

# Research On the Interrelationship Between Various Types of Fake News and Cyber Violence

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**Abstract.** In the swiftly advancing landscape of technology, the era of the Internet is quietly fading away, assuming an increasingly pivotal role in people's lives. As individuals flock to the virtual realm, actively participating in shaping the network environment, complexities arise. The network environment becomes a dynamic space marked by the constant impact of false news and network violence, transforming the Internet from a center of information exchange into a breeding ground for malevolence. This prompts a critical examination of the nexus between fake news and cyber violence, raising questions about how different types of false information influence online violence. This study introduces various fake news typologies and elucidates the concepts of fake news and cyber violence, analyzing the role of false information in the emergence of cyber violence. A concise review of relevant literature underscores the correlation between cyber violence and fake news. The article aims to stimulate contemplation on enhancing the current network environment and reducing the propagation of false information and cyber violence. Additionally, it proposes insights to foster a healthier online ecosystem and advocates for collective efforts to mitigate the impact of misinformation and cyber violence on society.

**Keywords:** Cyber Violence; Fake News; Interrelationship.

## 1. Introduction

The prevalence of 4G and 5G networks has led to a significant increase in Internet penetration, as highlighted in the 2022 National Economic and Social Development Statistics Bulletin from the National Bureau of Statistics. According to the report, 1.067 billion individuals were connected to the Internet, with 1.065 billion accessing it through mobile phones, resulting in a 75.6 percent Internet penetration rate. Notably, rural areas demonstrated a penetration rate of 61.9 percent. This surge underscores the growing number of Internet users and the immense impact of the Internet. While the Internet has brought opportunities to people's lives, it has also presented significant challenges. The online environment, despite its conveniences and speed, has become intricate, marked by the proliferation of fake news and online violence, leading to widespread disruptions.

This complexity has prompted an increased focus on the veracity of news and has adversely affected the credibility of the media. Consequently, the public is now more attentive to discerning the truth in information. The escalating issues of fake news and online violence have catapulted them into a central position in the study of the network environment. Governments worldwide are grappling with the urgent need to address and regulate these challenges. Managing the complexities of the network environment has become a critical concern, reflecting the evolving landscape of Internet usage and its multifaceted impact on society.

## 2. Unraveling the Interplay: Fake News and Cyber Violence

The escalating prevalence of fake news and online violence in the digital sphere has spurred a growing body of research dedicated to understanding these phenomena. This paper employs a research methodology grounded in scientific literature, complemented by case studies of contemporary events. The primary focus of the author is on exploring the impact and defining characteristics of false news and cyber violence.

In literature, false news manifests with diverse definitions. While cyber violence has a relatively uniform definition, the former encompasses both baseless narratives and those with factual elements

but missing critical components. Foreign literature classifies false news into intentional and non-intentional categories, further dividing them into disinformation and malinformation for intentional and misinformation for non-intentional. Beyond subjective distinctions, these categories reveal nuanced differences. Disinformation involves the deliberate publication of fabricated news with malicious intent, aiming to harm or manipulate perspectives. Malinformation, on the other hand, consists of out-of-context quotes possessing a degree of authenticity but still crafted to inflict harm and capture attention. Misinformation differs in that it spreads incorrect information within an unclear context without intending harm.

### 3. Key Research Contributions

Researchers generally assert that the surge in fake news is a manifestation of media misconduct, driven by the contemporary commercialization of news, which prioritizes economic benefits over social ones. This not only erodes media credibility but also exacerbates societal discord. Beyond interpersonal impacts, certain instances of fake news have escalated to the level of international conflict, bearing severe and far-reaching consequences. The widespread impact of fake news extends beyond interpersonal relationships, even escalating to the level of international conflict, underscoring its profoundly negative consequences.

