy has a significant relationship with the level of understanding of hoax news in the 2024 Election. Digital literacy skills have a significant influence on the level of understanding of hoax news in the 2024 Election.

**Keywords:** *Digital Literacy; Hoax News; General Election*

### **Introduction**

General elections in Indonesia have become an important part of the country's democratization process and are an integral part of the country's democratic system and are a means for people to elect their representatives at the national and local levels. In addition, elections in Indonesia are currently a means to determine people's representatives and state leaders, as well as to ensure active participation of citizens in the political process. The majority of participants in the election use social media to promote themselves in order to get the most votes. The use of social media for political interests is often misused by certain people to gain public attention and sympathy. Social media, which should be used to carry out literacy so that Indonesian people understand politics and know their rights and obligations in the political field, is used by some people as a medium of propaganda and provocation to bring down political opponents. (Hidayat, 2021).

Information related to the implementation of the election has created different perceptions in society. The differences in perception and political views are inseparable from the information obtained

by the public and the political support given by the public. The differences in political views themselves give birth to different camps or what is commonly called polarization (Annas et al, 2019). Various types of information that can be fraudulent information have been spread through social media. Hoax information is information whose contents are not yet clear. Hoax is a negative thing that goes beyond the limits of freedom of opinion and the delivery of aspirations, especially on social media and the internet (Simarmata et al., 2019). Hoax is an attempt to deceive readers/listeners to believe something, even though the creator of the fake news knows that the news is fake. Hoax is deliberately created to influence the public by issuing opinions that are the opposite of the existing facts, leading public opinion, forming perceptions and testing the accuracy and intelligence of internet and social media users in reading and receiving information that can result in public division.

Hoaxes and hate speech that develop related to elections can have a significant impact that can influence someone when it is time to make a choice. Therefore, the emergence of hoaxes can threaten new voters in choosing a candidate for national leader rationally and intelligently, and worrying if the public believes in hate speech and fake news so that they end up choosing the wrong legislative candidate or one that is not in accordance with their wishes (Astrika & Yuwanto, 2019). The problem that usually arises when there is campaign momentum is the large number of circulating hoax issues that are used to manipulate news for the sake of the campaign. Based on data released by the Ministry of Communication and Information, during the first quarter of 2023, 425 hoax issues were identified circulating on websites and digital platforms.

