

Professional journalist handling of fake news published on social networks

A field study on a sample of Ennahar news channel journalists

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Abstract:

Social networks are the most important types of new media, and the professional journalist is in direct contact with the contents produced by the citizen journalist and disseminated through these networks. In front of this huge flow of content, there is a large percentage of fake news. That is why our paper came to examine how the professional journalist deals with fake news published through social networks.

This study will be a field study, where we will choose a sample of the Algerian channel Ennahar journalists who rely on the contents published by the citizen journalist through social networks, and in order to collect information we will use the questionnaire, interview and observation as scientific research tools. The study reached a number of results, the most important of which is: that journalists encounter fabricated news that affects all areas of life, and this explains its multiple negative repercussions and effects, and what contributes to its spread is weak censorship of publications and the public's competition to circulate it before verifying its authenticity phenomenon and reduce its

Keywords: *citizen journalist, professional journalist, fake news, social media networks, professional controls.*

المخلص :

تعتبر شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي من بين أهم أنواع الوسائط الجديدة للإعلام والتي أصبحت في متناول عدد كبير من المستخدمين الذين أصبحوا اليوم يملكون هذه الوسائل ويتحكمون في أنماط استخدامها في كل المجالات خاصة المجال الإعلامي وعليه أصبح الصحفي المهني اليوم في احتكاك مباشر مع المضامين التي ينتجها المواطن الصحفي وينشرها عبر هذه الشبكات. وأمام هذا التدفق الهائل للمضامين هناك نسبة كبيرة من الأخبار الملفقة. ولهذا جاءت ورقتنا هذه للبحث في كيفية تعامل الصحفي المهني مع الأخبار الملفقة المنشورة عبر شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي. ستكون هذه الدراسة ميدانية، حيث سنختار عينة من صحفيي قناة النهار الإخبارية الجزائرية الذين يعتمدون على المضامين التي ينشرها المواطن الصحفي عبر شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي، ومن أجل جمع المعلومات سنستخدم الاستمارة الإستبائية والمقابلة والملاحظة كأدوات بحث علمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المواطن الصحفي، الصحفي المهني، الأخبار الملفقة، شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي، القنوات التلفزيونية الإخبارية، الضوابط المهنية.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Information and communication technologies in their various branches have witnessed a great development in recent years, especially with regard to networking technologies represented mainly in satellite technology, the Internet and smart phones. As an inevitable result of this tremendous development, social networks of all kinds have spread remarkably, to intervene in all activities and sectors of economic, social, cultural life and even in the media process.

In light of all this, the media process has moved to a new stage in which the recipient has become the most important element in the communication and media process in particular. The audience is an eyewitness at the heart of the event, in possession of its own means of press coverage, which is Facebook, for example, as a means of social communication, and the smartphone connected to the Internet as a supporter, capture and transmitter of information. All of the above leads us to refer to the precursors of what is known as citizen journalism, which has found fertile ground to prove its basic pillars in the media press floor, and has been able to impose itself in all parts of the world, especially in developed countries invaded by the culture and technology of smart phones, which is the main factor in the emergence of this trend The new journalist .

Many researchers specialized in the field of smartphone studies believe that what is known as citizen journalism has a set of controls that professional journalists who stay in their media institutions and who receive and investigate the publications of new media users should know because of the developments and exclusive news they carry from the eye of the event. After that, the journalists of these institutions moved to go to the field and carry out press coverage according to its recognized origins. A citizen journalist cannot be considered a journalist in the fullest sense of the word, because he did not receive the ABCs of journalistic work that are dictated by a set of ethics and professional controls. The problem of subjectivity always remains on the table in this regard. In addition to the phenomenon of fake news that has diluted citizen journalism due to the widespread and rapid spread of non-media content full of fallacies and rumours.

Accordingly, we will try, through this research paper, to answer the following essential question: **How do journalists of Ennahar news channel deal with fake news published on social networks?**

In order to answer the problematic question, we will divide it into a set of questions as follows:

- What are the factors of spreading fake news through social networks?
- What are the forms of fake news published through social networks?
- What are the effects of fake news on the television handling of events and the credibility of the information?
- What are the controls that govern the professional journalist's handling of fake news produced by the citizen journalist?

