

# **Nationalism Representation on Interactive Discourse in Internet Media: Semiotic Analysis**

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**Abstract:** Nationalism is an attitude of awareness to achieve, maintain the identity, integrity, prosperity, and strength of the nation. Nationalism issues are always hotly discussed in the media. The freedom of the mass media now allows users to respond to issues of nationalism and prioritize group interests. This study aims to describe the representation of nationalism in informal communication in the form of debates on the article media through interactive discourse based on the signs and meanings of the respondent through semiotic analysis. This research is focused on linguistic data in the form of contentious texts an interactive discourse on the internet media on the issue of nationalism with the theme of rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP in Indonesia. The method used is the case study method with a grounded theory approach. Semiotic analysis in this study refers to the theory of Peirce and Organon from Karl Buhler. The findings of this research that the issue of nationalism that rolled out by the media gets pros and cons responses from the respondent based on group truth and interaction patterns tend to be anarchist. The issue of nationalism rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP was responded to by the question because it felt contrary to the truth of the group. Based on these findings, the representation of nationalism an interactive discourse on internet media tends to be one-sided. The responders no longer think in their entirety to uphold the integrity of the nation but are influenced by the interests of the group.

**Keywords:** *Penal Code Bill, interactive discourse, nationalism, internet, semiotics*

## **Introduction**

Nationalism is an attitude that must be possessed by citizens (Frost, 2006), (Doyle, Don H.; Pamplona, 2006), (Kohn, 1971), (Arfani, 1983), (Handayani, 2019), Nin Neumann, I. B. (2018). If citizens have prioritized group interests, then there is a problem in the spirit of nationalism. Nationalism is the attitude of citizens' awareness to always maintain the identity and integrity of their people without damaging the good name. As good citizens, we must have a spirit of nationalism that is not easily divided because of group interests. Nationalism is a phenomenological awareness through the unification of differences (Dua, 2000). The Orgad, 2015 (Barak-corren, N., Feldman, Y., & Gidron, N. (2018).) states that nationalism efforts are carried out through legal instruments to maintain the culture of the majority through the existence of nationalism laws.

Nationalism issues that are rolled out by the media must be responded wisely without prioritizing group emotions and truth. The internet as a medium for delivering information and is no longer a policymaker in the truth of information gives freedom of expression to its users. This is evidenced by the emergence of a variety of reader responses to interactive discourse on the internet. The various reader responses are verbal signs in the form of representamen of nationalism issues. Through Peirce and Organon Buhler's semiotic approach, readers' responses to interactive discourse on the internet can be interpreted based on verbal signs from reader comments in the form of propositions. The issue of the theme of nationalism in this study is related to the Indonesian Penal Code Bill which ended in a student demonstration on September 24, 2019, in Jakarta.

There are various comments or comments from readers regarding the controversial Penal Code. Why is the Penal RUU KUHP controversial? This is because there are several articles in the Criminal RUU KUHP indicated to destabilize the integrity of the Indonesian people, thus inviting the reaction of the Indonesian people, especially students, to voice injustice over the contents of the Criminal RUU KUHP. Among the articles of the Criminal RUU KUHP contains provisions that contradict justice and the contents of the articles are in favor of an interest. It can be stated, the pros and cons responses from readers on the issues of nationalism is an indication of a sense of nationalism in Indonesian society. Nationalism issues have been investigated by (Ningrum, 2017) regarding resistance, betrayal, and character indecision.

## **Method**

The method used in this research is a case study method with a grounded theory approach. In this study, the object to be examined is a single case. The selection of methods is based on the purpose of this case study research which is to reveal cases in the form of data that elaborate by exploring in detail, intensive, natural, and in-depth about the representation of nationalism on internet media based on semiotic analysis. This case study research method is one of the methods used to search for truth that is tentative which will reveal social and cultural phenomena regarding the representation of nationalism with the theme of rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP so that it becomes public knowledge. The Penal RUU KUHP is an actual problem that occurred recently which resulted in a student demonstration. The spirit of student nationalism arose when there was controversy in several articles of the Criminal RUU KUHP.

