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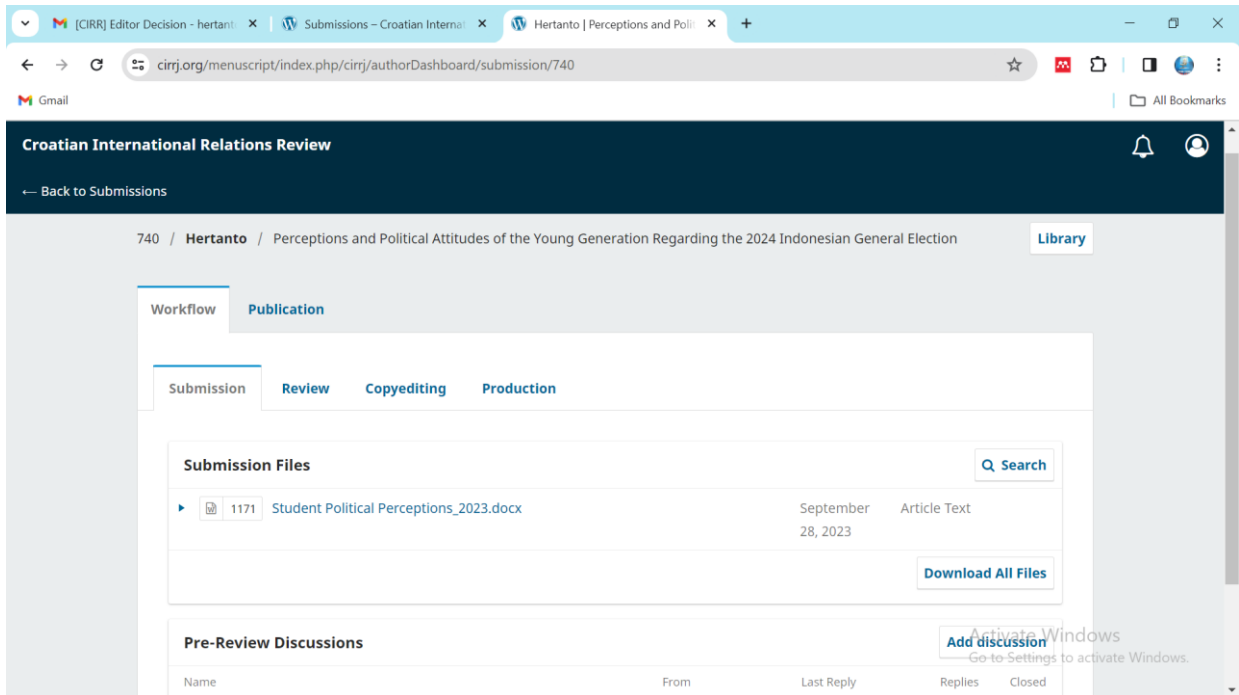
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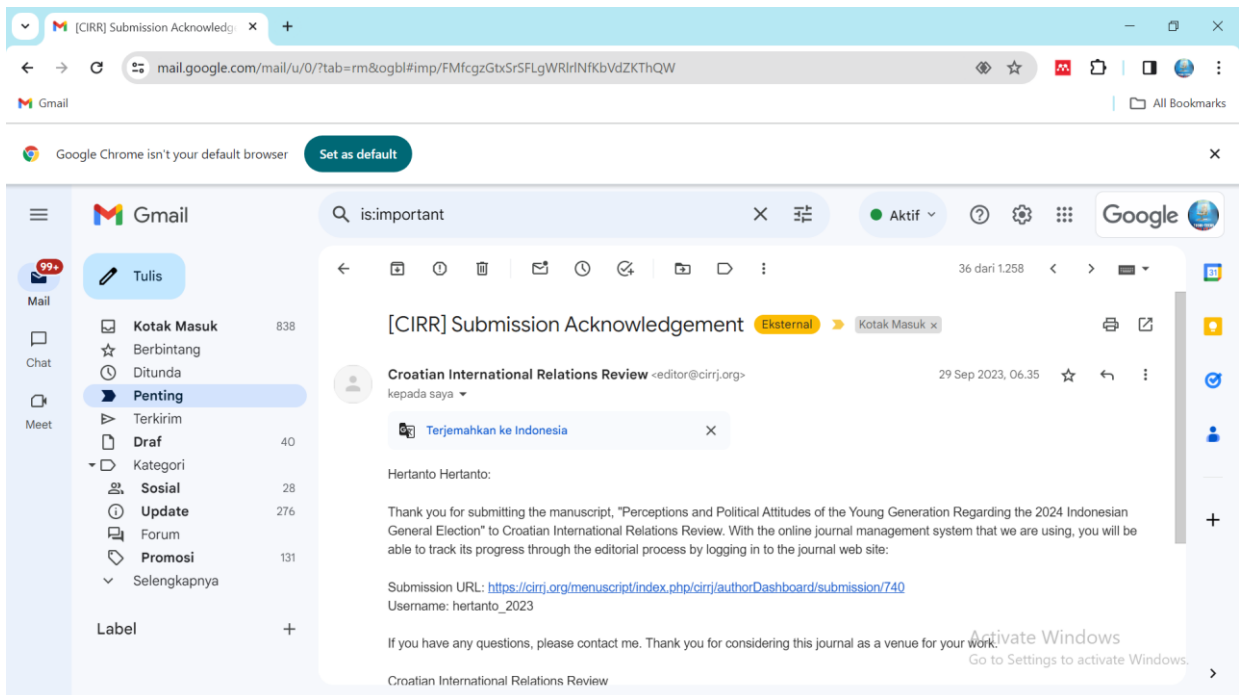
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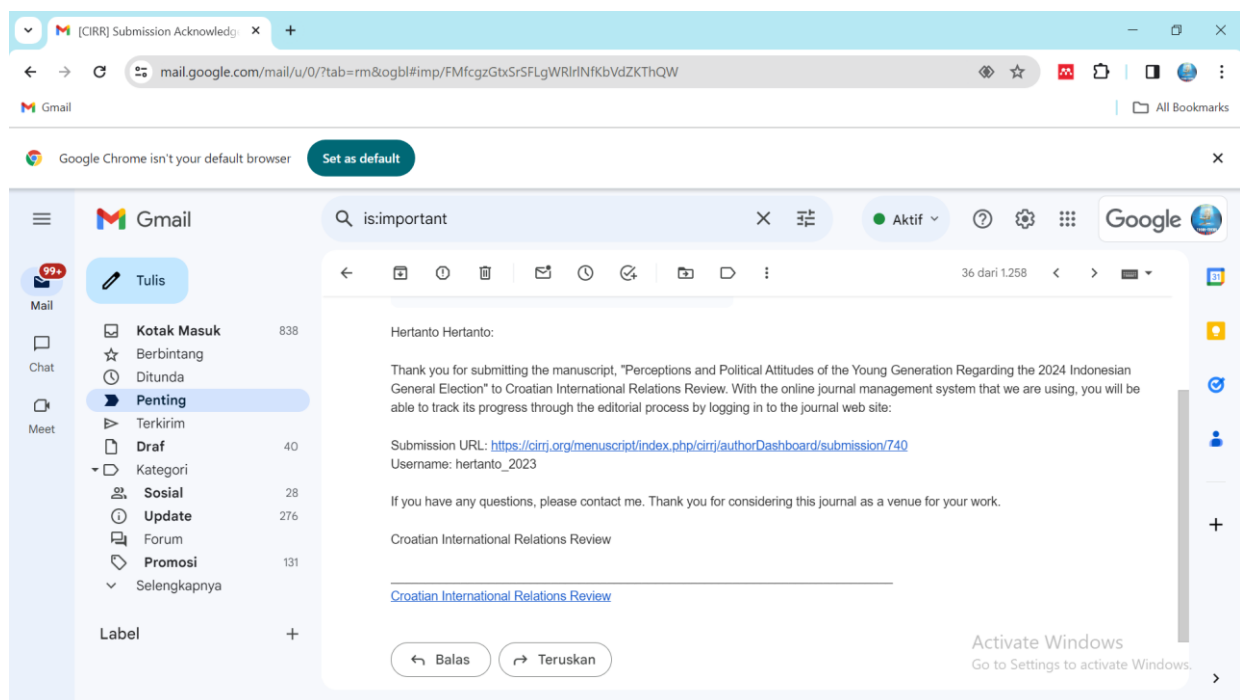
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Young Generation's Political Perceptions of the 2024 Indonesian General Election

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Abstract

General elections are the main means for citizen involvement in a democratic political system, and the knowledge, attitudes and role of society regarding the impact of elections have important implications. This study aims to: (1) determine the perceptions of the younger generation towards the 2024 elections; (2) identifying the orientation and attitudes of the younger generation towards the 2024 election; and (3) explain the reasons the younger generation will vote for the candidate. This research uses a qualitative method with a Likert Scale instrument to describe perceptions and attitudes. The research results show that: (1) The younger generation's perception and knowledge of the 2024 general election tends to be good. They stated that they had registered as voters for the 2024 elections and would be present to vote on voting day. Meanwhile, (2) the attitude of the younger generation tends to be positive towards electoral democracy in the 2024 elections. The attitude of the majority of young people tends to reject black and negative campaign practices and strategies, both by political parties, candidates and success teams. Meanwhile, (3) the reasons for the younger generation to choose executive candidates (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (central and regional) who will compete in the 2024 elections are based on

considerations of the vision and mission of the candidates they will choose. This political orientation tendency is based on rational choice considerations.