1. Defining the concepts and terminology of the study:

1.1 Citizen Journalism and Citizen Journalism:

There are many concepts given by researchers in the field of new media of communication to citizen journalism, and this is due to the different time period in which they presented the definition of the concept, the different scientific and cognitive backgrounds and the context in which it appeared, in addition to the novelty of this new journalistic orientation. Similar to "citizen journalism" or "citizen media," a term developed by the Colombian researcher and theorist Clemencia Rodriguez (2001) (Rodriguez, C, 2011, p83) and "participatory journalism" that he came up with. American researchers Bowman and Willis in 2003 .

In addition to the term networked journalism, there are those who call it street journalism or "public journalism," which was developed by Dan Gillmor, an American researcher and specialist in modern technologies in 2004, and public journalism and democratic journalism. It was introduced by the American researchers Hackett and Carroll in 2006, and the term open-source journalism was introduced by the American critic and journalist Andrew Leohard in 2013. Another term that attempts to describe citizen journalism is "User Generated Content

(UGC)" Although there are minor differences between these designations, their perceptions point in the same direction.

The term citizen journalism indicates that "anyone can be a journalist who conveys his opinion and observations to the whole world, without the need to hold a degree in media, or to belong to a media organization to convey his voice to the world." The definition he gave remains (Jay rosen, 2011, p29). The most widely used definition today if we refer to studies and research dealing with citizen journalism, and he defines it by saying: "Citizen journalism is when the public, who are nominally known to the public, employ the journalistic tools in their possession to tell other people about an important event.

"Every citizen is necessarily a rising journalist who controls the time and impact of events. No news agencies can publish journalists in all the streets, and it has become a phenomenon that cannot be ignored" (Yas Khudair al-Bayati, 2004).

In order to define the concept of the citizen journalist, it is necessary to present the researchers' approach to the concepts of citizen and journalist, both separately, as he is "the person who belongs to the state and who deals with him considering his political rights and duties." As for the journalist, he is "who gathers information and news with the intention of publishing them in a media outlet." Médiacitoyen.fr asserts that "every citizen can become a true journalist. The editorial of the site says that "by working together we can make our voices heard and perhaps move some issues".

"Citizen journalist means linguistically to describe the citizen as a journalist, and practically, the origin of the term came from the citizen's role in conveying a story or news to his audience through social networks, and this role was considered by the researcher (Amid Shehadeh, 2018) as a form of journalism and publishing, and because the player This role is not primarily a journalist. It is called a citizen journalist.

Procedurally: By citizen journalist, we mean in our study every individual who takes advantage of modern media and communication technologies represented mainly in the smartphone and electronic board equipped with high-flow Internet service and the easy and fast-to-use Facebook network. For filming, recording, transmission, sending, broadcasting, sharing and re-sharing, and this is through several means. Either it is sufficient to broadcast it on his personal Facebook page or send it to the pages of the television news channels, which in turn broadcast it on their screens, or broadcast it on both means.

1.2 Professional journalist:

A professional journalist is a specialized person who holds a scientific degree in journalism and media sciences and practices various arts of journalistic writing and journalistic work, covering events and transmitting them through different media, whether written, audio, audio-visual or electronic. A profession for him, as well as, a professional journalist is anyone who has taken journalism as a profession and as a source of livelihood. (Ahmed Al-Rimawi, 2010, p. 24)

Procedurally: We mean by professional journalist in our study the total of journalists working for Ennahar news channel in various international political, economic, sports, social and cultural departments, and users of social networks in different fields, and their dependence on their contents published by citizen journalists, which are sometimes unsure of their validity Within the fake news.

1.3 Social networks:

It is a group of websites integrated into the Internet, aiming to form virtual communities and build communication between a group of people distributed across the world, and in order to reach this global level of communication, these social networks have developed and developed several more communication and interactive services.

