Debate and Preference of Political Gen NET

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Abstract: The level of public participation in the electoral process is not sufficient as a reference that democracy is well established, but another process that also needs attention is the effectiveness of the electoral process. One such process is the debate. Debate contributes for voters making rational choices. millenial voters (net generation) are included in critical groups to fully determine political choices in the 2019 presidential election on the basis of information and enlightenment from public debates taht are broadcast through television media. Therefore, the object of this research was conducted on net generation of the campus at USU's FISIP, with a quantitative approach and survey method on 150 research samples. Researchers received an answer that the debate held at the 2019 presidential election became the main reference for the net generation in determining their choices.

1 INTRODUCTION

The presidential debate in 2019 as a momentum for a constructive forum in politics, is carried out not only through a television program that summarizes all the joints of technology networks but also social media: *Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Whatsapp* which is facilitated with all information. Debate implementation is one of the process of determining whether people choose because they get enough information from watching public debates or because of other factors. McKinney and Chattopadhyay (2004) state that debates contribute to voters deciding their choices rationally after being enlightened and getting information from the debate. The birth of the debate in a democratic party in the presidential election mandated by Law No. 42 of 2008 article 39, which further stipulates the provisions of the debate five times.

Debate as a form of political education for the net generation, this generation is synonymous with technology and speed in getting information is part of a rational voter group, because they live in the world at the same time: the real and virtual world. In this digital era, dignity, politics and behavior of politicians became the entertainment stage. Rhetoric is sometimes upside down with work, political forums are more filled with fashion than vision. Digitalisation through its various channels appears as

the main vehicle of the net generation communication channels and even at the same time political gossip channels (Street, 1997).

Table 1: Channel information source (Primary data, 2019).

Question	Preference	Result	%
What channels are Often used for To get Candidate information In the 2019 election?	E-mail	0	0
	Social Media	91	57,4
	Political discussion	15	6,3
	Television	44	36,3
TOTAL		150	100

Based on initial data, the objectivity of using information channels is dominated by social media, television and political discussion. The presence of the debate is an opportunity for the net generation to be able to see the direction of the problems and solutions offered by presidential candidates in the 2019 presidential election competition. Law enforcement, economics, education, human rights and infrastructure cannot be separated from national issues which today are a challenge that must be faced by the people, the net generation as a generation that has different characteristics, which cannot be separated from the modernization of technological advances in looking for sources and

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data related to presidential candidates offered by political parties.

The digital generation lives in the era of information obtained openly from the internet including options in the online market. The digital generation in the world also faces several crises and problems. The unique historical experiences of these digital generations have shaped them to have a relationship with politics and their communities as a generation who likes to live in groups (Gilman and Stokes, 2014).

Students ofFISIPUniversitas Sumatera Utara represented the net generation who participated in the 2019 presidential election, determined that the strategic issues that caught their attention to watch the debate through the available channels. While in terms of media use, of the 150 students who watched the presidential debate, 49.7% of them watched the debate using YouTube, followed by 27% through television and the rest live on Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Benoit and Airne (2005) in their research examined a comparative study on the political discourse of American presidential debate from 1976 and 1984-2004. This research used a functional theory analysis which he developed based on the ideas ofTheir concludes that there are three functions of political debate, namely the appeal, attack, and verbal defense between debates. The results showed the level of use of the functions and sub-functions of political discourse in the presidential debate in the United States affect their preferences in choosing. The function of political discourse involves three forms of statement, namely the appeal, attack, and defense which incidentally is directed at the younger generation.

Ruth Milkman in *A New Political Generation: Millinneals and The Post-2008 Wave of Protest* denies the stereotypical millennial generation that is usually considered narcissistic, selfish, and apathetic towards politics (Milkman, Ruth. 2017). America's educated millennials can actually form a new political movement that has an impact on American socio-political life. Ruth Milkman's research looks at the progressive movement of young people starting since the American financial crisis in 2008. This movement continued during the American election period won by Barack Obama as president. Young Americans take part and campaign for the direction of change that Barack Obama will bring to Americans, 2000 full-time people and 1 million volunteers working full-time. The result, 66 percent of millennials voted for Barack Obama.