Keywords: *Knowledge, Perception, Political Attitude, Youth, Indonesian Election 2024*

Introduction

The results of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, 2023) survey show that young voters will dominate the Indonesian General Election in 2024. In this case, young voters are defined as citizens aged 17-39 years. According to the results of this survey, the proportion of young voters in the 2024 elections is predicted to be close to 60 percent or around 190 million people. In the 2019 election, based on data from the General Election Commission, the number of millennial voters reached 40 percent of the national permanent voter list. This large number makes the role of the millennial generation very vital so that it is hoped that they can choose wisely and not abstain (nonvoting behavior). It was previously thought that many young people were "abstaining" because they did not have adequate information about the candidates they would vote for, considering that electoral information was not easily accessible. The issue of hoaxes also creates anxiety and threatens the perception and political apathy during elections among some young people. Therefore, the millennial generation who is already digitally literate is expected to be able to filter information intelligently.

Why do the younger generation (students, students, beginners) choose certain political parties or candidates and not other political parties and candidates in general elections? The answer to this question can be differentiated based on five factors according to the perspective used, namely structural, sociological, ecological, social psychology and rational choice. However, there are also some voters who do not exercise their right to vote in the election. The number of people who do not vote or are termed the "white group" (Golput, nonvoting behavior) from election to election continues to increase. There are at least five factors that make people not choose, starting with technical and work factors, namely internal factors and external factors consisting of administrative, socialization and politics. These five factors contribute to the increasing number of Golput (nonvoting behavior).

In 2024, Indonesia will for the first time hold general elections (presidential and legislative at central and regional levels) as well as regional head elections simultaneously in all provinces, districts and cities. In the same year 2024, Lampung Province will also hold elections for governor and deputy; election of two mayors and their deputies; as well as 13 regents and their deputies. The 2024 General Election is just a few days away, namely April 9 for the legislative candidate election and July 9 for the presidential/vice presidential election. Are the Indonesian people, especially young voters, ready to use their voting rights to determine the fate of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia for the next 5 years?

Meanwhile, according to studies by several democracy activists, the level of public participation in elections continues to decline (see Table 1). Based on data from the general election commission, the voter participation rate in the legislative candidate elections in 2004 was 84%. Meanwhile in the 2009 election the number decreased to 71%. There are several factors that cause the decline in election participation rates. From a survey conducted by the general election commission, one of the contributing factors is the still high number of voters who abstain (nonvoting behavior). Looking at the participant figures for the 2009 legislative and presidential elections, around 29% of voters chose Golput (nonvoting behavior). The decline in public satisfaction with the performance of executive institutions is also another cause. The results of a survey by the General Election Commission and Kompas Daily also stated that the level of public satisfaction with performance in all government sectors fell by 40%. Around 90.2% of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the performance of political parties. Political parties now seem to be only symbolic and need to play a bigger role in increasing the level of political participation and awareness among the public, especially the younger generation.

Table 1. Trends in Voter Participation Levels in Elections 1999-2019

Election Year	Legislative Elections (%)	Presidential Election (%)
1999	92,70 percent	-
2004	84,06 percent	77,44 percent
2009	70,99 percent	72,09 percent
2014	75,11 percent	69,58 percent
2019	81,69 percent	81,97 percent

Source: www.kpu.go.id.

The large number of election levels and the number of voting cards will also increase the level of difficulty of voting for rural communities in Lampung, especially since the voting period does not increase (the same nationally, 08.00-13.00). This will likely affect the rate of voting errors and the number of invalid ballot cards. Member of the Advisory Board of the Association for Elections and Democracy (Perludem), Titi Anggraini, said that the characteristics of elections in Indonesia are the most complex and complicated in the world (Perludem, 2022). Moreover, elections and regional head elections (pilkada) will be held simultaneously in the same year (2024). In fact, the biggest one-day election in the world. First, Indonesia held elections with the longest vote recapitulation in the world. Likewise, regarding databases, this nation has the largest centralized voter data in the world. Second, the campaign donation limit in Indonesia is one of the highest in the world. Campaign finance reports are just lip service, because of high-cost, unaccountable politics. The contest is said to be expensive but is not reflected in campaign finance reports.

According to the background, the problem formulation as a research question is: (1). What is the knowledge and perception of the younger generation regarding the 2024 general election? (2). What is the orientation and voting attitude of the younger generation towards the 2024 general election? (3). What are the reasons for choosing candidates by the younger generation in the 2024 general election? Meanwhile, the aims of this research are: (1) to determine the level of knowledge and perceptions of the younger generation regarding the 2024 general election; (2) explain the reasons for choosing candidates by the younger generation in the 2024 general election; and (3) identifying the orientation and voting attitudes of the younger generation towards the 2024 general election. Meanwhile, the results of the research can be used as input for improving future election regulations for election organizers (KPU), especially in fulfilling the equal rights and obligations of young voters in election. Also to formulate and offer a strategy model for preventing abstention (nonvoting behavior) for first-time voters, young voters (students), and the younger generation in elections.

Literature Review

Attitude is a relationship between various beliefs that have been attached and encourage a person to respond to an object or situation in a certain way. Political attitudes depend on political issues, leaders, ideas, institutions, or events (Plano, Riggs & Robin, 1989). Attitudes may not be manifested in real political actions, but attitudes tend to change with time, changing circumstances and are influenced by various motives (Hatemi & Verhulst, 2015). Political attitude is a reaction to a feeling of individual psychological tendencies in the form of supporting/agreeing or rejecting/disagreeing, which then becomes collective behavior in a political system. In other words, political attitude is the perception of a person or group to respond to political problems that occur around them by supporting (pro) or refusing (con). Attitudes shape the way a person or group perceives and responds to political phenomena.

Perception according to Gibson (1985:56-57) is a cognitive process used by a person to interpret and understand the world around him. Each person has a variety of cues that influence his or her perception of people, objects, and signs. To determine a person's perception of an object, it is necessary to pay attention to perception indicators which include: absorption of stimuli or objects

from outside the individual, understanding or understanding and assessment or evaluation. Individual judgment plays a large role in influencing aspects of a decision. Each individual will view the decision based on various different angles. This is more about the confidence a person has in understanding conditions and ending in decision making. A person's perception of another person's abilities also determines their attitude in communicating with that person. Perception of one's own abilities and the abilities of others becomes the basis for one's actions.

1. Political Perceptions and Attitudes

Perception is important in the study of political behavior because people's behavior is based on their perception of what reality is and not about reality itself. According to Prasetijo (2005), there are two main factors that influence perception, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include: a) experience, b) needs, c) judgment, and d) expectations or expectations. Someone with high or good self-perception abilities will have the ability to make good decisions. If someone has low self-perception abilities, the worse the decisions they will make.

According to Plano, Riggs, and Robin (2005: 148-149), perception is a process (or result) that gives rise to awareness of something through the medium of healthy thoughts. Perception includes two interrelated work processes, namely first receiving impressions through sight, touch and other senses. Second, interpretation or determining the meaning of these sensory impressions. Meanwhile, factors that influence the perception of political phenomena are ideology, personality, past activities and experiences, characteristics of certain decision situations, potential losses and benefits, and a person's emotional state.

Meanwhile, attitude is a combination of various beliefs that are attached and encourage a person to respond to an object or situation in a certain way (Plano, Riggs, and Robin, 2005: 11-12). Political attitudes depend on issues, leaders, ideas, institutions or political events. Attitudes can be latent and not manifested in real political actions. Attitudes also tend to change as time progresses and circumstances change, and tend to be influenced by various motives. Attitudes shape the way people perceive and respond to political phenomena. In an absolute sense, only a few individuals think politically. Therefore, measuring political perceptions and attitudes provides the possibility of realistic estimates of political behavior, views and considerations.

Attitude can also be interpreted as a readiness to act, which a person or group has to face, respond to or assess political problems that occur, and finally is expressed in various forms (Chilcote, 2010). Attitude can also be defined as a form or reaction of a feeling. This is related to how a person's attitude responds in the form of supporting or rejecting certain objects (Azwar, 2013: 4). In other words, attitude is a summary of psychological conditions of knowledge and feelings which ultimately support a particular attitude. If related to politics, then political attitudes are the result of individual tendencies which then become collective behavior in a political system. In general, attitudes are always not constant, there are many factors behind a political figure or the general public determining attitudes. Factors that influence attitude formation are personal experience, culture, people who are considered important to themselves, mass media, political parties and emotional factors. Thoughts that shape the political attitudes and collective behavior of a society or nation towards a political system that has persisted for a long time ultimately form a kind of political patterns in society, resulting in political decisions based on these attitudes. This is what then forms what is called political culture (Setiadi & Kolip, 2013: 95).

2. Elections in Indonesia

Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as government of the people, by the people, and for the people (Faidi, 2018). A democratic country is a country that places supreme sovereignty (power) in the hands of the people. Therefore, the characteristic of a democratic country is a government that has limited power and is not permitted to act arbitrarily against its citizens. A government with limited power is a government whose rights and obligations are limited through the constitution, including limited terms and conditions of office. For this reason, the state constitution establishes a mechanism for selecting and selecting state administrators periodically through general elections by the people.

Thus, the real form of democracy is general elections. This formulation is known as procedural democracy, proposed by Joseph Schumpeter (2003) and developed by Samuel P. Huntington (2001). Democracy is theoretically defined as a procedural process in order to elect political leaders through competition between political parties and/or political leader candidates to convince the people to elect them to occupy government positions (legislative or executive) at the central or regional level. According to this definition, there are two important elements in democracy, namely: first, contestation and fair competition between parties and/or potential leaders. Second, citizen participation in assessing and making decisions regarding the competition.

Elections in Indonesia are held based on the mandate of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. Based on these regulations, general elections are a means of implementing people's sovereignty which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. General elections are held to elect members People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, President and Vice President, and Regional People's Representative Council (Article 22E, paragraph 1). Thus, elections are very important in democratic countries to limit government power so that it is not absolute, absolute and arbitrary. In line with these election principles, in the context of political decentralization, direct regional head elections are also carried out at the provincial, district and city levels to elect governors, regents and mayors democratically in accordance with applicable law, namely Law Number 6 2020.