One of the services that the Internet gave at its beginning, and among these services collected by social networks, the ability to communicate written, audio and video with other people and share various multimedia files through these networks of news and information that vary in their degree of validity

These networks have become a means of preserving information, such as videos and images, and some of them have provided the ability to send and receive documents and electronic files, and have contributed to making their users able to discover many new things, and share them with others, whether they are individuals like them or institutions, as the

researcher adds (Manion, C. E 2012, p57) that the emergence of social networks was associated with the provision of new types of content based on user participation.

Procedurally: In our study, social networks are considered as a means used by the citizen journalist to produce and publish news content through these social platforms and even through the screens of news TV channels. Today, they have become one of the most important pillars on which the traditional media are based. Professionals who are now navigating through these networks to monitor the published news, which is often fake news, which we will try through this study to show the various aspects of dealing with it.

1.4 Professional Controls:

Every profession is subject to the philosophy of discipline and accountability, and the journalistic profession, like the rest of the professions, must be run by a set of controls and rules to take place in an orderly atmosphere away from any violations that may harm the individual or the institution unjustly. Media is the delivery of information to the recipient and should not deviate from this framework.

"Professional ethics and its charter are a set of values related to the daily professional practice of journalists and a set of rights and duties associated with the profession of a professional or professional journalist. These rights and duties are embodied in the form of a charter agreed upon by most journalists, and they work to respect it and avoid deviation from it." (Karknu ,2015, p 31)

Procedurally: we mean by the controls and ethics of the journalistic profession in this study, how Algerian journalists use the contents of social networks and the extent of their commitment to the proper handling of the posts of the citizen journalist, who has become producing media contents that require a number of procedures and amendments before broadcasting and putting them on news channels, especially with regard to fabricated news flowing with a percentage Large across social platforms, and here begins and the task of the professional journalist is manifested in sorting this fake news from the true news.

1.5 Fake news:

The concept of "fake news", or "fabricated news", has become in common use in our contemporary daily life since the election campaign period of US President Donald Trump, who has been accusing every media outlet that criticizes him as promoting "fake news" and this is his famous phrase "Fake news". Thus, he would be the first person to launch this concept, but this does not mean that fake news is recent, but rather is as old as man. (Medhat, A, 2019, p. 21)

The use of fake news with a specific intent in order to achieve a specific goal is longstanding in the political community of mankind. Fake news is often not far from propaganda, and it is always important to stop at the intent behind fake news. Because in some cases, what appears to be false news may actually be news satire, and this type of satire resorts to exaggeration, and introduces unrealistic elements, and its goal is to amuse or deliver a message, not to deceive.

Procedurally: Fake news is every content or message that people produce and publish, sometimes ignorantly and unintentionally, and here because they are not sure of their authenticity, and they often publish them out of conviction, intent, and realization of their lack of credibility in order to achieve specific goals and objectives.

In the recent past, the process of spreading fake news was difficult and rare through traditional media, including written press, radio and television, due to the strict control over these media and the inability to reach the portal of their dissemination. But with the emergence and spread of social networks and the expansion of their audience, which has become counted in the billions, fabricated news found the perfect space for reproduction and wide spread in a few seconds to become global news, even if it was incorrect.

2.The cognitive and theoretical rooting of the study:

The subject of our study, which is the professional journalist's treatment of fake news published through social networks, falls theoretically in the perspective of the theory of uses and gratifications, which has its roots in the mid-1940s with the American sociologist Harold Laswell, and the theory initially describes the uses of individuals And their goals are to be exposed to a specific media, and the theory developed in the sixties and seventies to study the different satisfactions of their social and psychological needs. (Abdul Hafez Awaji Salwi, 2011, p. 10)

The consideration of this theory turns away from the effects of mass media on people, and turns instead to the ways people use the media to satisfy their needs and desires. From here, this entry looks at members of the public in all its spectrum, whether they are citizen journalists or professional journalists, as active participants. In the communication and media process in particular, it calls for the activity of the active audience, which enables it to choose the medium, content, and time that it wants and that suits its desires and motives.

The awareness of the consequences of individual differences and social variance on the behavior associated with the media during the forties of the twentieth century led to the beginning of a new perspective on the relationship between the masses and these media, and this was a shift from seeing the masses as a passive and ineffective element, to seeing them as effective in selecting. Its members receive messages and favorite content from the media.