The movement of the American digital generation was also felt by the impact of Donald Trump's campaign days. Together with the right wing populist movement they managed to package the issues that became the victory of Donald Trump. In addition to the increasingly active millennial generation in political movements, they also form communities and become involved in social movements.

Also conducted research under the title "Democracy 2.0: Millennial-Generated Change to American Governance" (Gagnier, 2008). The results of the study found that millennials seek forms of self-definition and channels where they can produce their own solutions to the problems of society, organizations (especially those led by millennials) by utilizing the affinity of this generation through technology and social networking. In the absence of existing social boundaries, democracy 2.0 allows citizens to build democracy through digitization as a reference.

2 METHOD

This research uses a quantitative approach with case studies in digital generation (Kathryn, 2009: 41). Quantitative approach using survey methods takes samples from the population using a questionnaire as a tool for collecting data and individuals as a unit of analysis. It can also be explained as the accumulation of basic data in a descriptive way.

Data obtained in the form of written documents and the results of in-depth questionnaires and will be analyzed using quantitative analysis with survey methods, as well as using an expansive descriptive research design in order to clearly explain the results of the study (Edelmann and Cruickshank, 2012).

This study uses two data collection techniques (Bogdan & Steven, 1992); 1) documentation to examine existing data, whether in the form of policy documents, papers, journals, or books of previous research results that are relevant to the debate and politics of the digital generation, 2) questionnaire, data was explained and analyzed through questionnaire on 150 students of the FISIP USU who had different choices in the 2019 presidential election in Medan.

2.1 Research Design

This research is based on a survey conducted on July to September 2019. The population is all majors at FISIP USU. Data collection was carried out by

direct survey to active students. This research uses purposive sampling technique according to the following criteria that respondents have the right to vote in 2019. The number of targeted respondents is 150 people. Of the 150 questionnaires, 147 were filled out and returned, and all of them were valid. The type of questionnaire given to respondents in this study was a closed and open questionnaire, preferences about their perceptions.

2.2 Description of the Respondents

Creswell (2010:24) notes that the quantitative approach is the measurement of objective data and statistics through scientific calculations derived from a sample of people or residents who are asked to answer a number of questions about the survey to determine the frequency and percentage of their responses. In Medan, there were a total of 147 respondents as can be seen in the Table 2.

Table 2: Characteristics of respondents (Primary data, 2019).

No	Characteristics of respondents	Frequency	%
1	SEX		
	Male	81	53,4
	Female	66	46,6
2	AGE		
	<20	33	25,5
	20-25	93	56,3
	25-27	21	18,2
3	EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND		
	Political Science	23	15,5
	State Administration	28	20,4
	Bisnis Administration	24	15,6
	Social Welfare	17	9,9
	Sosiology	16	8,9
	Anthropology	15	7,9
	Social Communication Studies	21	14,7
	Taxation	12	5,9

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Debate and Strategic Issues

The 2019 presidential election debate was a place for political education for the digital generation as voters. Students at USU's FISIP are a net generation

that almost all students use gadget and social media as a means to get the information they need, including their sensitivity to the sustainability of the presidential debate in 2019. Besides being an inseparable part of political objects, the net learning generation of the conditions and problems that exist in the midst of society. So they become a critical partner in the sustainability of democracy. Based on the data obtained by researchers, 147 of 150 students had watched the presidential debate and considered the presidential debate as a very important program for the community.

Table 3: Urgency of the 2019 presidential debate (Primary data, 2019).

Questions	Preference			Result	%
	A	B	C		
1.Have you ever watched the 2019 presidential debate?	Ever	Never	-	147 3 0	98,5 1,5 0
2.Is the presidential debate important?	Yes	No	-	147 3 0	98,5 1,5 0
3.Did you choose the candidates in 2019?	Yes	No	-	147 3 -	98,5 1,5 -
TOTAL				150	100

Debate is important for the digital generation and it is very helpful for them to get information and direction of Indonesia's development to the competition by competing candidates. Not only that, the digital generation is required to be more critical of the issues that exist in Indonesia. Strategic issues that were debated during the 2019 Presidential Election debates are issues that are indeed a challenge for the nation going forward. Raising strategic issues such as economic conditions, law enforcement, education issues, human rights enforcement, and infrastructure development are big issues that can have a direct impact on people's lives. The appointment of these strategic issues can become a new forum for information for the public.