3. Young and Beginner Voters

Political participation of Indonesian citizens, including women, is guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and various other laws and regulations, which recognize that every Indonesian citizen, male and female, has the same political rights. Among other things, the right to vote, namely the right to choose and be elected in elections. Article 28D paragraph 3 confirms that every Indonesian citizen has the right to equal opportunities in government.

New voters are those who are about to reach voting age and will exercise their right to vote for the first time in an election. New voters in the political category are a group who are exercising their right to vote for the first time. New voters who are students are an important element in the structure and dynamics of politics and democracy. According to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, voters are defined as Indonesian citizens who on voting day are 17 (seventeen) years of age or older or are or have been married and have the right to vote. According to Firmanzah (2007: 102), voters are defined as all parties whose main aim is for the contestants to influence and convince them to support and then give their votes to the contestants concerned. Voters in this case can be constituents or the community in general. Constituents are groups of people who feel represented by an ideology that is manifested in political institutions such as political parties.

According to Prihatmoko (2005: 46), voters who are part of the wider community may not be constituents of a particular political party. Society consists of various groups, there are non-partisan groups of society where their ideology and political goals are not attributed to a particular political party. For example, young voters, beginners, state civil servants, and others. They wait until there is a political party that can offer the best political program in their opinion, so that is the party they will choose. According to Karim (1991: 32), young people are people who are difficult to dictate. There are even allegations that the younger generation is a group that is difficult for political parties or election contestants to approach. In general, novice voters do not have adequate political literacy. New voters tend to follow trends in the environment where they live. According to Suhartono (2009:6), novice voters, especially teenagers, have cultural values that are relaxed, free, and tend to be informal and look for fun. Therefore, all unpleasant things will be avoided. Apart from looking for fun, peer groups are the most important arena in a teenager's life, so they need to have their own group of friends socially.

New voters have high enthusiasm while the choice decision is not yet unanimous, actually placing new voters as true swing voters (Jati, 2021). Their political choices have not been influenced by specific ideological motivations and are more driven by the dynamic context of the local political environment. Often what they choose is not what they expected. Ignorance in practical political matters, especially regarding choices in elections or local elections, means that novice voters often do not think rationally and think more about short-term interests. An attitude of great curiosity encourages first-time voters to be very enthusiastic about the elections or regional elections. They want to participate in voting with their respective choices. In this case, most novice voters fall into the pseudo-background category. Remembering that they are still involved in making choices. Usually he goes along like other friends his age. So they are still vulnerable to being influenced to change their choices. A high sense of participation encourages first-time voters to consider it a necessity to vote in elections/pilkada. This is their reason because it will be the first experience in their lives, especially in a democratic party.

The political orientation of novice voters is always dynamic and will change according to existing conditions and the factors that influence them (Setiajid, 2011). However, apart from all that, the existence of first-time voters is certainly promising in every general election event, as a way to secure the strategic position that every candidate who runs in the election wants to achieve. Anyone who can attract the attention of this group will be able to feel the benefits, whereas the absence of support from this group will be quite detrimental to the electoral vote targets they want to achieve. Usually new voters have different characteristics from voters who have been involved in elections or regional elections in the previous period, namely, first, they have never voted or voted in a polling place. Second, don't have any voting experience. Third, have high enthusiasm. Fourth, less rational. Fifth, usually young voters who are still full of turmoil and enthusiasm, and if not controlled will have an effect on social conflicts in the election. Sixth, it is a target for election participants because the number is quite large. Seventh, have curiosity, try and participate in elections, even though sometimes with various rational and pseudo-rational backgrounds.

They usually still participate in making choices, like other friends their age. So they are still vulnerable to being influenced to change their choices. Therefore, new voters are being targeted by election contestants, both from political parties and candidates including their supporters. Election voters who are susceptible to influence are very easy to catch and they will attract other friends. They tend to be unstable in making choices, but not all of them are easily influenced or provoked. The desire for high participation encourages first-time voters to consider it a necessity for them to vote in elections. This is their reason because it will be the first experience in their lives, especially in a democratic party.

Methodology

1. Context of the Study

This research uses qualitative methods which produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and behavior, perceptions, motivations, attitudes and actions that can be observed holistically (Bogdan & Taylor 2019). Perceptions, attitudes and behavior are substudies of political participation in countries that implement democratic political systems, but in reality the percentage of citizens who participate varies from one country to another. In other words, not all citizens participate in the political process (Surbakti 2002: 140). There are factors that influence a person's participation or lack of participation in the political process. Factors that influence the level of a person's political participation are political awareness and trust in the government (political system). Political awareness is awareness of the rights and obligations as citizens. This concerns a person's knowledge of the social and political environment, and concerns a person's interest and attention to the social and political environment in which he lives. Meanwhile, trust in the government is a person's assessment of the government: do they judge the government to be trustworthy and can be influenced or not?

Political awareness and trust in the government are categorized as intermediate variables. Then, political participation is categorized as an affected variable or dependent variable. Students are an educated elite group within the ranks of the younger generation who are considered to have political awareness and critical perceptions of the prevailing political system. In other words, the assumption is that students will have high political participation in the 2024 elections. Why do students vote for certain contestants and not others? The answer to this question is divided into five according to the approach used, namely structural, sociological, ecological, social psychology and rational choice (Surbakti 2002: 145). First, the structural approach sees voting activities as a product of a broader structural context, such as social structure, party system, general election system, problems and programs highlighted by each party. The social structure that is the source of political pluralism can be social class or differences between employers and workers, religion, differences between cities and villages, and language and nationalism. The number of parties, the social base of the party system and the programs highlighted may differ from one region to another due to differences in social structure.

Second, the sociological approach tends to place voting activities in relation to the social context. A person's choice in general elections is influenced by demographic and socio-economic background, such as gender, place of residence (urban-rural), occupation, education, class, income and religion. Third, the ecological approach is only relevant if in an electoral district there are differences in voter characteristics based on territorial units, such as villages, sub-districts, sub-districts and districts. Community groups, such as certain types of religious adherents, workers, the middle class, students, certain ethnic groups, certain subcultures, and certain professions live in territorial units so that changes in the composition of the population living in territorial units can be used as an explanation for changes in general election results. This ecological approach is very important to use because the characteristics of general election results data at the provincial level are different from the characteristics of district data, or the characteristics of district data are different from the characteristics of sub-district level data.

Fourth, the social psychology approach is basically the same as the explanation given in the model of political behavior, as explained above. One of the social psychology concepts used to explain voting behavior in general elections is party identification. This concept refers to voters' perceptions of existing parties or voters' emotional attachment to certain parties. The party that is emotionally felt to be very close to him is the party that is always chosen without being influenced by other factors.

Fifth, the rational choice approach sees choosing activities as a product of calculating profits and losses. The "cost" of voting and the possibility that one's vote can influence the expected outcome is not only a consideration, but also the difference from alternatives in the form of existing choices. This consideration is used by voters and candidates who wish to nominate themselves to be elected as people's representatives or government officials. For voters, considerations of profit and loss are used to make decisions about the party or candidate they choose, especially to make the decision whether to vote or not to vote. Another consideration is the psychological pride factor, such as fulfilling obligations as a citizen, affirming group identity, and showing loyalty to the party. Some members of the public also exercise their right to vote based on incomplete and inaccurate information, such as traditions, ideology and party image.

The five approaches mentioned above all assume that choosing is an autonomous activity, meaning without coercive pressure from other parties. However, in reality in developing countries (such as Indonesia) voting behavior is not only determined by voters as mentioned by the four approaches above, but in many cases is actually determined by group pressure, intimidation and coercion from certain groups or leaders. A society that views the group or public as more important than the definition of the situation given by the individual tends to make it difficult for individuals to make decisions that are different or contrary to the opinion of the group or state. Therefore, voting behavior in several developing countries must also be examined in terms of the influence of leadership on voter choices. The leadership in question is in the form of traditional leadership (traditional heads and tribal heads), religious (religious leaders), patron-client (landlords-cultivators), and bureaucratic-authoritarian (government officials, police and military).

The influence of these leaders does not always take the form of persuasion, but often takes the form of manipulation, intimidation and threats of coercion. However, students with their level of political awareness are at least free from the influence of intimidation from external parties.

2. Research Instruments

Data collected regarding situations or events and factors that are the focus of research. This research data was collected from informants and student respondents, students, the younger generation of prospective voters in Lampung Province. Informants are the younger generation registered on the Provisional and Permanent Voter List for the 2024 Simultaneous General Election. Research informants are prospective voters, Indonesian citizens who are at least 17 (seventeen) years old or already/ever married who are registered in the election. The total sample of informants was 170 students who were interviewed using questionnaires from April to June 2023.

The method used to measure the perceptions of the younger generation is the Likert Scale Method. The Likert scale is a psychometric scale that is commonly used in questionnaires and is the scale most widely used in research in the form of surveys. The name of this scale is taken from the name of Rensis Likert who published and explained its use. The Likert scale is a measurement method used to measure attitudes, opinions and perceptions of a person or group of people about social phenomena (Sugiyono, 2012). The Likert scale is also a method for collecting research data, both for qualitative research and quantitative research. This scale can consist of 3, 4, 5, answer items and so on according to the researcher's needs. Examples of Likert Scales that are often used: 3 scales: Disagree, Doubtful, Agree. 5 scales: Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Fair, Satisfied, Very Satisfied. However, the analysis technique in this research was carried out qualitatively using frequency tables, percentages and interpretation. Qualitative data analysis is carried out on non-numerical data, results of in-depth interviews, field notes, articles, photos, drawings or films. Qualitative analysis looks for general patterns of tendencies from the description of the words of respondents' answers.

Respondents'/informants' knowledge about the 2024 election was tested from a question instrument regarding regulations, rules of the game, principles and objectives of elections, election participants and candidates, organizers and voters. Meanwhile, the political attitudes of respondents/informants towards the 2024 election events were tested from the instrument asking questions about whether they were registered as voters, interest in attending the polling station on voting day, attitudes towards candidates circulating on social media, candidate campaigns. The results of this data collection are tabulated in the form of a table: Orientation of Political Considerations for Choosing a President; Political Orientation Choosing a Regent/Mayor; table of perceptions of Governor Candidates who are worthy of being elected; table of Presidential Candidates Eligible to Elect.