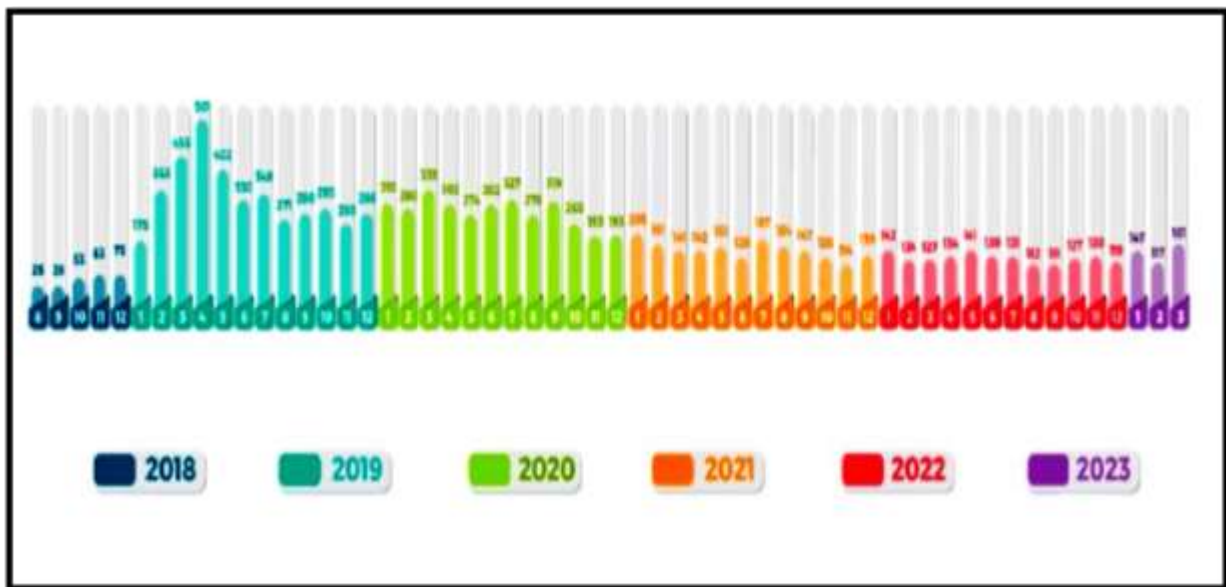


Figure 1. Hoax Issue Findings  
Period August 2018 - March 2023

Based on the data, it is known that during the first quarter of 2023, 425 hoax issues have circulated on websites and digital platforms. This number is higher than in the first quarter of 2022 which reached 393 hoax issues. In February 2023 there were 117 hoax issues and in March 2023 there were 161 hoax issues. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) Team was formed in January 2018 to conduct a search, identification, verification and validation of all hoax content circulating in the digital space. The Automatic Identification System Team is supported by an S machine that works 24 hours, 7 days a week non-stop. In total from August 2018 to March 31, 2023, the Ministry of Communication and

Information's Automatic Identification System Team has identified 11,357 hoax issues. (<https://www.kominfo.go.id>).

Therefore, to avoid the negative effects of the massive spread of hoaxes, literacy skills, especially digital literacy, need to be instilled in Indonesian society. Training and knowledge about media literacy encourage people to be more careful about information disseminated on the internet, especially fake news or hoaxes (Maqruf, 2021). Digital literacy is defined as the knowledge and skills needed for professional development and active participation in a technology-based society. Digital media literacy is a requirement that must be possessed by the younger generation, especially new voters, in dealing with political news that they receive through technological devices such as the internet and social media (Wahyuti, 2019). Digital literacy can have a significant impact on the management of social media for the community, especially millennial youth, enabling the community to better understand and manage the news that is spread. This will make the community more selective in receiving information and be able to process hoax news properly so as not to cause public unrest and create a positive atmosphere for the 2024 election.

One of the most highlighted voters today is the young voter. The media shows that young voters, who have more than 60% of the vote, determine the victory of a political party. Based on the requirements for election voters, not only parents can participate in the election contest, but young voters can also participate. According to the publication of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2023), an exploration of the potential number of young voters (voters aged 17-39 years) using the Population Census database aged 15-39 years and data on the number of voters from the General Election Commission (KPU) totaling more than 190 million voters. It is assumed that voters aged 15-39 years when the Census was conducted in 2020 amounted to 54 percent. Using a projection 4 years after the census was conducted, it is projected that voters aged 17-39 years will number around 60 percent. This shows that young voters are predicted to be the largest voter group in the 2024 election.

Young voters in Indonesia include those aged between 17 and 20 years, depending on the applicable election regulations. After reaching a certain age, a person has the right to register and learn about the role of voting in the election (Elman et al, 2022). Young voters are one part of the election object that has a low level of political literacy. Where the attitude of young voters is still very inclined towards the majority vote rather than based on rational choices based on a vision that is further ahead (Sukmajati and Hahsun, 2019). Young voters will have great power and influence on the election results which will later affect the progress of the nation. Some of the young voters are young voters, namely voters who are voting for the first time because they are only 17 to 21 years old. Young voters have a big role in the election. The character of young voters who are still vulnerable in making decisions to vote independently is targeted by political parties in boosting votes. This is because young voters tend not to have adequate political education.

Understanding digital literacy in the implementation of the 2024 election is highly expected to overcome various hoax information that appears in responding to the 2024 election. Inaccurate information will create less conducive conditions in society. Therefore, this study will examine the analysis of understanding digital literacy towards hoax news for new voters in the 2024 election. This study aims to determine the level of political understanding of new voters through digital literacy and also the perception of new voters towards the spread of Hoax information around the 2024 election, as well as the relationship and influence between digital literacy and hoax information about the 2024 election.