Edelstein and his colleagues argue that the establishment of the "uses and gratifications" model came as a reaction to the concept of "the power of mass media." (Edelstein 2003, p59), and this model confers positivity on the mass media audience and its professional journalists. It meets their psychological and social needs through the available information and entertainment channels.

Professional journalists have also found, in light of social networks, an interactive media and communication space open to all opinions, enabling them to exchange ideas and information with the public and to freely express their various opinions that they are unable to express in the media institutions in which they practice the profession of journalism.

Katz sees in the relationship between use and gratification that each individual has a number of social and psychological factors that generate specific needs for the individual through the individual's experience. The individual begins to draw his expectations about the media's fulfillment of these needs compared to other sources to satisfy these needs and the public according to the researcher (David Clover, 2001, Pg. 497) He uses the media to satisfy his needs and interests and achieve himself.

This model reflects the basic assumptions on which the theory is based, which can be summarized as follows:

- 1- The mass media audience is an active audience characterized by positivity and effectiveness. Its use of these media is directed to achieve certain goals of its own. Members of the public, including the professional group of journalists who use new media, are active participants in the mass communication process and use the old and new media and communication to achieve intended goals that meet their needs.
- 2- The mass media audience, according to the researcher (Carey, JW, 1998, p28, is able to determine its goals and needs, as well as the motives for its exposure to the media, and then chooses the media that it wants to be exposed to and the type of content that meets its psychological and social needs Through the available information and entertainment channels, the use of means of communication expresses the needs that the audience perceives, and this is controlled by a set of factors such as individual differences, social interaction and the diversity of needs.
- 3- The members of the public have the initiative in defining the relationship between the satisfaction of needs and choosing certain means that they see as satisfying their needs (without a writer, 2008, p. It is not the means that you use.
- 4- The media, according to the researcher (Strano, Michele, 2008, p11), compete with other sources in satisfying the multiple and diverse needs of individuals, such as personal communication, academic institutions or other institutions. The relationship between the public and the media is affected by many environmental factors, making The individual turns to its source to satisfy his needs without the other, that is, members of the public can identify their needs and motives and thus choose the means and content that satisfy those needs.
- 5- The relationship between the audience's needs and its use of a certain means or content must be determined by itself because people may use the same content in different ways, in addition to the content that may have different results, and the prevailing cultural norms can be inferred through the audience's uses of means of communication And not only through the content of the messages.

These assumptions raised many questions about the factors that affect the public in realizing its needs and determining its activity, as well as the environmental factors that affect the emergence and support of needs, and the public's decision to use to satisfy these needs.

As for the goals achieved by the uses and gratifications theory, according to the researcher (Najm Taha, 2011), they are:

1. Seeking to discover how individuals use the means of communication, given that the public is active.
2. Explain the motives for exposure to a particular medium and the interaction that occurs as a result of exposure to media and communication messages.
3. Emphasis on the results of using the means of communication in order to understand the process of mass communication.

II. Methods and Materials:

1. The importance and objectives of the study:

The issue of the Algerian news channel's journalists dealing with fake news published through social networks is a new and current topic, and accordingly the importance and objectives of this study lie in giving us an idea of how Algerian journalists deal with these contents and highlighting the areas and fields in which fabricated news abounds, which have changed One of the structures of institutions in all sectors of life, including the media sector, which today is experiencing a new period, as information has become exclusively and instantaneously published on social networks.

The professional journalist found himself forced to enter this new communication and media space in order to keep pace with these developments in order to improve the news service and meet the media needs of the public in an atmosphere filled with competition between the various old and new media, taking into account the controls and ethics of the journalistic profession in dealing with news, sorting it, investigating its authenticity or False and how this process is done.