Meanwhile, in this research study, the respondents' attitudes are aimed at the events of the general election and simultaneous regional head elections in 2024. At the start of a competition for election of political positions, it generally begins with self-introduction of the candidates or political parties that will be contesting. Introduction of this identity through direct media (face to face) or indirectly through mass media or social media, and others. The media for identifying identity (track record and vision and mission) in general elections is known as a campaign.

3. Respondent's Social Demographics

The number of respondents in this study was 170 people, all respondents were students from various districts and cities in Lampung Province and from outside Lampung Province (Jakarta, West Java, North Sumatra and Yogyakarta). They are currently immigrants, consisting of 569 people from Bandar Lampung City and 618 people from South Lampung Regency. There is no age difference between respondents, both in urban and rural areas. Respondents' ages ranged from 18-22 years with the largest sample in the 19 year old category (60%) and the least aged 22 years (0.6%). Based on gender, there were 68 (40%) male respondents and 102 female respondents

(60%). The population of Lampung is a multicultural society. A multicultural society is a society that has a variety of religions, languages and cultures. Almost all ethnic groups in Indonesia are in Lampung as permanent residents. This characteristic is reflected in the composition of respondents in this study with the majority of the sample being Muslim, 90%; Christian 6.48%; Catholic 1.76%; and Hindus 1.76%.

From the ethnic aspect, the majority of respondents came from Javanese 31.77% and Lampung 31.18%; Sundanese 7.65%; Batak 6.47%; Minangkabau 5.29%; Palembang 5.29%; and others. The ethnic origin of Lampung residents consists of Pepadun and Saibatin (Peminggir). Lampung's population includes various groups with their own systems of ideas, values, social organization, history, habits and behavior. The majority of respondents (80%) currently live with their parents in Bandar Lampung City (32.94%). Then respondents from Central Lampung Regency (8.82%); South Lampung (6.64%); Pesawaran Regency (4.71%); North Lampung, Tanggamus, and Pringsewu each 4.12%. All 13 districts and two cities in Lampung Province were represented in the sample of respondents. Even respondents from ethnicities outside the Lampung population were represented, such as Sundanese, West Java (4.71%); Batak of North Sumatra (4.12%); and others (Banten, South Sumatra Malay, Jakarta Betawi, Papua, and Riau Malay). Meanwhile, looking at their membership in social organizations, 48% of respondents were members of social organizations, and 52% of students who did not join.

Result

1. Perception and knowledge of the younger generation regarding the 2024 general election

The younger generation's perception and knowledge of the 2024 general election tends to be good. The majority of respondents (97%) stated that they had registered as voters in the temporary voter list for the 2024 general election. Meanwhile, the announcement of the permanent voter list will be implemented starting June 22 2023. Knowledge of the majority (the majority) of respondents (80%) stated that they knew the presidential candidates who will compete in the 2024 elections. They know the presidential candidates from content sources on social media, television and other mass media. Respondents were even able to name the prospective candidates who had stated that they would compete, namely Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, Prabowo Subianto, and others (Puan Maharani, Erlangga Hartarto, and others). The perception and knowledge of the young generation is supported by their intention to vote on election day in 2024. Thus, the knowledge, intention and passive participation of Lampung's young generation towards the presidential election in the 2024 General Election is in the good/high category.

However, in contrast to respondents' knowledge about national elections, the majority of respondents did not know the legislative candidates in their respective regions. Both legislative candidates at the provincial, district and city levels. Only a small portion of respondents know the candidates in their region who will represent the DPR RI, DPD RI, and at the provincial, district and city levels. 68% of respondents stated that they did not know the names of the legislative candidates (regency/city DPRD) in their electoral district (Dapil) for the 2024 elections. Then at the provincial level, 66% of respondents did not know the names of the legislative candidates (Provincial DPRD) in their electoral district in the 2024 Election. Furthermore, for national level legislative candidates representing political party organizations from the Lampung Province region, 70% of respondents did not know the names of the DPR RI legislative candidates in the 2024 Election. Next for national level legislative candidates representing representatives Lampung Province area, 70% of respondents did not know the names of the DPD RI legislative candidates in the 2024 elections. The reason for not knowing was because they had not or did not receive information from print or online media, or directly through outreach and campaigns.

Thus, respondents' knowledge of the 2024 elections and regional elections is higher for executive leadership figures at the national level than for political actors at the regional level. Especially

respondents' knowledge of presidential candidates rather than candidates for members of the DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency and City DPRD. The coverage of presidential candidates is more massive through mass media and social media compared to the names of figures of prospective legislative members at the provincial, district and city levels; so that it is easily recognized by respondents. However, this informant/respondent's knowledge is because at the time the interview took place, the 2024 election stage had not yet entered the election campaign period. Apart from that, registration of legislative candidates for the DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD and Regency/City DPRD for the 2024 elections will only start from May 1 2023 to May 14 2023. So the legislative candidates who are officially registered with the KPU have not yet been widely socialized.

2. The attitude of the younger generation towards the 2024 general election

In social psychology studies, attitudes are defined as evaluations of people, objects, or ideas (Aronson, Wilson, Akert, et.al. 2013). Attitudes arise on the basis of a person's knowledge and evaluative assessment of a reality (object, person or event).

- (1) The attitude of the younger generation tends to be positive towards the practice of electoral democracy in the 2024 elections. This indication is shown through their attitude towards the election campaign which is based on honesty and fairness. The majority of respondents showed a tendency to reject the practices and strategies of black campaigns and negative campaigns, both by political parties, candidates and other parties appointed by election participants. Negative campaigns are carried out by pointing out the weaknesses and mistakes of political opponents, while black campaigns involve accusing opponents through false or unproven accusations, or through things that are irrelevant regarding their capacity as leaders (Santoso, 2019). To gain public sympathy from voters, various scams containing slander and fake news were circulated during the campaign period (Hui, 2020).
- (2) Regarding the two campaign strategies, 88% of respondents do not agree that political parties or candidates use black campaign strategies with primordial issues and SARA (ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group). Meanwhile, another 12% of respondents said they agreed that political parties or candidates used black campaign strategies with primordial issues and SARA, on the grounds that they would gain support and be more attractive. Also, 95% of respondents stated that they did not agree if political parties or candidates used black campaign strategies by spreading disgrace and ugliness against political opponents. All respondents stated that they did not agree (100%) if political parties or candidates used black campaign strategies by spreading lies and slander.
- (3) Black campaigns that use primordial issues and sentiments of ethnicity, religion, race and intergroup relations in Indonesia have the potential to cause many dangers and negative impacts on multicultural society and political stability. First, it has the potential to divide society; Second, it disrupts tolerance and harmonization; Third, weaken democratization; Fourth, cause political conflict; Fifth, foster extremism, radicalism and terrorism; and sixth, reducing political participation.
- (4) To overcome the dangers of black campaigns with primordial issues and SARA, it is important for all stakeholders, including politicians, political parties, civil society organizations, mass media and the general public, to promote understanding, dialogue and education that strengthens unity and integrity. nation. In addition, strict regulations on political campaigns that use SARA issues must be strengthened to ensure a fair and peaceful political process. All parties must commit to respecting diversity and encouraging inclusiveness in the political process in order to realize stability and progress in Indonesia as a democratic country.

3. Reasons for Considering Choosing Candidates for the 2024 General Election

All respondents (100%) also stated that they would vote in the polling booth in the 2024 elections. The majority of respondents would vote for executive candidates (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) who will compete in the 2024 Election based on considerations of the vision and mission of the chosen candidate. The majority of respondents (76.06%) chose the presidential candidates who will compete in the 2024 elections based on the vision and mission of their chosen candidates (Table 2). The majority of respondents (64.12%) chose legislative candidates (DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency and City DPRD) who will

compete in the 2024 elections based on the vision and mission of their chosen candidates. The majority of respondents (73.53%) chose the candidate for governor who will compete in the 2024 election based on the vision and mission of their chosen candidate. The majority of respondents (89.41%) chose the Regent/Mayor candidates who will compete in the 2024 elections based on the vision and mission of their chosen candidates.

Table 2. Political Orientation Considerations in Selecting Presidential Candidates

Reason for Consideration	Frequency	Percentage
Candidate's Vision & Mission	131	76,06
Integrity	19	11,18
Track record	8	4,71
Vision, Mission & Integrity	3	1,76
Performance and Achievements	3	1,76
Performance	2	1,18
Gender Equality	2	1,18
Ethics	1	0,59
Not Answering	1	0,59
Total Number	170	100

Source: Data processing results

The tendency of respondents' political orientation in choosing president is to use rational choice considerations. Rational candidate selection involves objective analysis based on available information, and a good understanding of public interests and the basic values of the nation and state. Thus, millennial voters (usually called generations Y and Z) are classified as rational and critical voters. Rational choice theory states that individuals control their decisions. They do not make choices because of unconscious impulses, traditions or environmental influences. They use rational judgment to weigh potential consequences and benefits. Rationality can be used as an assumption of individual behavior in various contexts outside of economics.

There are several factors that are often taken into consideration when selecting candidates in elections. Several main factors that can influence voters' decisions include, first, policies and platforms (political party programs, candidate's vision and mission): voters often consider the policies and platforms proposed by candidates. They see whether the candidate has views that align with their values and interests. For example, candidates' attitudes towards issues such as the economy, education, environment, health and social justice. Second, Reputation and Track Record: The candidate's reputation and track record are also important considerations. Voters tend to look at candidates' track records, including work experience, political achievements, integrity and honesty. They want to choose candidates who are considered to have the capability and confidence to carry out political tasks well. Third, Character and Integrity: A candidate's character and integrity are often important factors in selecting. Voters want candidates who are honest, responsible, and trustworthy. Personal ethics, morality, and commitment to principles that voters consider important also play a role in their decision making. Fourth, Leadership Ability: The candidate's leadership ability is an important consideration. Voters want to see candidates who have strong leadership skills, the ability to make wise decisions, and are able to influence positive change in society.