## **Theoretical**

### **Digital Literacy**

Digital literacy is a form of ability to obtain, understand and use information from various sources in digital form. (Naufal, 2021) The purpose of digital literacy is to find, evaluate, utilize, and create, and communicate content or information with cognitive and technical skills. There are at least eight important things in developing digital literacy, namely: first understanding the context of using the digital world, second thinking power in assessing content, third constructive, fourth understanding network and communication performance, fifth responsible self-confidence, sixth, creative in doing new things that are right, seventh critical in responding to the counter, eighth socially responsible. (Ahmad, 2022).

Digital literacy or digital literacy is an active effort to open oneself to media so that individuals are able to interpret the information obtained, create perspectives to build new knowledge (Restianty, 2018). Digital literacy is a way for someone to be able to participate effectively in a digital environment. There are three perspectives related to digital literacy, namely: first, digital literacy as the acquisition of information skills that have developed in this century. A person is considered to have skills in information systems, considered as a required process. A person is expected to have used digital sources effectively to meet information needs, evaluate the latest, relevant and credible digital documents, and be able to elaborate such as creating online information sharing in user-based forums and various social media or online social networks. Second, digital literacy as the development of 'thinking habits'. This perspective emphasizes the cognitive aspect of a person. Cognitive factors as part of thinking ability, meaning a person's ability to process information in their head (Meyers et al 2013).

Digital literacy plays an important role in eradicating hoax news, which lies in the role of the audience's cognitive skills in the information verification process. At a higher level, digital literacy can help individuals provide alternative information from information that has been proven to be incorrect. De Keersmacker (2017) stated that the level of individual justification depends on their cognitive abilities. Individuals with lower cognitive abilities tend to be less sensitive to correcting incorrect information than individuals with high cognitive abilities. Efforts are needed to overcome this fraudulent hoax news through digital literacy. The public needs to understand the concept of digital literacy correctly. Digital competence provides important skills for the use of information media such as social media. It relies on information processing, which includes technological, reasoning, cognitive and social skills.

Digital literacy has three important meanings in communication in digital media. First, the use of digital media is increasingly intense among the public. Digital devices have become a necessity that cannot be abandoned and become providers of information without knowing the limitations of distance and time. Second, the increasing dependence of society on digital media because digital media offers solutions to every problem in society. Third, to filter the information available, society needs reading skills to get the essence of the information obtained through digital literacy (Sabrina, 2019).

According to Nasionalita and Nugroho (2020), the dimensions and indicators of digital literacy are as follows: 1) Functional Skill and Beyond related to technological operations, namely related to a person's ICT-Skills and their relationship to content from various media. The use of operational technology is also related to familiarity with technology, affordability of technological tools, use of technology and producing data, and awareness of copyright and being able to produce final products from technology. 2). Creativity is related to how we think and build and share knowledge in various ideas by utilizing digital technology. 3) Collaboration is based on the nature of digital technology itself which provides opportunities to work together in teams. Digital technology also opens a participatory process which then opens up support for collaboration. This component emphasizes individual participation in the process of dialogue, discussion and building other ideas to create understanding. 4) Communication is an effective communication process and digital literacy is closely related to the ability to share thoughts, ideas and understanding. In addition, having the ability to understand and understand the audience (so that

when creating content, they estimate the audience's needs and their impact). 5) The Ability to Find and Select Information emphasizes the ability to search for and select information. This ability is related to how to think carefully about how the information search process and use sources selectively. 6) Critical Thinking and Evaluation emphasizes that we should not only receive information and interpret information passively but should also contribute, analyze and sharpen critical thinking when dealing with information. 7) Cultural and Social Understanding is related to digital literacy practices that should be in line with the context of social and cultural understanding. 8) E-Safety is an option that guarantees security when users explore, create, collaborate with digital technology.

### **Hoax News**

Hoax which means news, information, false or fake news. Hoax is an activity to deceive, and plan to deceive, as well as tricks to deceive. The first characteristic of hoax is that it causes anxiety, hatred and hostility and the second is an unclear news source. Hoax in social media is unverified media reporting and is unbalanced which tends to corner certain parties (Fatmawati et al., 2019).