Case study research on nationalism issues in internet interactive discourse is not intended for generalization because it is based on the nature of the case study research itself which is limited to the types of cases, places, and time. So, based on the nature of the case study, this study only examines the behavior of internet media users in an interactive discourse on the issue of nationalism with the theme of rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP. However, the results of this study can be used as knowledge for internet media users. Although the case study area is not extensive, it is substantively very deep so that a concept, proposition, definition, model, formula, proposition, paradigm, theory and others will be obtained in supporting the development of science. Through this research, the concept of nationalism will be obtained with the theme of rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP.

The grounded theory approach used in this study aims to theorize the data. Prioritization is a method of compiling theory-oriented to action/interaction because it is suitable for use in research on behavior. This research starts from data to theory. This is in line with what was stated by Strauss & Corbin (Cresswell, 2014) as follows:

*Grounded theory is a theory inductively through discovery, developed and verified from the collection and analysis of data relating to a phenomenon. Therefore there are trade-offs from data collection, analysis, and theory.*

The data collection technique used by researchers is documentation by taking overall linguistic data about debates about student demos on internet interactive discourse sourced from detik.com and kompas.com. The process of data collection is carried out through several stages, namely determining the theme of the nationalism issue, which is about the demonstration of rejecting the Criminal Code Bill, searching for the theme in an interactive internet discourse, and taking all the linguistic data in the form of comments from the respondent. Through the phenomenology paradigm, it is hoped that this case study is a process of studying or understanding a case and at the same time looking for results because it is centered on one case.

The data source in this study is an interactive discourse on internet media. The data in this study are in the form of linguistic data about debates on the internet media regarding the RUU KUHP.

For more details, data and data sources can be seen in the table below.

**Table 1.** Data, Data Sources, and Number of Respondent Texts

No.	Data	Data Source	The number of respondent texts
1	Momen Haru ayah Beri Restu Anaknya Demo Tolak RUU KUHP Bikin Berkaca-kaca	Detik.com	82
2	Jokowi Sebut Ada 14 Pasal Bermasalah di RKUHP	Kompas.com	7
3	Pengesahan RKUHP Disarankan Ditunda Karena Banyak Pasal Bermasalah	Kompas.com	3
4	Salut! Ernest Puji Mahasiswa Demo RUU Kontroversial	Detik.com	21

After the data is collected, data analysis is then performed which refers to the semiotic analysis of Buhler and the pragmatic Peirce semiotics developed by Hoed. Buhler and Peirce's semiotic analysis refers to the theory presented by (Saifullah, 2016). However, the difference in analysis conducted by the researcher focuses on content while the analysis of research carried out on the process.

## Literature Review

This attitude of nationalism is an attitude related to the nation. The word nationalism comes from the word nation, which means the nation. Now, nationalism is discussed whether its relation to state\_ oriented or nation oriented? (Handayani, 2019). In the life of the nation, a sense of nationalism must be shared by all the people of Indonesia. Representation of nationalism is how people love their tautology people by respecting the culture and rules in their country. Loving one's tautology nation does not mean being chauvinism, damaging other countries for the glory of one's own country. When referring to Pancasila and the opening of the 1945 Constitution, nationalism is the attitude of loving the motherland and maintaining national unity while maintaining peace in the world. The attitude of citizens who prioritize the interests of the nation and state over personal or group interests to uphold unity is a reflection of the attitude of nationalism so that the love of the nation and state is not eroded by personal or group interests. This was stated by (Kohn, 1971), Nationalism is prioritizing the state over personal or group interests in the form of loyalty.

Through semiotics, signs, and meanings are connected, described, felt, imagined or reproduced. The signs are in the form of images, text, sounds, etc. through the process of uniting and figuring out the meaning of  $x = y$  even though it is not easy. Knowing the shape maker, the historical and social context in which the representation is made, the purpose of its making, and so on, are complex factors that are learned through semiotics (Danesi, 2004). Semiotic triangle meaning (Triangle Meaning) Peirce for studies in mass media consisting of signs, objects, and interpretants. The word is one form of a sign. The object is one that is referred to as a sign while the interpretant is a sign that is in the mind about the object that is referred to assign (Sobur, 2004: 114-115).