Fifth, Communication and Speaking Style: The candidate's ability to communicate and convey messages clearly and convincingly also influences voters' decisions. Voters tend to be attracted to candidates who are able to speak well, listen to their views, and provide adequate explanations of their vision, mission and work plans. Sixth, Party or Group Support: Voters often consider the support of certain political parties or groups for candidates. Voters' views of a particular party or group, and the extent to which they feel that party or group represents their interests, can

influence their decision to choose a candidate. Seventh, Responsive to Problems and Constituents: Voters tend to look for candidates who are responsive to problems and community interests. They want to elect candidates who can listen to and respond to voters' concerns and aspirations, and act in accordance with the public interest. However, voter preferences may vary depending on the individual, socio-political conditions, and electoral context.

Discussion

The majority (majority) of respondents (80%) said they knew the presidential candidates who would compete in the 2024 elections. They knew the presidential candidates from social media, television and other mass media content sources. Ly's (2023) study shows that encouraging public engagement on social media contributes to building trust between the government and citizens. It is also possible to express political views and discuss social issues on social media.

An interesting phenomenon that often arises before general elections and regional head elections is the debate over rational and emotional choices. Emotional choices are generally associated with choosing candidates on the basis (sentiments) of similar ethnic, religious, racial and inter-group identities. In considering the political orientation of choosing a gubernatorial candidate, there were three respondents (1.76%) who chose a gubernatorial candidate based on considerations of the similarity of the respondent's religion with their chosen candidate. Theoretically, choosing election candidates on the basis of shared religion is an option that some voters can consider. However, in an inclusive democratic system, the decision to choose a candidate should not be based solely on religion.

Several theoretical reasons that are often put forward by voters who choose candidates on the basis of similar religions include: First, representation of religious values and interests: Some voters believe that choosing candidates with the same religion will provide better representation of religious values and interests. They hope that candidates with the same religious background will better understand and champion the needs and aspirations of their religious communities.

Second, moral and ethical ties: For some voters, sharing a religion with a candidate is considered a strong moral and ethical tie. They may believe that candidates who practice the same religion will have moral and ethical principles that align with their beliefs and values. Third, trust and security: There are voters who feel more trust and feel safe in choosing candidates with the same religion. They assume that candidates with the same religion will have a deeper understanding of their religious life and will support religious freedom and protect their rights as followers of that religion.

However, although the reasons above may be a consideration for some voters, it is important to maintain the principles of inclusive democracy and respect the principle of selecting based on the qualifications, competence and vision of candidates, not solely on the basis of religion. Democratic principles underscore the importance of respecting religious freedom and promoting diversity, including in the selection of candidates.

Ofan's (2020) research to investigate the political participation of Afghan youth on Facebook explored their frequency of using Facebook as well as the impact of gender, age, and employment status on the political participation and engagement of Afghan youth in the 2019 presidential election on Facebook. Findings show that young Afghans do not actively participate in political activities on Facebook even though they spend at least half an hour on Facebook every day. They engage in low-cost, low-risk political activities, for example following Afghan politicians. Likewise, their involvement in the 2019 presidential election was superficial; they engage in election activities on Facebook that require low effort and commitment, for example following presidential candidates. Additionally, participants' gender, age, and employment status did not significantly impact their frequency of Facebook use, political participation, and involvement in the 2019

presidential election on Facebook. Fionna (2016) sees that political parties in Indonesia rely heavily on a person's charisma and figure to gain public sympathy in an election. Because the image of the old elite is still popular with the public, many parties use this figure in their campaigns.

The results of Wilson and Kemmelmeier's (2019) study show that there is a matching effect between the perception of the importance of voting and the level of interest of young people in voting. However, the study of Asrinaldi, et. Al. 2022, found four reasons why voter perceptions in West Sumatra are not in line with voting behavior, namely value pluralism, failure of political education, money politics, and the dominance of information that changes voter perceptions. Meanwhile, according to Clarke and Acock (2009), one of the important political attitudes in elections is political effectiveness, namely the feeling that individual political actions do have, or can have, an impact on the political process. Although many studies have documented that political effectiveness is positively related to electoral participation, the causal mechanisms involved are still not well understood. Most researchers only assume that the causal relationship starts from effectiveness to participation, namely from attitudes to behavior.

Conclusion

Elections are the main means for citizen involvement in political life, and knowledge of the impact of elections on people's attitudes towards government and the role of individuals within it has important implications for the theory of democratic government.

A. Knowledge and perceptions of the younger generation regarding the 2024 general election.

The younger generation's perception and knowledge of the 2024 general election tends to be good. The majority of respondents (97%) stated that they were registered as voters in the Temporary/Permanent Voter List (DPS/T) for the 2024 general election. All respondents (100%) also stated that they would vote at the Polling Place (TPS) booth in the 2024 Election. The majority (majority) of respondents (80%) stated that they knew the presidential candidates who would compete in the 2024 elections. They knew the presidential candidates from content sources on social media, television and other media. Respondents could even name the potential candidates who would compete, namely Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, Prabowo Subianto, and others (Puan Maharani, Erlangga Hartarto, etc.). The political literacy of the majority of young people is still not 'settled'. Narratives regarding politics are more often shaped and influenced by 'secondary' sources such as social media.

B. Orientation and voting attitudes of the younger generation towards the 2024 general election.

The attitude of the younger generation tends to be positive towards the practice of electoral democracy in the 2024 elections. This indication is shown through their attitude towards an election campaign that is based on honesty and fairness. Election Campaign, hereinafter referred to as Campaign, is the activity of Election Participants or other parties appointed by Election Participants to convince Voters by offering a vision, mission, program and/or self-image of Election Participants. However, in the election contestation in Indonesia, symptoms of negative campaigning and black campaigning emerged. Negative campaigns are carried out by pointing out the weaknesses and mistakes of political opponents, while black campaigns involve accusing opponents through false or unproven accusations, or through things that are irrelevant regarding their capacity as leaders.

In relation to these two campaigns, 88% of respondents did not agree that political parties or candidates used black campaign strategies with primordial issues and SARA (ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group). Also, 95% of respondents stated that they did not agree if political parties or candidates used black campaign strategies by spreading disgrace and ugliness against political opponents. It is feared that the use of negative campaign strategies and black campaigns will lead to conflicts, disputes and violations of the law. A further consequence is that there is concern that

clashes will occur at the grassroots level due to the disproportionate defense of each candidate's supporters, especially when the candidate they support loses.

C. Reasons for choosing candidates by the younger generation in the 2024 general election.

The majority of respondents chose executive candidates (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) who will compete in the 2024 elections based on considerations of the vision and mission of their chosen candidates. The tendency of respondents' political orientation in choosing candidates is to use rational choice considerations. Rational candidate selection involves objective analysis based on available information, and a good understanding of public interests and the basic values of the nation and state.

The younger generation's positive perceptions, orientation and attitudes towards the 2024 general election are likely to influence their voting behavior as a form of political participation. The political participation of the younger generation is very important because they are the backbone of a country's future. There are several reasons why young people's political participation is considered important: first, inclusive representation: Young people have a better understanding of the issues that specifically affect them, such as education, work, the environment and mental health. By getting involved in the political process, they can ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are considered in policymaking.

Second, change and innovation: where the younger generation often brings fresh ideas, energy and new enthusiasm to politics. They tend to be more open to change and innovation, and are able to question the status quo. By involving themselves in politics, they can bring about positive change and help overcome the challenges faced by society. Third, learning and growth: Through political participation, young people have the opportunity to learn about the political system, decision-making processes, and democratic values. They can develop leadership, negotiation, critical, and problem-solving skills that are important for their personal and professional growth.

Fourth, building a sustainable future: Issues such as climate change, sustainable development and social equality are becoming increasingly important to the younger generation. By getting involved in politics, they can fight for sustainable policies, protect the environment, and promote social justice to create a better future. Fifth, respect democratic rights and responsibilities: Democracy requires active participation from all citizens. The younger generation needs to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, including the right to vote and be elected. By taking part in the political process, they can exercise their civic responsibilities and influence the direction of their country.

Recommendation

Therefore, increasing the political participation of the younger generation is important so that their voices are heard and their aspirations are represented in policy making. In facing the complex challenges facing the world today, involving young people in the political process is key to creating a more just, sustainable and inclusive society. What is the strategy to increase the political participation of the younger generation? Increasing the political participation of the younger generation requires the right strategy. The following are several strategies that can be used to encourage the political participation of the younger generation: First, political education: Increasing the political understanding of the younger generation through integrated political education in the school curriculum. This may include lessons about political systems, electoral processes, the role and importance of political participation, as well as relevant political issues. Second, awareness and information: Increase the awareness of the younger generation about relevant political issues and the consequences of political non-participation. Provide clear, easily accessible information about elections, potential candidates, and their political programs.

Third, Critical Education: Encouraging the younger generation to develop critical and analytical thinking skills. They must be empowered to evaluate political information, analyze arguments and

claims, and understand the implications of political policies for their lives. Fourth, involve in discussions and debates: Opening space for the younger generation to engage in discussions, debates and political forums. This may include activities such as public meetings, debates between candidates, or discussion groups that allow them to speak and listen to different views.

Fifth, youth as leaders: Provide opportunities for the younger generation to take leadership roles and participate in the political decision-making process. This can be done through appointing young people to political positions, assigning them to committees or government bodies, and supporting political youth organizations. Sixth, using Social Media and Technology: Utilizing social media platforms and technology to connect and organize the younger generation in political campaigns, outreach and advocacy. These platforms can be used to share information, garner support, and mobilize political participation.