Hoaxes can have a very detrimental impact, both for individuals and society. False information can cause panic, distrust, and can even trigger detrimental actions. Therefore, it is important for the public to always check the truth of information before sharing it or acting based on it, with digital literacy the public can understand and manage information spread on social media. Literacy in this digital era is very important to discuss, because the public must have the ability to distinguish between true information and hoaxes on social media.

The word hoax is popularly used to describe a fake, false, or fabricated event. In the context of WhatsApp, hoax is interpreted as a fabricated text that is spread to readers to make readers believe in its truth. Therefore, hoaxes are not limited to news and opinions. More broadly, hoaxes also include data, photos, and even images (Yudo, 2015). Hoaxes can develop very rapidly. In a society that is not smart in using media and does not have adequate digital literacy skills, hoaxes will easily develop rapidly (Rahmawati, 2021).

Hoax propaganda can be an effective tool to denigrate enemies and foster hatred towards certain groups, controlling the propagandist's belief that their opinions are correct even though they are manipulated (Tahir, Kusmanto, & Amin, 2020). Hoaxes and hate speech that develop related to elections can have a significant impact that can influence someone when it is time to make a choice. Therefore, the emergence of hoaxes can threaten new voters in choosing candidates for state leaders rationally and intelligently. and worrying if people believe in hate speech and fake news so that they end up choosing the wrong legislative candidates or those who do not match their wishes (Astrika & Yuwanto, 2019).

### **Integration of Digital Literacy Skills and Countering Hoax News**

The ease of spreading information today has led to an increasing amount of information or news whose truth has not been proven (hoax). According to UNESCO, Hoax or fake news is currently more than just a label for false and misleading information that is disguised and spread as news. Fake news is categorized into two types of information chaos, namely Misinformation and Disinformation. Where Misinformation is information that is actually wrong but is still spread because the person who helped spread the information thinks that the information obtained is true. While Disinformation is information that is wrong but is still spread by certain people intentionally (UNESCO, 2018).

To avoid the negative effects of the massive spread of hoaxes, digital literacy is needed to prevent irresponsible practices of freedom of speech on social media, especially the spread of fake news (hoaxes). The need for digital literacy involves technological, cognitive, and social competencies in dealing with changes in digital technology. Users must be digitally literate to master the sociological, cognitive, and



pedagogical challenges resulting from increasing internet penetration. These abilities include: the ability to operate computers and access them effectively, master large amounts of information, evaluate the reliability of information, and critically assess technological devices naturally. Individuals must learn, collaborate, and solve problems effectively in virtual environments, and communicate effectively in technology-mediated social environments. Not only that, but digital literacy is also related to issues of information dynamics, intellectual property and ownership, copyright, content authenticity, and plagiarism (Eshet-Alkalai, et al 2012).

According to Potter (2001), individuals with low levels of literacy will tend to easily accept the apparent meaning of messages, which are created and determined by the media. With limited perspective, they have a smaller, shallower, and less organized knowledge structure, so they are not qualified to be used in the process of interpreting the meaning of media messages. Finally, these individuals will find it very difficult to identify the accuracy of information, sort out controversies, realize satirical content, and develop a broader perspective. On the other hand, Potter (2001) explains that individuals with high levels of media literacy will actively use a series of interpretation skills. These individuals place media messages in the context of a well-elaborated knowledge structure. Finally, they can interpret any message from many different dimensions, thus providing more choices of meaning. When individuals have a high level of literacy, they know how to select all the meaning choices and have more power and control to choose the most accurate one from several points of view (cognitive, emotional, aesthetic, and moral).

Research by Sirlin et al., (2021) proves that digital literacy is useful for identifying users who are vulnerable to misinformation, both for the sake of policy formation or social media platforms. The results of Wagner's research (2021). show that only online literacy explains vulnerability to misinformation on all topics and shows that the lack of online or digital media literacy manifests an individual's inability to distinguish between high- and low-quality online information sources. Research by Asnaria et al (2022) shows that digital literacy is important for strengthening character unity. The application of digital literacy is important for finding the right news, making it easier to obtain complete information, and making a significant contribution to minimizing the spread of hoaxes in the use of Instagram, as well as being an integral part of strengthening the character of unity. thus, reducing the impact of the spread of hoax information that can divide the nation. Research by Sya'diyah and Anggraini (2020), Anshori et al, (2023) shows that media literacy has a significant influence on the behavioral variable of spreading hoaxes in Generation Z. Political literacy influences preventing the spread of hoax information on the 2024 election