To find out the responses to the issues of nationalism rolled out by the internet media, researchers used a semiotic analysis to dissect the issues of nationalism that referred to Peirce's theory developed by Hoed (2011) and Organon Buhler. The meaning of sign interpretation on nationalism issues can be analyzed from semiotic aspects. Peirce analyzes it through ideas,

objects, and meanings. The idea as a symbol while the meaning refers to the object. Peirce defines signs constructed triadically (Sobur, 2009: xii) because for Peirce marking involves three elements namely representamen, interpretant, and object. Peirce's semiotic analysis consists of three important aspects so that it is often referred to as the triangle of meaning namely signs, references/objects, and interpretants or users of signs and representamen, which are vehicle signs (elements of sign building) called representamen. The semiotic-pragmatics will relate to individuals in terms of language usage and context-dependent meanings (Saeed, 2016) because the use of language to be analyzed is related to individuals, so the pragmatic semiotic analysis will be applied.

The following is an explanation of sign science put forward by Peirce.

- 1) Representamen or signs in semiotic studies are the main concepts used as the basis for analysis. In all signs, there is meaning as a form of interpretation of the intended message. In simple terms, visual or physical signs are captured by humans.
- 2) The object sign reference is a social context in which its implementation is used as an aspect of meaning or referred to by the sign.
- 3) Interpretant = sign or user sign is a concept of thought from the user of the sign and implement it into a certain meaning that is in someone's mind about the object referred to by a sign.

Linguistic signs on internet interactive discourse can be obtained from the respondent's text or the commentary's debate text on an issue. It is said (Crystal, 2006), synchronous interactions cause radical linguistics. This is very reasonable because the freedom of expression that is rolled out by the media allows the freedom for internet users to respond to issues that are rolled out by the media and no longer feel awkward to comment on words, positive or other expressive comments. Expressive expressions on nationalism issues also vary. Verbal signs are manifested from respondent response data (Saifullah, 2016). Likewise in this study, verbal signs were obtained from the text data of respondents' responses to nationalism issues.

Hoed (2011: xix) revealed the cultural phenomena in terms of pragmatic semiotics (Peirce). The pragmatists see the sign as something that represents something that is concrete and is in human cognition. Through the cognitive process of what the senses see. That thing is called representamen and what is in cognition is called object and interpretant which is the process of interpretation. Trichotomical pragmatic semiotics are representamen, objects, and interpretants.

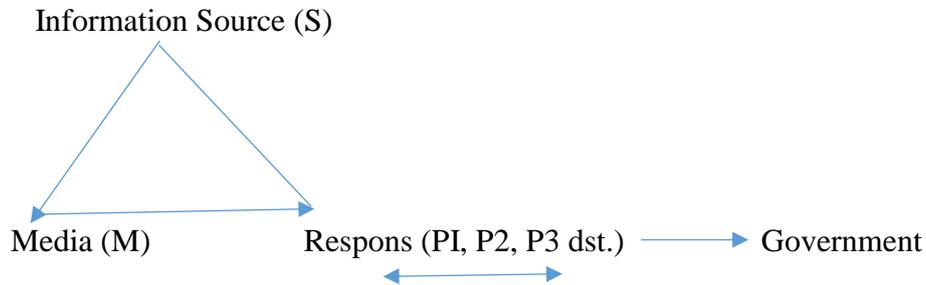
## **Results and Discussion**

### ***The Process of Funding and Meaning in Internet Media***

Pierce through pragmatic semiotics developed by Hoed (2011, 2014) describes the flow of media discourse. The flow of discourse on internet media on issues of nationalism was analyzed based on Peirce's pragmatic semiotics developed by Hoed. Starting from the source of information as the prior discourse and the media as a builder and sender of verbal signs namely detik.com and kompas.com. Issues on the internet media are then responded to by users. This response is carried out at different times in the same room. Responses on the internet are aimed at sources of information, the government and other responders.

Saifullah stated (2018, p.1), meaning includes our knowledge of the context of what, where, when, situation, interpretation, and purpose of the speech. Allan (2001) explains that the meaning of human language refers to the "natural language" called meta langue or metalanguage, which is to understand the meaning of the necessary relations between the communication process, cognition, and composition. Allan (2001) states that the language

approach is something that is interpreted from oral and written texts when people communicate or produce language or are abstract and intangible. The following pattern describes the process of discourse and meaning in the internet media on the issue of nationalism with the theme, "Demo Against the Criminal RUU KUHP".



Below is an example of the process of discourse and understanding of nationalism issues on internet media.