2. methods of addressing the subject:

Each researcher has to determine the method used in his study, and this is due to the nature of the research and study that we are doing. It should be noted that the term curriculum has several meanings and it is not possible to stop at all of these meanings, but this diversity of meanings can be summarized in the words of the researcher Ammar Bohoush: The curriculum is an answer to the question: "How do we reach the goals?" (Ammar Bouhoush, 2007, p. 27), while the techniques refer to the means that are used to reach these goals. The descriptive survey method will enable us to survey a sample of the Ennahar news channel journalists who use social networks,

We will describe and analyze later how they deal with false news published through these media and the controls that govern this relationship between the professional journalist and the citizen journalist.

2-1 Study tools:

In this study, we will rely on the following research tools: The electronic questionnaire, which we will distribute to the study sample, who are a group of Ennahar news channel journalists and users of social networks in media contexts.

2-1-1 Study sample:

The sample is the selection of a group of people from the total research community, and these people are the sample that the researcher is interested in examining and studying, and the selected sample from the research community must be similar to him (Ihsan Muhammad Ihsan, 2011, p. 58) and for this is the research community that we are going to study It is the users of social networks among the Algerian journalists working in Ennahar news channel, within 15 journalists from different departments (15 electronic forms were distributed to journalists), in addition to conducting interviews and based on the above, we will choose the intended sample, It is the sample that is deliberately chosen in proportion to the achievement of a specific research goal, where the researcher selects the vocabulary of the respondents in the light of the applicability of certain features or characteristics to them, and excludes vocabulary that does not have these features.

III. Results and discussion :

1. Presentation and interpretation of the tables data :

Table 1:

What is your definition of fake news?		
Presented Definition	Frequency	Percentage %
It is a means of propaganda and misleading public opinion	9	35
It is a method of the Cold War between countries	7	27
It is a means of settling accounts between competing persons, bodies and institutions	6	23
It is false and untrue news that is published intentionally or unintentionally	4	15
Total	26	100

We note that the majority of Ennahar news channel journalists see fabricated news as a means of propaganda and misleading public opinion, and this is more than 37%. While 27% of journalists define fake news as a method of the Cold War between countries.

On the other hand, 23% of journalists find that fabricated news via social networks is nothing but a means of settling accounts between competing people, bodies and institutions.

Finally, 15% of Ennahar news channel journalists find that fabricated news is false and untrue news that is published intentionally or unintentionally.

Table 2:

In your opinion, what are the reasons for the spread of fake news on social networks?		
the reason	Frequency	Percentage %
Lack of review and censorship of posts on social networks	10	32
Ease of use of social networks and flexibility of data dissemination	8	26
Not confirming the identities of the publishers of the fake news (their owners are unknown)	8	26
The increase in the number of users, thus increasing the percentage of quoting and re-sharing the fake news	5	16
Total	31	100

We note that the majority of Ennahar news channel journalists, with a percentage of 32%, believe that the lack of review and control of publications on social networks is one of the most important reasons for the spread of fabricated news through these networks.

While 26% of journalists find that among the reasons for the widespread spread of fake news through social networks is the ease of use of social networks and the flexibility of disseminating data. While 15% of journalists find that the high number of users contributes to the spread of fake news.

Table 3:

What are the most common areas and fields about which fake news is published through social networks?		
the field	Frequency	Percentage %
News about the resignations and dismissals of famous political and media figures	9	24
News about the death of famous political, media, sports, artistic figures	9	24
News about the involvement of political figures in corruption cases ahead of the electoral dates	7	18

News about the spread of diseases and global epidemics	7	18
News about baseless statements by national figures	5	13
News about university services, amendments and unfounded decisions	4	10
Total	38	100

We note that 24% of Ennahar news channel journalists encounter incorrect news published through social networks, including the field of resignations and dismissals of political and media figures.

While 17% of journalists find fabricated news about the involvement of political figures in corruption cases. While 13% of journalists find news about baseless statements made by national figures .

On the other hand, 10% of Ennahar news channel encounter untrue and unofficial news about university services.

Table 4:

What are the effects of fake news published on social networks?		
effect	Frequency	Percentage %
The fake news distorts the true news and information	12	39
The fake news spreads chaos in Algerian society and disperses public opinion	8	26
The fake news negatively affects the psychology of people	6	19
The fake news may fool the novice journalist and publish it in turn	5	16
Total	31	100

The majority of journalists, 39%, believe that the fake news disturbs the true news and information, while 26% find that the fake news spreads chaos in Algerian society and disperses public opinion.