Through this generation of debates, it will be judged who the candidates who really master the debate material, the problems and who are just talking. Who really is capable and who only wins popularity. Debates serve to analyze which types of information are more substantial and transfer confidence in the context of the issue, according to the challenges of different generations. Content

produced by the net generation is more likely to trust information shared by the media, both through whatshapp, facebook, and several other online media (Dabholkar and Sheng, 2012).

The awareness of the net generation in providing an assessment of the contentious issue is an advance in the perspective of political literacy. They can learn the debate theme in advance through social media or surf the internet by utilizing the devices they have. So when the debate takes place, they already know what points are the weaknesses in the issue that is the theme of the debate. When the debate is over, they can give an assessment of the arguments of each debate participant by verifying and comparing information from the sources they received (Carlin, 2004).

Raising strategic issues in the debate contestation is one way to introduce vital points that need to be addressed by elected presidential candidates going forward. That way, the net generation as part of the community can know where the nation's direction will be taken by the presidential candidates if they succeed in office. In addition, this debate event can be a test of the candidates' commitment between their words and deeds before and when they have served as president/vice president. Therefore, raising strategic issues in this Presidential Election debate is one of the right ways to oversee the candidates' commitments so that what is said during the debate is in line with what is done while serving in relation to the debated strategic issues.

The results show that the personality of the candidate is polarized in 5 types: popular, simple, decisive, honest and elitist. Joko Widodo was identified in simple candidate positioning (19.1%) and populist (23.2%). While Prabowo Subianto was identified as a candidate who was firm (24.1%), honest (26.5%) and elitist (7.1%). See Table 4.

Table 4: Validity and reliability.

Candidates	Issues	%	Personality	%
Joko Widodo	1.People Welfare	19,7	Populist	23,2
	2.Economics	21,5	Simple	19,1
Prabowo Subianto	3.Corruption	30,9	Firm	24,1
	4.HAM	11,1	Honest	26,5
	5.Investation	7,3	Elitist	7,1
	6.Environment	9,5		

3.2 Political Preferences of Net Generation in Medan City

Entering the digital era today, political education is not only obtained through formal institutionsbut also by utilizing the technological sophistication that already exists today. Opened information gates deliver the net generation to the ease of gaining access to whatever is desired. For the net generation, this information gate can influence their political preferences according to the information flow they receive.

The presence of social media that allows us to be able to communicate with anyone. Including the net generation, through social media accounts such as they can get any information posted by the political figure and communicate with them. So that the information present on the net generation social media pages is information from the political figures that they follow.

This easy access to social media also makes it easy for them to comment on, like, or even share and disseminate information posted by these political figures. So, indirectly, the net generation who participated in social media activities like this had already been engaged in passive political activity. It is said that passive political activity is because they do not actively participate in direct movements, but instead participate in disseminating information that allows others to follow that information.

In Medan, based on data obtained by researchers the net generation is more likely to follow political preferences from discussions and social media as a source of information. Not surprisingly, social media is usually used as a place of discussion, so that political shifts based on information ensued. Such a political shift is best explained as a shift in attention.

One set of symptoms replaces the other in public awareness, providing a new basis for voting decisions (Simon, 1997). Following the net generation which incidentally is the younger generation, then this approach tends to be done as a political preference of the net generation. In fact, the 2019 Presidential Election debates were held together in several coffee shops/cafes in the city of Medan, and after the debate was completed, a discussion forum was immediately made to dissect the contents of the presidential election debates.