**Table 2.** The Process of Funding and Meaning of Nationalism Issues on Internet Media

Issues of Reflective	Media	Comment
Demo Tolak RUU KUHP	M: Salut! Ernest Puji Mahasiswa Demo RUU Kontroversial	<p>Penanggap1: RUU PALING KACAU YG PERNAH GW BACA...APA GAK MIKIR ITU UDAH KELEWAT PRIVASI...SAMPAI HUBUNGAN BADAN SUAMI ISTRI PUN DI URUS PEMERINTAH...???</p> <p>KUCING,KERBAU MAIN KE TMP TETANGGA PUN DI URUSIN...AMPUN..??</p> <p>Penanggap 2: Yang nyusun muladii...terus ngotot♦ minta disah kan. Ngawur yang nyusun ditambah kurang diperiksa ....mending aki muladii istirahat aja drpd gak mampu buat RUU yang tidak berpihakke masyarakat....</p> <p>Penanggap 3: Setuju kalau mahasiswa bergerak demo, dan mundur pada saat ada penumpang gelap yg membuat onar. Mahasiswa harus melakukan kontrol sosial supaya pada saat dewasa menjadi peka terhadap situasi negara.</p>

Issues of Reflective	Media	Comment
		<p>Penanggap 4: Hidup Jokowi!!!📌</p>
		<p>Penanggap 5: <a href="#">Golput murni</a> ah ga juga..lo aja ga mau kerja keras</p>
		<p>Penanggap 6: <a href="#">Golput murni</a> Rakyat Yg Mana Yg Mati,Saya Beserta Masyarakat Indonesia Yg Lain Baik📌 Aja Kok... Klo Golput Mau Mati,Mati Aja Sendiri Ya,Saya Siapkan Kuburan_nya.</p>
		<p>Penanggap 7: saya sich setuju juga dgn aksi mahasiswa ini, hanya yg saya ngk ada Anarkis nya, belajar dari ini semua, harusnya Pemerinta, DPR juga bisa lebih aware lah dalam mengambil kebijakan, jgn sepihak, ini blm apa apa, kalau sampai Rusuh yg susah siapa, kita Semua. Pak Jokowi, saya support Bapak, ini Warning bagi Bapak utk lebih wise dan tegas dan mau mendengar ☹️dlm memimpin di Periode ke 2,Bapak tuch ibarat Bapak dari seluruh rakyat Indonesia, kalau Bapak ngk tegas akan banyak yg Neko neko, maaf kalau Comment saya ada yg salah. 🙏saya prihatin sebagai bagian kecil rakyat Indonesia.</p>

In table 2, the discourse process in the response text in the internet media on the issue of nationalism with the theme, "Demo Against the Criminal RUU KUHP" originated from sources of information obtained by the media. Ernes, a public figure as a source of information, then the media build information. The issue that was rolled out by the media got a response from the reader and there was an interaction in the form of responses. The texts of the responses were mixed in direction, some were aimed at the media, the government, and the Candidates, Jokowi also to fellow responders. The interaction between responders took place in debates in various directions both to the government (DPR), Jokowi (Capres), and fellow responders.

The meaning process is analyzed from the process of citizenship. In table 1, speech 1 is built by the media based on the source of information from an actor, public figure (Ernest) and speech 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are utterances from the respondent. This respondent's utterance was present because of media utterances relating to the demonstration against the Criminal Code Bill. Speech 1 reveals that the government launched a policy on the Criminal RUU KUHP that is very unreasonable, the problem of husband and wife body relations, livestock are included in the discussion of the Criminal RUU KUHP. Comment 2 tells Muladi as the leader of the legislature that he is in a hurry to pass the RUU KUHP. Speech 3 supports the demo to be sensitive to the situation of the State. Speech 4 expresses support for Jokowi Speech 5 states pure abstentions to fellow responders, utter 6 states a refutation of the respondent's catastrophe stating responses to pure abstentions which are not optional, utterance 7 states agreeing with demonstrations as well as criticism of the government namely the DPR to be wise in making decisions which has the effect of providing justice for all Indonesians. He also conveyed to Candidate Jokowi that future leadership is more concerned and resolute in leadership so that there is no misuse of position for individual interests.