Seventh, Positive Role Models: Present positive role examples from young leaders involved in politics. Involving successful and inspiring young people in various political fields, whether as candidates, activists or community leaders, to become role models for the younger generation. Eighth, Participation through Community Activities: Encourage the younger generation to get involved in community activities related to political and social issues. This may include volunteer campaigns, social activities, or projects aimed at raising awareness and influencing change at a local level. Ninth, Building Networks and Collaboration: Encouraging the younger generation to build networks and collaboration with fellow young people who have similar political interests. This can strengthen support, inspire each other, and facilitate the exchange of ideas and joint action.

By implementing these strategies, it is hoped that the political participation of the younger generation can be increased, make a meaningful contribution to the democratic process, and bring about positive changes in society.

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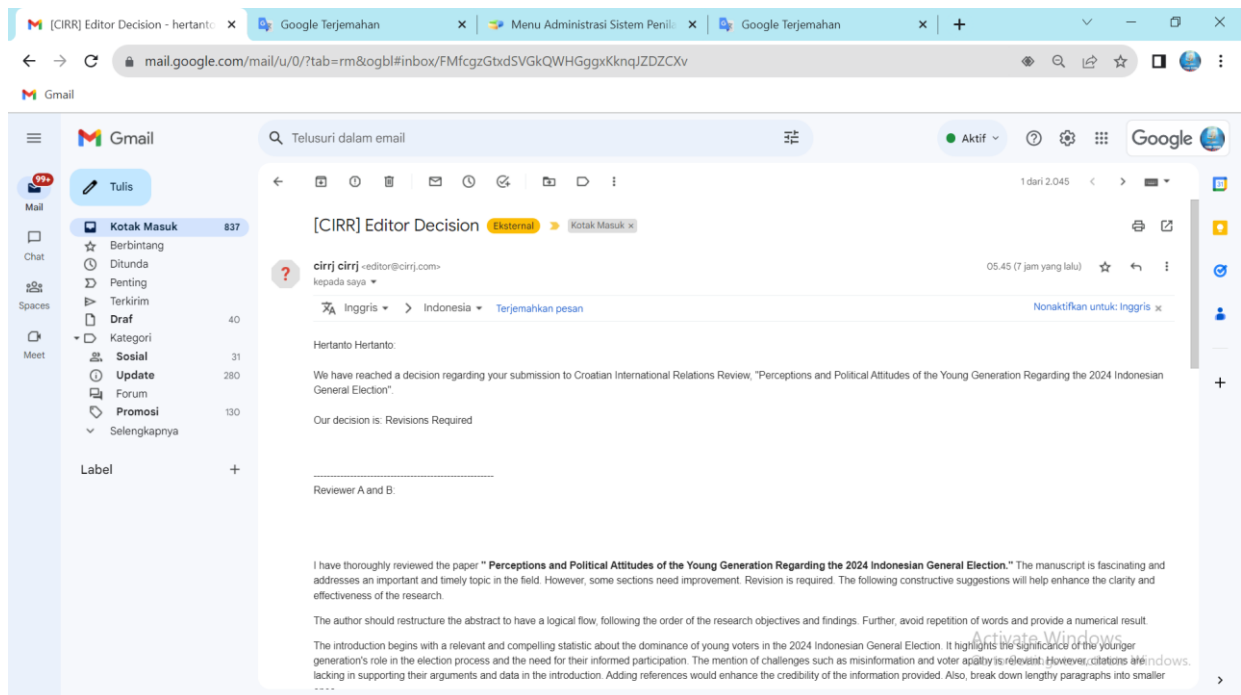
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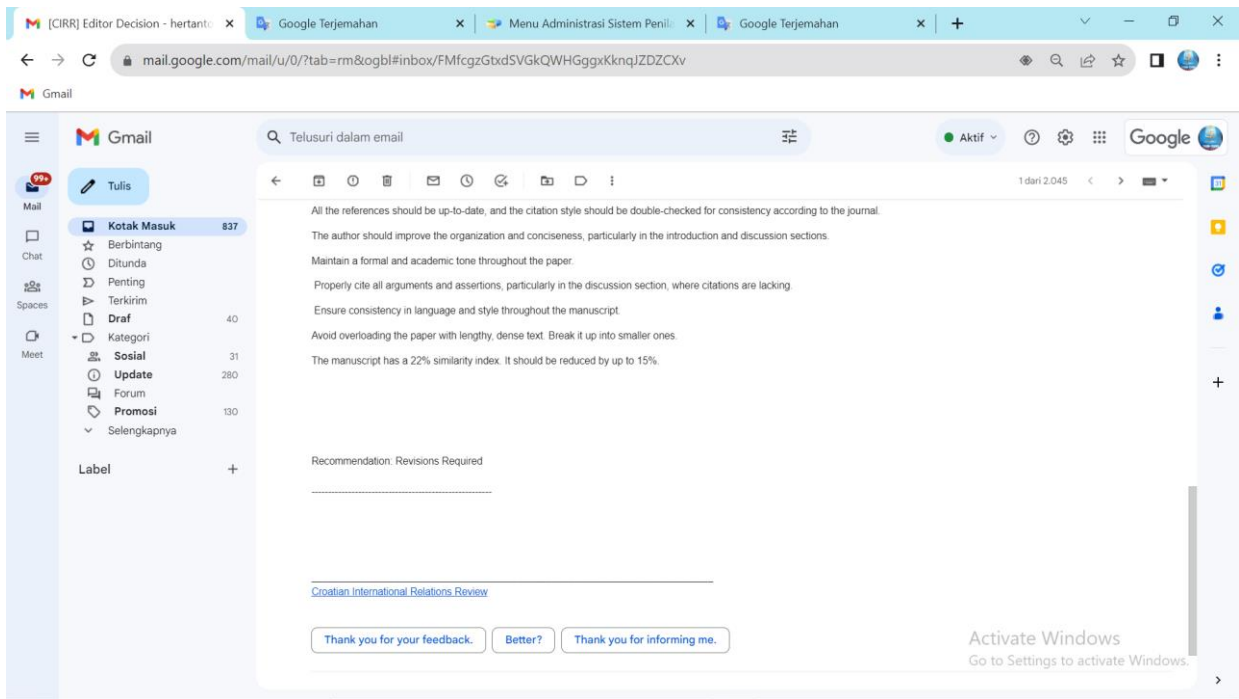
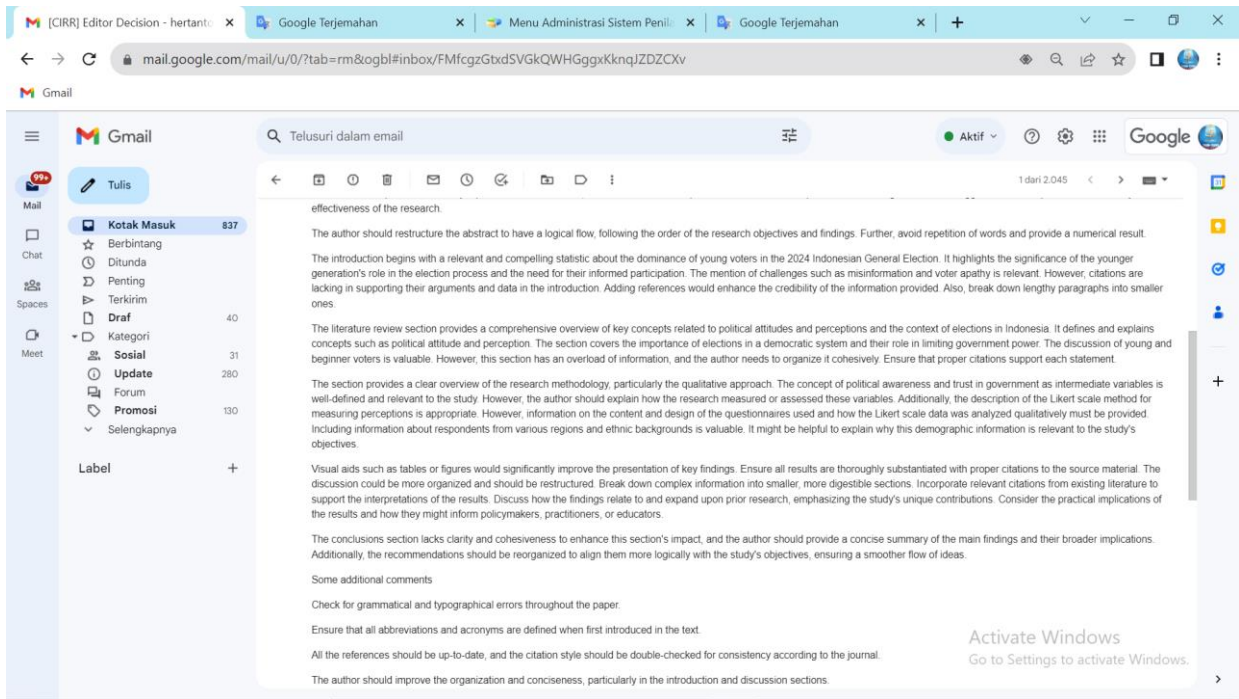
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2. Bukti Konfirmasi Review dan Hasil Review Pertama (9 Oktober 2023)

Bukti Konfirmasi Review Pertama

9 Oktober 2023





8 Oktober 2023

Notifications

[CIRR] Editor Decision

2023-10-08 10:45 PM

Hertanto Hertanto:

We have reached a decision regarding your submission to Croatian

International Relations Review, "Perceptions and Political Attitudes of the Young Generation Regarding the 2024 Indonesian General Election".

Our decision is: Revisions Required

Reviewer A and B:

I have thoroughly reviewed the paper "**Perceptions and Political Attitudes of the Young Generation Regarding the 2024 Indonesian General Election.**" The manuscript is fascinating and addresses an important and timely topic in the field. However, some sections need improvement. Revision is required. The following constructive suggestions will help enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the research.

