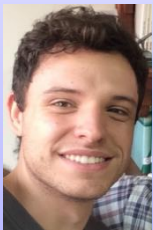


Fake News about COVID-19 in Brazil: a proposal of subject categorization



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Fake News

- According to Lazer et al. (2018):
 1. They copy specialized media, having the same format
 2. They lack strict rules and processes
 3. No accuracy and credibility
- They belong to a group called information disorders, which is consisted of:
 1. **Disinformation** – false information and deliberately created to harm people, social groups, organizations or countries.
 2. **Misinformation** - false information but not intended to harm others, usually results from errors
 3. **Malinformation**- based on reality, some degree of credibility, but intentionally directed to cause harm (Wardle, 2017)

Fake News

- Spreading fake news is an old practice
- What's new is the term fake news, which emerged in the context of the 2016 US elections
- Trump used the term fake news and fake media to refer to the press that was criticizing him at that moment (Ross and Rivers, 2018)
- Fake news is a new concern since it is capable of putting the democratic system and people's health at risk

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

COVID-19
Edition



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Is there an author? Check out their credentials on relevant issues.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on links or check with official sources. Do they support the story?



DO OTHERS AGREE?

Are any other sites reporting this? What sources are they citing?



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the source to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs or concerns could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site, official source like the WHO.



LOOK BEFORE YOU SHARE

Don't share posts or stories that you haven't checked out first!



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With thanks to www.factcheck.org

IFLA.org

Goal

- The main goal of the paper was to thematically categorize fake news related to COVID-19 in the Brazilian universe
- In order to contribute to the identification of areas and themes that are more permeable to this phenomenon
- Object of greater care by the information professional in his work
- Ethical commitment to information

Methodology

- Fact-checking website: Fato ou Fake
- Total of news: 396
- Period: feb 2020 to feb 2021
- Data extraction: title, date, nature (format), category and abstract
- Content analysis (BARDIN, 1977) : daily aspects, economy, foreign countries, public figures, politics, pronouncement, recommendations and health

Results

- Nature: messages (203), videos (95), images (92), audios (5), letters (3) and poem (1)
- Categories: health (144), public figures (93), foreign countries (89), daily aspects (77), politics (68), recommendations (62), pronouncement (34) and economy (18)
- Cronology: April and May 2020 were the two months with the highest numbers of fake news

Fake News

1.1 Dissemination and Agent (e.g. it doesn't occur if the temperature is above 20°C; German doctors found out that coronavirus deaths are caused by bacteria and that COVID-19 is amplified by 5G networks; toothbrushes maintain the virus and may reinfect people);

1.2 Immunity (e.g. British neuroscientist concludes that most of the population is immune to the virus);

1.3 Current Situation (e.g. Eradicated).

- 2.1 Diagnosis
- (e.g. Procedure: holding your breath for 10 seconds to diagnose lung fibrosis; PCR test: is not effective; inserts micro-crystals into the pineal gland; Digital Infrared Thermometer: causes cancer, blindness and brain damage).
- 2.2 Treatments
- 2..1.1 Liquids (Infusions of aloe vera, artemisia, boldo, or anise; coconut water, home- made mixture of water, salt and zinc; wine; either vodka or whisky; tonic water);
- 2.1.2 Food (hominy, onion, garlic, liver, turmeric, orange, lemon honey, apple, yam, melon, jambu, ginger, pepper, vinegar, salt);

- 2.1.3 Chemical Elements and Medicines (hydroxychloroquine; ivermectin; lemon and sodium bicarbonate; vitamin C, azithromycin, chlorine dioxide, sulfur, ivermectin, sodium bicarbonate, paracetamol, vitamin D);
- 2.1.4 Special therapies (e.g. self-hemotherapy; ozone therapy; eucalyptus steam using mouthwash; both hot and cold shower);

- 3 – Preventive Measures
- 3.1 Alcohol 70 (e.g. is not effective to prevent against the virus and can cause serious burns, breath infection, and even death);
- 3.2 Masks (e.g. prolonged use causes intoxication and low oxygenation of the body; ineffective and may cause throat infection; cause irreversible neurological damage; hyperventilation and poisoning by micro particles of the mask material; accumulation of water inside the lungs; increase CO₂ levels inside the brain. Risk of thrombosis and alteration of the oral and intestinal flora);
- 3.3 Social Distancing (e.g. Harvard study shows that social distancing is not good for containing the advance of the virus)

- 3.4 Vaccines (e.g. with the following consequences and characteristics: death; convulsions; fetal malformations; contamination by the coronavirus itself; breast cancer; altered blood cells; male sex impotence; female infertility; Alzheimer; fibromyalgia, neurological problems, fainting, anaphylactic shock, quadriplegia, face swelling, foot wound, contain magnets and cause magnetism; cause contamination and blood color changes; generate genetically modified human beings; contain liquid chip and artificial intelligence for population control, can infect cells and transfer genetic material, contain a toxic and pathogenic protein, are composed by cells of aborted fetuses, and vaccinated persons have a larger viral charge, cannot donate blood, and cannot travel by plane).

- Fake news is a complex phenomenon, despite its harmful power it can appear in many formats (images, audios, messages) which makes it easier to be shared and therefore difficult to be detected.
- Librarians need to combat fake news through an ethical commitment to the reliability of the information organized and disseminated by them (Guimarães et al., 2008).

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Thank you for your
attention!

Merci!