Debate has a role to explain the personality and vision, mission and candidate's linguistic experience. The variety of messages and meanings, both explicit and implied, can be included in the debate forum. The researcher explains the attachment to the debate and political preferences of the net generation in the

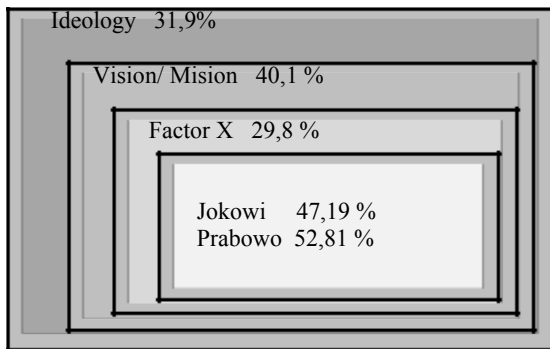2019 presidential election, namely in the scheme below (Figure 1 and Table 5).

Figure 1: The net generation political preference scheme at FISIP USU (Processed questionnaire data, 2019).

Table 5: Results and explanation of political preference schemes (Processed questionnaire data, 2019).

Candidates	Political Choice Preferences			Information	Total
	Ideology	Vision/Mision	Factor x		
Joko Widodo	16,9%	19,7%	12,1%	Factor x: Parents, other people's opinions, track record, environment, religious leaders.	150
Prabowo Subianto	15%	20,4%	17,7%		
TOTAL	31,9%	40,1%	29,8%		100

3.3 Media and Implications

More than twenty years ago, there were 3 cases that were unpopular with the government in Southeast Asia who were disliked by their people and protested through the popular resistance movement. In the Philippines in 1986, the people power movement succeeded in ousting Marcos from the presidency. In 1992 in Thailand, famous for the May Events, ousted the government of Suchinda Kraprayoon from state power, and Indonesia in 1998 (McCargo, 1999).

The media can have two clear implications of the continued debate substantially from political competition. First, the results increase the critical power of the net generation using social media related to assessment skills as the main means of the 2019 presidential election. The extent to which incumbent performance is increasingly dependent on social considerations, and the extent to which the solutive values offered by the challenger, the results of this study imply that media use finalizing the

political choices especially the net generation in Medan City. Thus, the net generation must consider increasing critical and selective values which include not only the assessment of skills and personality, but also evaluations of contributions related to their role (Chen, 2014).

Table 6: Implications based on media sources.

Majors	TV	You tube	Face book	Insta gram
Political Science	5	9	3	6
State Administration	5	13	7	3
Business Adm	5	10	5	3
Social Welfare	3	7	3	4
Sosiology	4	5	2	5
Antropology	3	9	2	1
Communication	7	11	1	2
Taxation	3	4	2	3
Percentage	**27,5**	**49,7**	**13,5**	**9,3**

The second implication is usefulness for information convenience and data speed. This research shows that the net generation is increasingly seen as a large component of the "ideal" political market of the future. So far, the debate and political preferences can be generalized to the net generation that cannot be separated from the various spheres of media use. Seeing this hegemony, the implications of the media are building partnerships to facilitate an effective transition from the baby boomers generation to the net generation.

The media as part of the process of realizing information disclosure of political preferences that consider all sub-criteria can be considered high quality in a democratic system, which can thus be considered successful by various groups taking part in the holding of elections. While the type of political topics most frequently read/ watched/ heard by respondents is political news, following political talk shows, political memes, political chat in the instant messaging group.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The net generation is a generation that has a strong sensitivity to the situation of political development, a generation which is one form of the development of the times in Indonesia. Basically, the net generation is the generation whose birth coincided with the emergence of technological advancements and is still growing today. The net generation has its own wisdom in view and understanding of politics

which is part of the sovereignty of their beliefs. This can be seen from the concept of life balance between technology and politics in their daily lives. Some things can be exemplified as their habits in using social media, information dissemination, hobby in groups or forming innovative communities.

The research also revealed that the digital generation considers political topics as important topics. However, respondents (in relatively large numbers) admit that they still follow political news, which is mostly accessed from online and television media. The political preferences of millennial generation also tend to be high. Especially their participation in becoming members and actively supporting the 2019 presidential candidates, participating in demonstrations to support or reject government policies, and contacting government people, politicians, or officials to fight for the interests of the community. The results of this study also mentioned that although most respondents had high political participation.

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