In terms of fake news, Zhao Guangya takes Jitterbug as an example and details the dynamics of fake news on Jitterbug and its possible bad effects on the participants of the event, society, and the country. In the article, the author mentions the "post-truth era" and believes that this is one of the major reasons why fake news triggers cyber violence. She also mentions the "boarder effect" and believes that this is the driving factor for the widespread spread of fake news and the rise of cyber violence [1]. Zhao Yonghua and Dou Shuqi start with the history of fake news and explore the causes of fake news in each period and each country. At the same time, the purpose and harm of intentional fake news are described in a different way [2], which provokes thinking. Emad Rahmanian classifies fake news in great detail and, at the same time, puts forward a concept that can encompass all types of fake news. Fake news is pseudo-news that is designed to achieve a specific interest by manipulating the audience's beliefs, no matter how objectively true it may be [3]. And Yang Jun showed the law of the information selection ladder that the production of fake news at the very beginning often stems from people's media selective behavior [4], in short, is in the official media or the one did not get the answer they wanted to know, and so began to put their sights on some of the network media. But most of the network media are in order to flow out of context, with a strong personal emotional color, or even directly fabricate untrue news to gain attention. This makes it more likely that false news will be believed. For this phenomenon, Michael Hameleers made a consequence of the analysis: now false news is not to be suspected, often based on the real news, and it is precisely because of this that with the increase of false news, people's overall trust in the news will decline, which means that the masses credibility in the future of the media's credibility may be low again and again [5]. At the same time, for the dissemination of false news Jirong thinks that the mode of dissemination is the prevalence of false news factors because the current era of the Internet has long changed the one-way dissemination of information; everyone is a point of intersection on the communication network [6]. Similarly, Andrii V. Svinstsytskyi, Oleksander H. Semeniuk, and others have suggested in their papers that the most effective way of spreading fake news is through mass media [7]. Information can be spread and transformed at the intersection, which is also known as the effect of "three people make a tiger". But in this case, it is more difficult to guarantee the truthfulness of the news. Because everyone can be the spreader and creator of false news. And MIT has someone on 12,600 tweets. According to the news statistics, the spread of false news is very fast, even faster than the real news. And the retweet rate is also very high [8]. Junchang Jing and Zhiyong Zhang et al. actually explain this phenomenon; they think that the reason why fake news can be widely spread is because social users have a big desire to spread the fake news [9], that is, because the producer of fake news chooses some socially controversial topics for spreading so as to more broadly stimulate public interest. The governance of

fake news is, in a way, the mitigation of cyber violence. Lancey Hunter suggests that both the state and the government are the key gateways to the governance of cyber problems. Without effective governance, people's judgments of things will be disturbed, and they will make wrong judgments and behave accordingly [10]. This actually shows that a large part of cyber violence is a derivative of false news, and only by preventing the spread of false news can we effectively improve the behavior of the masses.

In fact, the academic community does not have a precise concept of it, but we can roughly understand it as follows: Borrowing media means to walk on the Internet platform to fabricate with personal attacks, defamation, and other insulting, inflammatory remarks, pictures, videos, etc., or intentionally divulging other people's private information, "human flesh search", and after a certain number of people forwarded to a certain scale, bringing a negative impact on cyberviolence. The incident of "human flesh search", which is forwarded by many people and reaches a certain scale, has a negative impact on the person who is cyber-violated. According to Li Caiwei's classification, it can be divided into the "network language violence" and "network infringement" categories, and the biggest difference between the two is that the former is more harmful to society because it is more likely to develop into offline violence compared to the former [11]. The impact of cyber violence goes far beyond the person who is cyber-violated, and in serious cases, it can even intensify the conflicts between people. The biggest reason for the emergence of cyber violence has been mentioned in many papers as the lack of perfect governance in the country and the decline in the quality of the media. This will hinder the formation of a positive and healthy social climate and even endanger the security and stability of the country.

For the aspect of cyber violence Ning Shan, Du Jinhao, et al., through a questionnaire survey, found that many people believe that cyber violence is mainly because of the initiator of the out-of-context; cyber violence is as high as 80% of the attention, which also has a lot of people who are participants in cyber violence. They found that this is because a portion of the people will take cyberspace as a window for the catharsis of emotions and hold the law does not rule the crowd of the fluke mentality [12], which coincides with Lin Aijun's point of view; she also believes that cyber violence is due to the extreme moral judgement of the majority of people, which is to let the emotional venting instead of rational thinking [13]. Both of their viewpoints illustrate the injustice of cyber violence and show the huge potential harm of cyber violence. In addition to this, in terms of the reasons for the large scope of cyber violence, Li Yang and Lin Aijun also put forward the group nature of cyber violence, which they believe is because most people are doing it, which will drive other people to join in [13] [14], and the more people there are, the more excited everyone will be and the more they will want to express their own point of view. And such a mentality creates an extremely wide range of cyberviolence and makes it very difficult for the cybervictims to speak out. Chen Yuting describes in great detail the various forms of cyber violence and combines them with the realities of today's life. He also shows readers the harms of cyber violence, in which the author clearly points out that the distortion of information and media communication is one of the factors in the formation of cyber violence [15]. The impact of cyber violence is actually closely related to our lives. Xiang Yushang chooses to analyze the causes of cyber violence on microblogging, saying that online and offline cyber violence will appear to be extended [16], which proves that the harm of cyber violence to the later stage is far more than just staying at the level of cyber language, and more may develop offline to cause even worse results. At the same time, he believes that online violence and public opinion are inseparable and can even be understood as public opinion creating online violence [16]. Wang Shuxian introduces the concept and causes of cyber violence and links cyber violence with news authenticity, showing that news authenticity is an important way to reduce cyber violence [17]. Jia Lingyun puts forward several basic features of cyber language violence and develops an analysis of the social causes of cyber language violence. There are similarities between his article and Li Caiwei's analysis of cyber language violence. For example, both of them suggest that one of the major reasons for cyber language violence is the virtual and hidden nature of the Internet, and both of them point out that cyber language violence is characterized by aggressiveness, which can cause