The author should restructure the abstract to have a logical flow, following the order of the research objectives and findings. Further, avoid repetition of words and provide a numerical result.

The introduction begins with a relevant and compelling statistic about the dominance of young voters in the 2024 Indonesian General Election. It highlights the significance of the younger generation's role in the election process and the need for their informed participation. The mention of challenges such as misinformation and voter apathy is relevant. However, citations are lacking in supporting their arguments and data in the introduction. Adding references would enhance the credibility of the information provided. Also, break down lengthy paragraphs into smaller ones.

The literature review section provides a comprehensive overview of key concepts related to political attitudes and perceptions and the context of elections in Indonesia. It defines and explains concepts such as political attitude and perception. The section covers the importance of elections in a democratic system and their role in limiting government power. The discussion of young and beginner voters is valuable. However, this section has an overload of information, and the author needs to organize it cohesively. Ensure that proper citations support each statement.

The section provides a clear overview of the research methodology, particularly the qualitative approach. The concept of political awareness and trust in government as intermediate variables is well-defined and relevant to the study. However, the author should explain how the research measured or assessed these variables. Additionally, the description of the Likert scale method for measuring perceptions is appropriate. However, information on the content and design of the questionnaires used and how the Likert scale data was analyzed qualitatively must be provided. Including information about respondents from various regions and ethnic backgrounds is valuable. It might be helpful to explain why this demographic information is relevant to the study's objectives.

Visual aids such as tables or figures would significantly improve the presentation of key findings. Ensure all results are thoroughly substantiated

with proper citations to the source material. The discussion could be more organized and should be restructured. Break down complex information into smaller, more digestible sections. Incorporate relevant citations from existing literature to support the interpretations of the results. Discuss how the findings relate to and expand upon prior research, emphasizing the study's unique contributions. Consider the practical implications of the results and how they might inform policymakers, practitioners, or educators. The conclusions section lacks clarity and cohesiveness to enhance this section's impact, and the author should provide a concise summary of the main findings and their broader implications. Additionally, the recommendations should be reorganized to align them more logically with the study's objectives, ensuring a smoother flow of ideas.

Some additional comments

Check for grammatical and typographical errors throughout the paper.

Ensure that all abbreviations and acronyms are defined when first introduced in the text.

All the references should be up-to-date, and the citation style should be double-checked for consistency according to the journal.

The author should improve the organization and conciseness, particularly in the introduction and discussion sections.

Maintain a formal and academic tone throughout the paper.

Properly cite all arguments and assertions, particularly in the discussion section, where citations are lacking.

Ensure consistency in language and style throughout the manuscript.

Avoid overloading the paper with lengthy, dense text. Break it up into smaller ones.

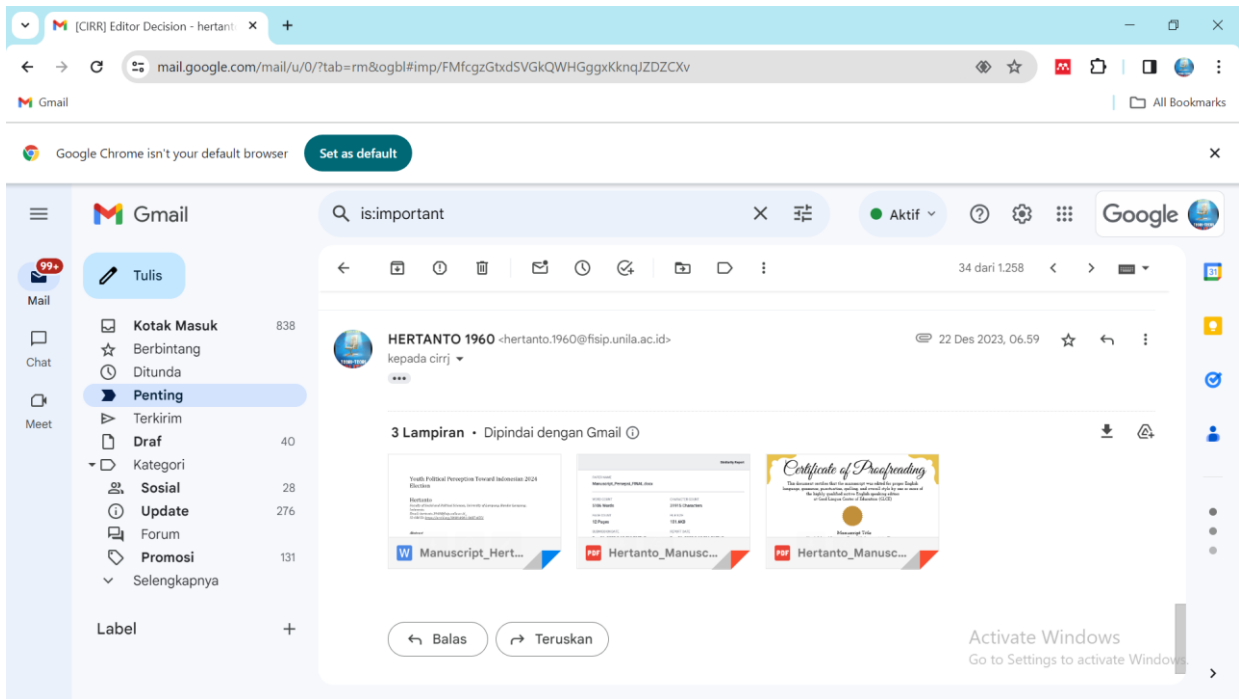
The manuscript has a 22% similarity index. It should be reduced by up to 15%.

Recommendation: Revisions Required

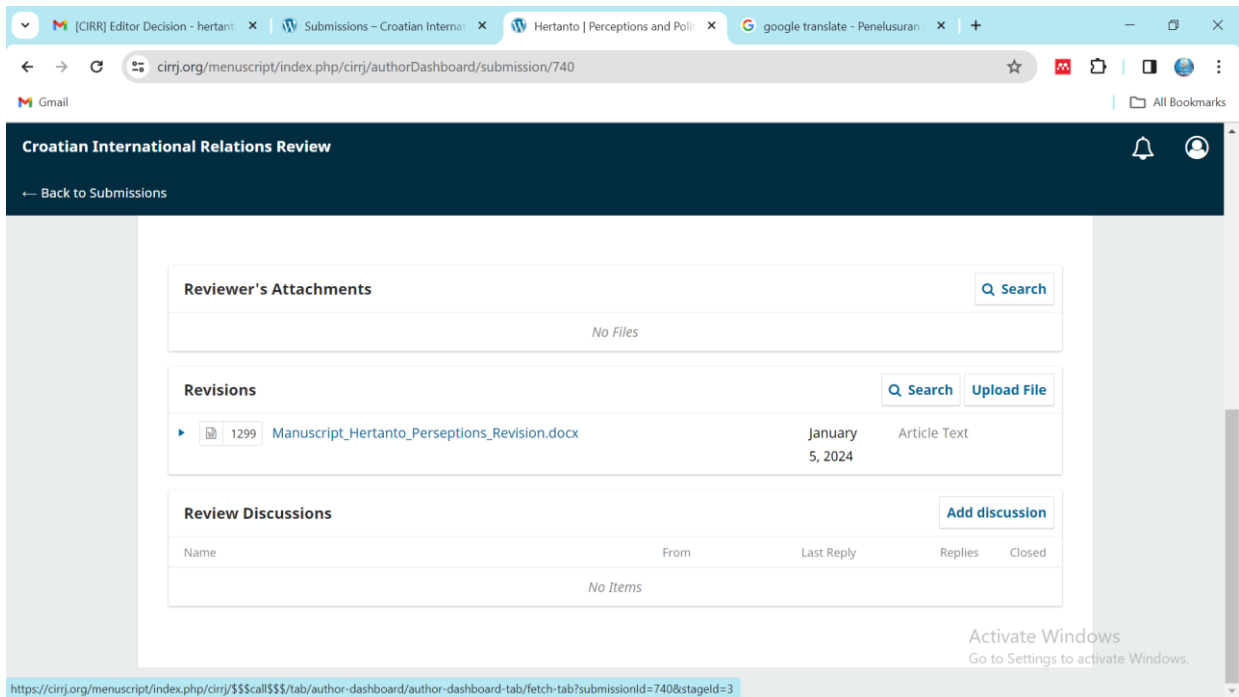
**3. Bukti konfirmasi submit revisi pertama,
respon kepada reviewer,
dan artikel yang diresubmit
(22 Desember 2023)**

Bukti konfirmasi submit revisi pertama

22 Desember 2023



Bukti Respon kepada Reviewer Revisi ke OJS



Artikel Hasil Revisi yang Diresubmit

Youth Political Perception Toward Indonesian 2024 Election

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Abstract

Indonesian Election is scheduled for February 14, 2024, serving as a crucial platform for citizen engagement in the democratic political system. Perception and assessment of youth regarding election have significant implications. Therefore, this study adopted qualitative methods and drew conclusions using primary data. The results showed that (1) approximately 80% of youth had favorable perception and assessment of 2024 election, confirming voter registration and the intention to participate on the voting day, (2) about 88% had a positive political orientation, rejecting negative campaigning and strategies that did not comply with regulatory guidelines, (3) 76.06% primarily voted for executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates by considering vision and mission. Consequently, youth political perception tended to be positive and conformist, with responses conforming with the existing political and electoral systems.

Keywords: *Political Perception, Knowledge, Orientation, Youth, Indonesian Election 2024*

Introduction

A survey conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, 2023) showed that young voters, specifically those aged between 17 and 39, were expected to dominate Indonesian 2024 election. It was estimated that 60% or approximately 190 million people of the total voters would constitute youth demographic. In 2019 election, based on KPU data, millennials made up 40% of the national permanent voter list. This number indicated the crucial role of millennial generation and the importance of making informed choices and avoiding abstention from voting.