While 19% find that the fake news negatively affects the psychology of people and causes harm to them. As for 16% of the journalists, they indicated that the fake news sometimes deceives the novice and new journalists in the journalistic field.

Table 5:

How do you deal with fake news published on social networks?		
Method and controls of dealing	Frequency	Percentage %
Verify the authenticity of the news by making contact with official bodies and concerned persons	14	26
Editing the material before broadcasting and making it into a professional journalistic template	10	19
Avoid swearing, swearing, and slander	8	15
Go to the field and follow the developments of the event	7	13
Report the account of the person who published the fake news	7	13
Denying the news with a counter post and counter comments	7	13
Total	53	100

We note that 29% of Ennahar news channel journalists treat fabricated news published on social networks with great caution, and this is by making sure that the information is correct, while 19% modify the material before it is broadcast.

While the rest of the journalists resort to reporting the account of the person who published the fabricated news, while other journalists deny the false news.

2.Results:

Through our study of how the journalists of Ennahar news channel dealt with fake news published through social networks and the controls for dealing with such contents produced and published by the citizen journalist through these social networks, we reached a set of results that can be summarized in the following points:

- Ennahar news channel journalists believe that fake news is a means of propaganda and misleading public opinion.
- Fake news, according to Ennahar news channel journalists, is false and untrue news that is published intentionally or unintentionally.
- Among the reasons for the widespread spread of fake news through social networks is the lack of review and control of publications on social networks, the ease of use and the flexibility of disseminating data through them. In addition to not confirming the identities of the publishers of the fabricated news, their owners are unknown and they do not publish their real names and photos. One of the reasons for the spread of fabricated news is the increase in the number of users and thus the increase in the percentage of quoting and re-sharing the fabricated news.
- Among the most important fields in which fabricated news is published, we find news about the resignations and dismissals of famous political and media figures, the death of famous political, sports, artistic and artistic figures, the involvement of political figures in corruption cases before the election dates, the spread of diseases and global epidemics, and baseless statements of personalities Patriotism is often distorted and fabricated, news about university services and unfounded amendments and decisions.
- The fabricated news published through social networks has many effects that we see through its distortion of true news and information, its dissemination of chaos in Algerian society and its dispersal of public opinion, It also negatively affects the psychology of people and their psychological state, and the fabricated news may deceive the novice journalist and publish it in turn, and this is what gives him false credibility.
- Among the most important controls for a professional journalist in Ennahar news channel's dealing with fabricated news is to ensure the authenticity of the news by making contacts with official bodies and concerned persons, amending the material before broadcasting and making it in the form of a professional journalist, and avoiding the contents of insults, slander and slander, with the need to go to the field and follow up The developments of the event and reporting the account of the person who published the fabricated news and denying the news with a counter post and counter comments.

3 .Results Discussion:

- Fake news is a means of propaganda and misleading public opinion, and this corresponds to the definition provided by researchers and scholars in media sciences who believe that propaganda in the modern era has become a fertile platform for social media to spread this false information.
- Fake news is one of the means of the Cold War between countries, which has become using social networks as a base for launching psychological warfare campaigns, especially if those countries are competing regionally and internationally.
- Fake news is a means of settling accounts between competing people, bodies and institutions, especially if they engage in the same commercial or political activity, and since social networks include millions of customers and consumers, putting out a fake news through them would destabilize the competing party.
- Fake news is false and untrue news that is published intentionally or unintentionally, by virtue of the fact that citizen journalists who publish false news through social networks, including those who publish it knowing that it is not true to achieve a goal

outlined before, and there are those who publish it without the intention of offending, thinking that it is true especially if it was shared by people whose sources he does not know.