From the respondent's explanation, the meaning process in the internet media is related to the issues of nationalism, rejecting the Criminal RUU KUHP shows concern for nationalism. The passage of the Criminal RUU KUHP will get a reaction because there are controversial articles on the Criminal RUU KUHP. Muladi as the leader of the DPR hurriedly submitted the Criminal RUU KUHP to be ratified without consideration that not all the contents of the articles of the Criminal RUU KUHP reflect justice for all the people of Indonesia. However, the respondent's statement also stated that he disagreed with a demonstration against the Criminal RUU KUHP, assuming the demonstration caused riots and it was even suggested that pure abstentions were not the best choice. The response that did not approve the demo was due to personal support for the presidential candidate of his choice.

***Verbal Signs Regarding Nationalism Built by the Media***

Verbal signs on the internet media focus on the study of the meaning process carried out by the respondent on the text that the media builds. The analysis carried out refers to Peirce's pragmatic semiotic analysis model, the unit of analysis of speech acts in the form of propositions and Organon's approach from Buhler (Hoed 2014), namely first conducting a search. Second, propositions emerge as symptom or representamen and interpretant.

**Table 3.** Verbal Signs That are Built by Internet Media

Data 1	Kode	Proposition
Sumber: detik.com	X1	Rasa Nasionalisme Masyarakat Indonesia
	X2	Demo Mahasiswa Sebagai Bentuk Melawan Ketidakadilan
	X3	Krisis kepercayaan Kepada Kebijakan bijakan Wakil Rakyat
Momen Haru Ayah Beri Restu Anaknya Demo Tolak RUU KUHP Bikin Berkaca-kaca		
Data 2	X4	Penundaan Pengesahan RKUHP Motif Tumpang Tindih
Sumber: kompas.com		
Jokowi Sebut Ada 14 Pasal Bermasalah di		

Data 1	Kode	Proposition
Sumber: detik.com	X1	Rasa Nasionalisme Masyarakat Indonesia
	X2	Demo Mahasiswa Sebagai Bentuk Melawan Ketidakadilan
	X3	Krisis kepercayaan Kepada Kebijakan bijakan Wakil Rakyat
Momen Haru Ayah Beri Restu Anaknya Demo Tolak RUU KUHP Bikin Berkaca-kaca		
RKUHP		
Data 3	X5	RUU KUHP Dibuat Tergesa-gesa
Sumber: kompas.com		
Pengesahan RKUHP Disarankan Ditunda Karena Banyak Pasal Bermasalah		
Data 4	X6	Dukungan terhadap Demo Mahasiswa Sebagai Bentuk Melawan Ketidakadilan
Sumber: detik.com	X7	Isi pasal RUU KUHP Banyak penyimpangan
	X8	Ketidpercayaan pada DPR Sebagai Wakil Rakyat
	X9	Tidak Berjiwa Nasionalisme
Salut! Ernest Puji Mahasiswa Demo RUU Kontroversial		

Based on data detik.com, Moment Haru Gives His Son's blessing Demo Reject Bill Make Glaze there are 3 propositions. The second data source from kompas.com, Jokowi said there were 14 problematic articles in RKUHP, there was 1 proposition, and the third data source from kompas.com, RKUHP ratification was suggested to be postponed because there were 6 problematic articles and the fourth data source from detik.com Salut! Ernest Praises Student Controversial Bill Draft. These propositions will be juxtaposed with responses with an analysis of the signs and meanings built by the media according to the respondent. For example data 6 with media proposes, "Student Demos As Forms Against Injustice" from detik.com.

***The Meaning of Verbal Sign Nationalism Issues Built by the Media According to Responders***

**Tabel 4.** The Meaning of Verbal Signs Nationalism Issues Built by the Media According to Responders

X6	Demo Mahasiswa Sebagai Bentuk Melawan Ketidakadilan
Y6	1) lebih pilih mana sih, mahasiswa demo anarkis daripada demo damai kayak demo masak tapi ruu kpk sama rkuhp lolos begitu aja. kehidupan lu nanti bakal makin susah gara2 rkuhp sama tambah koruptor meraja rela. social cost dan economical cost yg ditimbulkan mahasiswa yg demo masih jauh lebih kecil daripada 2 ruu itu disahkan menurut gue.
Proposisi Mendukung	2) Setuju kalau mahasiswa bergerak demo, dan mundur pada saat ada penumpang gelap yg membuat onar. Mahasiswa harus melakukan kontrol