Based on above literature and arguments, following hypotheses are generated:

Hypothesis 1: Digital Literacy Skills have a significant relationship with Understanding Hoax News

Hypothesis 2: Digital Literacy Skills have a significant effect on Understanding Hoax News

### ***Methodology***

This research approach uses a quantitative approach which emphasizes more on research design, measurement, and sampling (Neuman, 2014). The population in this study was the community that was included in the category of new voters who had just voted for the first time in the 2024 Election, totaling 276. The sampling technique used simple random sampling, namely taking samples from the population randomly without considering the strata in the population. Each member of the population has an equal opportunity to be sampled. Data collection was carried out by sending a list of questions to respondents using G-Form.

The variables used in this study consist of Digital Literacy Ability with 8 Indicators consisting of 10 items developed by Nasionalita and Nugroho (2020). Understanding Hoax News with 3 indicators 11

items developed by Blöbaum, B. (2016). The study uses a Likert scale with answer options Yes with a score of 2, No with a score of 1.

Data analysis in this study uses descriptive statistics to determine the tendency of high and low digital literacy skills and understanding of hoax news among new voters which can be determined using the T-score formula, namely (Azwar, 2003):

$$T\text{-score} = 50 + 10 \left[ \frac{X - \bar{X}}{SD} \right]$$

Note :

X : The score on the scale will be converted into a T score

$\bar{X}$  : Mean group score

SD : Standard Deviation of group scores

The data from the respondents' answers were tested using the Validity and Reliability tests, the valid data results were then analyzed using the Correlation and Simple Regression Tests to determine the magnitude of the relationship and influence of the digital literacy ability variable on the Understanding of Hoax News.

## Results

The results of the T score calculations in this study are as follows:

Table 1. Distribution of T-scores of Digital Literacy Skills

Digital Literacy Skills	Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High	50	151	54.7
Low	50	125	45.3
Total		276	100

From table 1, of the 276 respondents, 51 (54.7%) new voters have high digital literacy skills and 125 new voters (45.3%) have low digital literacy.

Table 2. T-score Distribution of Hoax News Understanding

Hoax News Understanding	Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High	50	179	64.9
Low	50	97	35.1
Total		276	100

From table 2 it can be seen that of the 276 respondents, 179 (64.9%) new voters had a high understanding of hoax news, and 97 new voters (35.1%) had a low understanding of hoax news.

The results of the validity test related to Digital Literacy skills amounted to 10 question items, Understanding Hoax News 11 question items

Table 3. Validity test results

Item	Coefficient r	r table	Decision
X.1	0.195	0,1183	Valid
X.2	0.162	0,1183	Valid
X.3	0.534	0,1183	Valid
X.4	0.644	0,1183	Valid
X.5	0.583	0,1183	Valid
X.6	0.426	0,1183	Valid
X.7	0.341	0,1183	Valid
X.8	0.186	0,1183	Valid
X.9	0.423	0,1183	Valid
X.10	0.496	0,1183	Valid
Y.1	0.578	0,1183	Valid
Y.2	0.376	0,1183	Valid
Y.3	0.564	0,1183	Valid
Y.4	0.604	0,1183	Valid
Y.5	0.419	0,1183	Valid
Y.6	0.462	0,1183	Valid
Y.7	0.361	0,1183	Valid
Y.8	0.323	0,1183	Valid
Y.9	0.166	0,1183	Valid
Y.10	0.42	0,1183	Valid
Y.11	0.383	0,1183	Valid

Based on table 3, it is known that all research items are said to be valid, where the correlation coefficient is greater than 0.1183 with a sample size of 276 respondents and  $\alpha$ : 0.05. This means that each item of the Digital Literacy Ability variable as many as 10 question items, Understanding Hoax News as many as 11 question items are valid, so it can be concluded that these items can be used to measure the influence of Digital Literacy Ability for Beginner Voters on Understanding Hoax News in the 2024 Election

Table 4. Reliability test results

Variable	Alpha Coefficient	Decision
Digital Literacy Skills	0.672	Reliable
Hoax News Understanding	0.682	Reliable

Based on table 4, all research variables are said to be reliable, where the Alpha coefficient number is greater than 0.6. This means that the respondents' answers to questions regarding the Influence of Digital Literacy Skills on Understanding Hoax News are reliable.