- The lack of review and censorship of publications on social networks is one of the most important reasons for the spread of fabricated news across these networks, and this is due to the huge amount of data published by millions of users at the same time. False news publications are monitored because the matter is very complex and difficult to control, and here highlights the role of governments that should criminalize and prosecute those who deliberately publish baseless news for private purposes and goals.
- One of the reasons for the widespread spread of fabricated news through social networks is the ease of use of social networks and the flexibility of disseminating data. The journalist who is accustomed to publishing news finds in these platforms a suitable space for the production and dissemination of news through written, audio and visual multimedia with the feature of live broadcasting, and the lack of confirmation of identities. Publishers of fabricated news are a reason for its spread. The owners are unknown and they use pseudonyms and pictures, and this makes them feel a kind of protection that encourages them to continue their efforts to spread false information.
- The rise in the number of users and thus the increase in the percentage of quoting and re-share the fabricated news contributes a lot to its widespread dissemination that may reach the world. Fast and cluttered publishing.
- Ennahar news channel journalists encounter incorrect news published on social networks, including resignations and dismissals of famous political and media figures with the aim of provoking them and settling accounts with them, especially since the launch of the popular movement in Algeria on February 22, 2019 and the subsequent campaigns of radical change in political faces in various state institutions. Journalists also come across with the same percentage news related to the death of famous political, media, sports and artistic figures, although they are in a sick condition and have not reached the point of death. These personalities often suffer from difficult psychological conditions resulting from the spread of these rumors that directly affect them.
- Fake news spread about the involvement of political figures in corruption cases before the electoral dates, and this is in order to distort their reputation and image in the political arena and lose their popularity with the electorate. At the moment, journalists encounter many news and rumors about the spread of global diseases and epidemics in Algeria, similar to the Corona virus, which has become the talk of the Algerian street recently, which contributed to the large number of rumors about this virus.
- There are news about baseless statements by national figures that have been misinterpreted or distorted and taken out of context, similar to the recent statement of the Minister of Higher Education, Shams El-Din Chitour, in which he spoke about the need to intensify efforts to raise the level of the Algerian university, while fabricated news spread that the minister said what he did not say.
- Not to mention incorrect and unofficial news about university services and baseless amendments and decisions such as increasing the university scholarship for students and canceling university transportation and university feeding, all of which are false news whose owners aim to manipulate the feelings of students on the one hand and attract more fans and followers on the other hand.
- The fake news confuses the true news and information, as it is often published in a context that makes it difficult to differentiate between it and the true news, and this affects the credibility of the information, the basis of public service and the right to information and communication.
- The fake news spreads chaos in Algerian society and disperses public opinion, especially as it often touches on sensitive areas and topics.
- The fake news negatively affects the psyche of people and harms them because they received the news in difficult circumstances.
- The fake news sometimes deceives the novice and new journalists in the journalistic field, which makes them publish it through their accounts and media institutions, and

this is what gives it credibility and false power, if you will, and proves its pillars and increases its validity period.

- The journalist deals with fabricated news published on social networks with a lot of caution, and this is by verifying the accuracy of the information received by making contacts with official bodies and institutions and the personalities directly concerned and authorized to confirm or deny the news
- The professional journalist amends the material before it is broadcast and casts it into a professional journalistic mold away from insults, cursing, slander and everything that opposes the ethics of the journalistic profession, and some journalists go to the field and follow the developments of the event that was presented by amateurs who did not receive the ABCs of journalistic work and any material they send It requires many procedures, and the citizen lacks objectivity in subtraction and treatment.
- While the rest of the journalists resort to reporting the account of the person who published the fabricated news, the large number of reporting will contribute to the deletion of the fabricated news and the closure of the account of its publisher, while other journalists deny the news with a counter publication and counter comments that will enlighten the public opinion of users and surfers of the published news and limit its spread.

IV. Conclusion:

It is clear to us through this study that social networks are a space teeming with fabricated news published by their owners to achieve specific and pre-established goals within several strategic procedures and steps. It is relevant to the media, and it is necessary to intensify the efforts of all parties, including citizen journalists, professional journalists, legal legislators and social networks, in order to combat this phenomenon that has corrupted the principles of public service and the right to information and communication and seeks to dilute citizen journalism and distort its image, although it should be a positive activity that reflects active participation. And the safety of the citizen In conveying his image, voice and opinion to the world without prejudice to persons or institutions, or publishing incorrect news that contradicts the ethics of the journalistic profession.

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