serious physical and psychological harm to the cyber-violated [11, 18]. In Mu Xiayi's article, it is clear that online violence and fake news are interrelated, and it is pointed out that online violence is interdependent with fake news to a certain extent, which is because the publication of fake news will stimulate a "preconceived" effect, thus contributing to online violence. [19] These texts all mention the influence of false news and public opinion on cyber violence. And at present, Xin Yan Yan and Fang Shi Shi's survey found that the public's voice to see the whole society is living in the "bitter network violence. for a long time. "Social atmosphere, the public's tolerance for network violence is getting lower and lower [20], the problem of network violence has aroused more people's attention, and the governance related to it is also more urgent. At the end of the literature on cyber violence, people are urged to look at today's news rationally and improve their ability to recognize news, which shows that the generation of cyber violence is linked to false news. And the first step in combating cyber violence is to prevent fake news.

#### **4. Implications of Governance: Uniting Against Fake News and Cyber Violence**

Both fake news and cyber violence exhibit similarities in their governance approaches. A pivotal step is enhancing the management of the cyber environment, involving the clarification of relevant concepts, the formulation of applicable laws, and the reinforcement of enforcement measures. Collaborative efforts among platforms can facilitate effective governance by preventing the dissemination of malicious false news for commercial gain and curtailing the publication of content infused with personal emotional biases that lack confirmation. Additionally, efforts to boost media literacy play a crucial role in exercising control over news authenticity and mitigating offensive content, ensuring readers are presented with "clean" and factual information.

Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen the requirements for reader quality by fostering discernment and encouraging a holistic understanding by considering multiple perspectives. It is imperative to cultivate a rational reception of news content. Simultaneously, elevating the quality of readers' discourse on the Internet is essential, as is promoting civilized language use and upholding a harmonious online environment.

previous generations have identified numerous issues in the online environment, proposing a plethora of governance approaches. While existing literature extensively explores fake news and online violence individually, fewer analyses integrate the two. Contemporary trends suggest an increasing interconnection between fake news and online violence, amplifying their collective harm. This thesis uniquely combines the two, illustrating their interrelationship. Although not strictly interdependent, fake news propels network violence, and the occurrence of network violence diminishes mass trust in media credibility, fostering the rise of more online media. This reciprocal dynamic underscores that the widespread prevalence of fake news is not isolated; rather, the emergence of network violence further fuels the dissemination of false information.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Certainly, there exists a correlation between fake news and cyberviolence, where the former exacerbates the harm inflicted on victims of cyberviolence. The impact varies across different levels, with malinformation standing out as particularly detrimental. Originating from reality and possessing a degree of authenticity, malinformation is challenging to debunk, making it a potent enabler of online violence. Given its foundation in social issues, malinformation often prompts a wider audience to morally attack others, leading to not only online but also offline ramifications, resulting in profound physical and psychological harm. Notable examples include the Chongqing bus incident. Another source of harm is disinformation, which, despite being false, is easier to identify and overthrow. Primarily found in entertainment media, its impact is weaker due to lower credibility. Although the strength and duration of the resulting violence are relatively smaller, disinformation still inflicts psychological harm, as seen in various celebrity scandals and false accusations against kindergarten

teachers. Misinformation, as a process-oriented type of fake news, expands the scope of cyber violence, influencing its intensity and direction. The most notable effect is the broadening of the cyber-violence landscape. In contemporary society, the prevalence of fake news and cyber violence has undeniable adverse effects on our lives, prompting the need for proactive solutions. Initiatives range from individual responsibility, urging skepticism towards rumors and reliance on official results, to social media improving fact-checking capabilities and news quality, and ultimately to state-level interventions, including the formulation of laws and norms to manage online behavior. Recognizing that the internet is not beyond the law, concerted efforts are required to combat malicious online activities. Collaborative international efforts to establish relevant laws further underscore the importance of cleaning up the online environment. The internet should not become a breeding ground for falsehoods or a venue for moral lynching. Instead, it should be a space we collectively safeguard. Our words should not serve as weapons, and everyone, from individuals to media professionals, should be accountable for their words and actions. Through collective efforts, a clean and peaceful cyberworld is attainable.

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