Table 5. Correlation test results

Correlations			
		X	Y
X	Pearson Correlation	1	.384**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	276	276
Y	Pearson Correlation	.384**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	276	276
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Based on the results of the Correlation Test, the variable of Digital Literacy Skills to Understanding Hoax News has a correlation value of 0.384 with a significance level of 0.000. Thus, accepting hypothesis 1. This figure shows the magnitude of the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable, namely the relationship between digital literacy skills and understanding hoax news of 38.4%..

Table 6. Regression test results

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	12.936	1.005		12.868	.000
	X	.410	.060	.384	6.893	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Y						

Based on table 6, the influence of Digital Literacy Skills on Understanding Hoax News produces a regression coefficient of 0.410 with a p-value of 0.000,  $t_{count} > t_{table} = 6.893 > 1.65251$ , thus accepting hypothesis 2. This influence is statistically significant with a positive sign which means that digital literacy skills can contribute to understanding Hoax News, increasing digital literacy skills will increase understanding of Hoax News.

Table 7 Coefficient of Determination

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.384 <sup>a</sup>	.148	.145	1.529
a. Predictors: (Constant), X				

The Adjusted R Square ( $R^2$ ) value is 0.145. From the  $R^2$  value, it can be concluded that the Digital Literacy variable has a contribution to Hoax News, which is 14.5%. While the remaining 85.5% is explained by other variables that are not studied in the equation model.

## **Discussion**

The research findings show that 51 (54.7%) of new voters have high digital literacy. New voters with high digital literacy category can access or skills that are inherent in actively using internet facilities in their daily lives. Every time someone opens the internet, at that time the individual leaves a trace in the digital world, without exception. The ability to select, this skill involves the skill of filtering information from various sources and sharing it so that it is useful for other digital media users. The ability of new voters to select election information from each news source is high. New voters understand the intent, purpose and truth of the existing election news. New voters with high digital literacy have high analytical skills, this is because most teenagers are students who are required to think critically and adaptively in the development of the times.

New voters are familiar with technological developments so that they can access digital media easily. In line with this, digital literacy is the ability of social media users to critically and creatively filter information circulating in various media. New voters with high digital literacy will have the ability to evaluate and increase along with critical thinking skills. For new voters with a high digital literacy category, they will have the ability to distribute news on social media. What needs to be remembered is that when someone distributes information using a digital device, they have left a digital footprint. It is hoped that by knowing this, they realize that whatever they do in digital media leaves a footprint. A simple example is when they forward a message via WhatsApp, an arrow will appear next to the forwarded message indicating that the message is a forwarded message. The same thing also happens in the process of retweeting on Twitter, reposting on Instagram and others. Thus, new voters know that the distribution process carried out is also inseparable from digital footprints so it is hoped that they can be careful in carrying out the information distribution process.

The research findings show that 179 (64.9%) of new voters have a high understanding of Hoax news. New voters with a high understanding of Hoax news category understand news sources about the election, verify data from various sources to check the credibility of the news. These new voters are better able to understand the issues at stake in the election, candidate strategies, and the implications of various political decisions. When people can assess the accuracy and logic of the information they read, they are more likely to identify and prevent the spread of fake news or hoaxes about the election. New voters in this category can sort news and make wise choices in consuming information. By choosing reliable sources, such as official government websites or independent institutions. New voters have the ability to identify and distinguish between quality news and non-quality news and are able to choose information that they consider true and reliable.