X6	<p>Demo Mahasiswa Sebagai Bentuk Melawan Ketidakadilan</p> <p>sosial supaya pada saat dewasa menjadi peka terhadap situasi negara.</p> <p>3) saya sich setuju juga dgn aksi mahasiswa ini, hanya yg saya ngk ada Anarkis nya, belajar dari ini semua, harusnya Pemerinta, DPR juga bisa lebih aware lah dalam mengambil kebijakan, jgn sepihak, ini blm apa apa, kalau sampai Rusuh yg susah siapa, kita Semua. Pak Jokowi, saya support Bapak, ini Warning bagi Bapak utk lebih wise dan tegas dan mau mendengar ☺dlm memimpin di Periode ke 2,Bapak tuch ibarat Bapak dari seluruh rakyat Indonesia, kalau Bapak ngk tegas akan banyak yg Neko neko, maaf kalau Comment saya ada yg salah. 🙏saya prihatin sebagai bagian kecil rakyat Indonesia.</p>
Y6 Proposisi Menolak	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Salut? Merusak fasilitas umum, membuat macet, menimbulkan ketakutan, merugikan banyak orang, dan kamu salut sama mereka?</li> <li>2) Apa yang layak dipuji dari demo mahasiswa, yang anarkis dan merusak fasilitas umum yang dibangun dari pajak rakyat???. Ini bukan jaman orba dimana semua saluran ditutup, Sekarang sudah ada jalur hukum yang jelas dan terhormat menyelesaikan setiap UU melalui MK dan Komisi Judisial, buat apa harus melalui demo yang merusak???? Kalau dengan alasan ada penyusup itu hanya lempar baru sembunyi tangan. Klo tdk bisa mengamankan demo dari penyusup ya jangan demo. Buat sdr. Ernest rasa salut anda ridak ada nilainya, dan sampah semua. Hasil demo yang anrkis kok dikatakan salut.</li> <li>3) Semua pendukung jokowi tdk ada yg mendukung pemerintah secara buta. Kalau ada yg salah pasti demo juga. Tapi demonya bukan sara</li> <li>4) Ga usah salut klo demo berujung anarkis...katanya mahasiswa intelek..tetapi lupa (atau pura pura lupa) bahwa setiap demo bisa disusupi?? Dan ujungnya yg susah rakyat juga..orang tua klian juga...</li> <li>5) Demo rusuh gitu Kok...</li> <li>6) Demo damai saya dukung, demo anarkis silahkan ditangkap polisi utk.dipenjara....</li> </ol>
Y6 Ambigu	-

The proposition from the sixth verbal data that was built by the media, namely student demonstrations as a form of fighting injustice, received responses from readers in the form of supporting, disputing, and no ambiguous propositions. The meaning according to the respondent is better anarchist demo than silent demonstration and suddenly the Criminal RUU KUHP was passed (P1). If the demonstration against the Criminal RUU KUHP is infiltrated, it must be vigilant. The meaning of the respondent's proposition also states that the government and the Parliament must be wise in making the Criminal RUU KUHP so that it does not cause conflict. This appeal was also addressed to Candidate Jokowi as a candidate for a national leader to be assertive in leading (P2).

The meaning of the proposition refutes the respondent to the proposition that is rolled out by the media, that is, the respondent rejects a student demonstration because it is a riot (P1), (P2), (P4), (P5), and P (6). There was a confession from supporters 01 that support for Jokowi was not done blindly even if the demonstration was also not Sara. That is, the fanatical curiosity of the group is still visible and views the demonstration against the RUU KUHP as a riot

## Conclusion

The issue of nationalism regarding the repudiation of the Criminal RUU KUHP that was rolled out by the media received pro and contra responses from the respondent based on group truth and interaction patterns tended to be anarchist, no longer prioritizing the "feeling" of nationalism. The issue of a demonstration of nationalism against the Criminal RUU KUHP was responded to by quirky because it felt contrary to the truth of the group. Based on these findings, the representation of nationalism in an interactive discourse on internet media tends to be one-sided. The responders no longer think in their entirety to uphold the integrity of the nation but are influenced by the interests of the group.

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