Research findings show that digital literacy skills have a significant relationship and influence on understanding hoax news. Digital literacy skills contribute to increasing understanding in dealing with political hoax news received through technological devices such as the internet and social media. This empirical finding supports previous research which states that media literacy (X) has a significant influence on the behavioral variable of spreading hoaxes (Y) in Generation Z. Political literacy has an influence on preventing the spread of hoax information on the 2024 election (Sya'diyah and Anggraini, 2020; Anshori et al, 2023).

The research findings are in line with the opinion of De Keersmacker and Roets (2017) who stated that the level of individual justification depends on their cognitive abilities. Individuals with lower cognitive abilities tend to be less sensitive to correcting misinformation than individuals with high cognitive abilities. Efforts are needed to overcome this fraudulent hoax news through digital literacy. The public needs to understand the concept of digital literacy correctly. Digital competence provides important skills for the use of information media such as social media. It relies on information processing, which includes technological, reasoning, cognitive and social skills. Digital literacy can be the right and effective step by providing information about the characteristics of fake news, information control

procedures and the right actions to take when dealing with false and misleading information (Sabrina, 2019). This is what makes the importance of digital literacy very important in overcoming hoax news, especially in the process leading up to the 2024 election. Furthermore, Maqruf (2021) stated that to avoid the negative effects of the massive spread of hoaxes, literacy skills, especially digital literacy, need to be instilled in Indonesian society. Training and knowledge about media literacy encourages people to be more careful about information disseminated on the internet, especially fake news or hoaxes.

Furthermore, this study is in accordance with Potter's opinion (2001) that individuals with low levels of literacy will tend to easily accept the meaning of the message that appears, which is created and determined by the media. On the contrary, in individuals with high levels of media literacy, they will actively use a series of interpretation abilities. These individuals place media messages in the context of a well-elaborated knowledge structure. Finally, they can interpret any message from many different dimensions, thus providing more choices of meaning. When individuals have high levels of literacy, they know how to select all the choices of meaning and have more power and control to choose the most accurate one from several points of view (cognitive, emotional, aesthetic, and moral)

Digital literacy, in essence, refers to a person's ability to access, assess, and use information found online. This includes an understanding of digital technology, skills in evaluating the balance and authenticity of information, and ethics in internet use. For first-time voters, digital literacy refers not only to technical mastery but also to the ability to develop a critical attitude and caution in interacting with the virtual world. The importance of digital literacy for first-time voters is very prominent in facing the 2024 General Election. School-age teenagers and college students are groups that are vulnerable to incorrect or biased information on the internet. Therefore, digital literacy is a crucial instrument to equip them with the skills to sort and filter information that can influence their political understanding and attitudes towards the democratic process.

First-time voters who can master digital literacy are able to look beyond technological tools and understand the social and political implications of the information they encounter online. Digital literacy helps create a learning environment that provides deep insights into the role of technology in everyday life and in political participation. Thus, digital literacy among first-time voters is not just about understanding the functions of devices or platforms, but also about forming a deep and critical understanding of the impact of digital technology on society and democracy.

### ***Conclusion and Recommendation***

Digital literacy is a technology literacy movement designed to provide guidance on the use of individual digital media, including the millennial generation who are indeed proficient in using technology. The results of the study showed that there were 51 (54.7%) new voters who had high digital literacy skills and 125 new voters (45.3%) who had low digital literacy skills. The research findings also showed that there were 179 (64.9%) new voters who had a high understanding of Hoax news.

Digital literacy skills are related to the level of understanding of new voters regarding hoax news in the 2024 Election. This is proven by the results of the correlation test with a significance value of 0.000, which means that there is a significant relationship. Digital literacy has an influence on the level of understanding of new voters regarding hoax news in the 2024 Election. This is proven by the results of the regression with a significance value of 0.000, which means that there is a significant influence.

The results of the study show that there are still new voters who have low digital literacy skills and understanding of hoax news, it is hoped that the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Information, the Communication and Information Service, student communities and other institutions engaged in digital literacy such as Siberkreasi and Japelidi (Digital Literacy Activist Network) can promote education to the wider community, especially new voters, about digital literacy regularly,

especially regarding the ability to process election information digitally and education regarding the wise use of social media. The public, especially the Millennial Generation as new voters in Indonesia, should be more critical in responding to various election news information found on social media and be wiser in using social media.

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