Historically, many youths were considered "abstainers" due to insufficient information about the choice of candidates (Carvalho et al., 2023), because election information was not easily accessible. The spread of hoax issues also caused unrest and contributed to perception of political apathy among some youth (Hui, 2020). Therefore, digitally literate millennials were expected to assess information intelligently.

The factors influencing the preference of youth (students, adolescents, young people) for specific political parties or candidates can be categorized from various perspectives, namely structural psychology, sociology, ecology, social aspects, and rational choice (Roth, 2008). However, some eligible voters refrain from exercising the right to vote, leading to an increase in the number of "golput" (non-voters) across successive elections. There are five factors contributing to this trend, spanning technical and occupational considerations, both internal and external, comprising administrative, socialization, and political elements.

On February 14, 2024, Indonesia will hold a general election (presidential and legislative at both the central and regional levels). Furthermore, on November 27, 2024, regional

head elections will commence simultaneously across all provinces, regencies, and cities. In 2024, Lampung Province will conduct elections for a governor and deputy, two mayors and deputies, along with 13 regents and deputies.

Previous studies conducted by democracy activists showed a continuous decline in public participation in elections due to several factors (Table 1). According to a survey by General Election Commission (KPU) (2014), one contributing factor is the significant proportion of voters abstaining from exercising voting rights (29%). Another factor is the diminishing public satisfaction with the performance of executive institutions (Lestari, 2021).

Table 1 Trends in Voter Participation Rates in 1999-2019 Elections

Election Year	Legislative Election (%)	Presidential Election (%)
1999	92.70 %	The first post-political reform election
2004	84.06 %	77.44 %
2009	70.99 %	72.09 %
2014	75.11 %	69.58 %
2019	81.69 %	81.97 %

Al-Hamdi et al. (2014) examined youth perception as voters regarding the quality of 2014 election administration. The following indicators were used to measure integrity: (1) election laws, (2) election procedures, (3) voter registration, (4) registration of political parties and candidates, (5) the role of mass media, and (6) campaign candidates. The results showed that youth generally had adequate perception of electoral integrity. Specifically, positive perception was observed regarding political party and candidate registration, as well as election procedures, while the remaining indicators were seen as adequate. Youth also had the highest trust in the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) but demonstrated the lowest trust in political parties and parliament.

Safkaur (2022) explained that youth perception regarding elections was to participate in selecting prospective leaders without coercion, driven by awareness of political rights in the democratic process. However, some refrained from voting due to administrative or technical reasons, distrust toward presidential, vice-presidential, or legislative candidates perceived as unable to instigate change. There was also a perception that officials lacked neutrality or independence and failed to penalize or deter individuals or candidate pairs engaging in electoral fraud. Widespread practices such as money politics can diminish political references of youth and the participation.

Daily and Kimmelmeier (2021) focused on the attitude of Catalan youth, aged 15 to 16 and spread across 30 high schools, exploring perception on the importance of voting in different election types (independence referendum, local, sub-national, national, super-national) and intentions to vote upon turning 18. The results showed a correlation between perceived voting importance and interest in voting. Specifically, the importance of voting in various elections was related to the extent to which students perceived social science teachers to be open to debate and expression of opinions in class. Differences in the importance attributed to voting in independence referendums compared to conventional elections were also identified, showing disparities related to socio-economic status and political dialogue with parents.

Young voters are often difficult for political parties or election respondents to engage with or influence. Political orientation of youth as novice voters is dynamic and subject to change based on existing conditions and influencing factors (Setiajid, 2011). Consequently, the following question arises: are Indonesian citizens, particularly youth, prepared to exercise voting rights to determine the fate of Indonesia for the next five years?

Based on the previous background, this current study aimed to (1) explain youth perception of 2024 election; (2) identify voting orientation; and (3) explain the reasons for voting specific presidential and legislative candidates. The results were expected to provide recommendations for improving election regulations by election organizer (KPU) in the future, specifically in ensuring the equitable rights and obligations of youth in election. It was also crucial to formulate and propose a model for preventing non-voting behavior (golput) among novice and young voters during elections.

Literature Review

1. Political Perception

According to Gibson (1959), perception is a cognitive process through which individuals interpret and understand the world. There are a variety of cues shaping perception of people regarding objects, signs, and even other people. To ascertain an individual perception of an object, it is essential to consider the indicators of perception, which include absorbing stimuli or objects from the external environment, understanding, and assessment or evaluation. Individual judgment significantly influences decision-making aspects. This process revolves around the confidence in comprehending the circumstances, impacting decision-making. An individual perception of others also determines attitude in communication and forms the basis of actions.

According to Plano et al. (2005: 148-149), perception is a process (or outcome) that fosters awareness of a situation through a healthy state of mind. It constitutes two interrelated working processes, first, the reception of impressions through vision, touch, and other senses, second, the interpretation or determination of meaning from these sensory impressions. Meanwhile, the factors influencing perception of political phenomena are ideology, personality, past activities and experiences, the characteristics of certain decision-making situations, potential losses and benefits, and emotional state.

Perception is important in the study of political behavior as it forms the basis of individual actions rather than reality. Prasetijo (2005) identified two primary influencers of perception, namely internal and external factors. Internal factors include experience, needs, judgment, expectations, while external factors pertain to the contextual situation and political dynamics within a country. Individuals with positive self-perception tend to make sound decisions, while those with weaker abilities may make less effective decisions.

2. Election in Indonesia

Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as a government of people, by people, and for people (Faidi, 2018). In other words, in a democratic state, the highest sovereignty or power resides with people. The defining features of a democratic state include a government

with limited powers, preventing arbitrary actions against citizens. Limited government powers imply that the rights and obligations of the government are restrained by the constitution, including specific terms and conditions of office. Therefore, the state constitution establishes a mechanism for the periodic election and the selection of state administrators through general elections conducted by the people.

The fundamental essence of democracy lies in the process of elections. This concept, referred to as procedural democracy, was proposed by Joseph Schumpeter (2003) and developed by Samuel P. Huntington (2001). Democracy is theoretically defined as a procedural method for electing political leaders. This enhances competition between political parties and candidates with the aim of persuading people and winning governmental positions, be it legislative or executive, at central or regional levels. This definition identifies two crucial elements, first, healthy competition among parties and candidates, second, the active participation of citizens in assessing and making decisions related to the competition.

In Indonesia, election is held in accordance with Indonesia Constitution and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning the General Election. These regulations mandate that elections implement the sovereignty of people directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly, guided by Pancasila and Indonesian Constitution. Election is conducted to select members of People Representative Council (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD), President and Vice President, as well as Regional People Representative Council (DPRD) (Article 22E paragraph 1).

Election as a crucial element in a democratic system serves to check government power, ensuring it remains neither absolute nor arbitrary. In line with this electoral principle, in the context of political decentralization, direct election is also conducted at provincial, regency and city levels to democratically elect governors, regents, and mayors in compliance with applicable laws, specifically Law Number 6 of 2020.

3. Youth as Voters

The political participation of Indonesian citizens, including women, is guaranteed by Indonesian Constitution and various regulations that recognize equal political rights for all, regardless of gender. This includes the fundamental right to vote and to be elected in elections. Article 28D paragraph 3 affirms that every Indonesian citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in governance.

New voters coming of age and representing groups entering political sphere, use the right to vote for the first time. This includes students, constituting a crucial element within the structure and dynamics of politics and democracy. According to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Election, eligible voters are Indonesian citizens aged 17 years and older, who are or have been married, and possess the right to vote.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative method that generated descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words, as well as observable behavior, perception, motivation, attitude, and action (Bogdan and Taylor, 2019). Respondents were prospective voters, Indonesian citizens aged at least 17 years, who were or had been married, and registered in election. A total of 170 students were sampled and interviewed using questionnaires between April

to June 2023. The primary focus was to explore youth perception regarding election and how perception influenced political references.

Data were obtained from questionnaires administered to respondents. These questionnaires centered on voter perception and contained key inquiries conforming with the study objectives to guide the narrative process. The objective was to investigate how perception, reference, and future expectation could be used as recommendations for KPU. The collected data were analyzed using coding method. The interviews conducted with youth were categorized into specific themes based on the study objectives. Supporting data sources, including reports, notes, and official written materials relevant to the theme, were used.

Data analysis is the presentation and explanation of information obtained from the questionnaires distributed among sample respondents. The process entailed organizing the data for interpretation and tabulating according to the required data arrangement to address the research problems. Qualitative study identified inference and analysis based on scientific logic, but does not disregard the use of quantitative data. While hypothesis testing was not prioritized, the primary aim was to address research questions through formal and argumentative reasoning.

The samples included 170 students from various regencies or cities in Lampung Province. Based on gender, there were 68 (40%) males and 102 (60%) females. The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 22 years old, with the majority being 19 (60%), 18 (24.12%), 20 (10.59%), 21 (3.52%), 22 (0.59%), and a small portion having no response (0.59%).

Results

1. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

Youth perception and awareness of 2024 election tended to be positive. A significant majority of respondents (97%) registered as voters on the provisional voter list for 2024 election. The permanent voter list was scheduled to be announced on June 22, 2023. A substantial portion of respondents (80%) claimed familiarity with the presidential candidates (refer to Table 2).

The sources from which respondents gained knowledge about presidential candidates primarily included social media, television, and various other media platforms. Respondents specifically mentioned several declared candidates, such as Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, and Prabowo Subianto. However, only 30% were familiar with the names of candidates for DPR at the central level, while the remaining 70% did not recognize the names of those contesting for central legislative agency.

Table 2 Perception of Presidential Candidates in 2024 Election

Presidential Candidate Name	Frequency	Percentage
Know	136	80%
Do not know	34	20%
Total	170	100%

Most respondents were unfamiliar with the legislative candidates in the respective regions, spanning provincial, regency, and city levels. A small fraction was acquainted with candidates set to represent DPR RI and DPD RI. A substantial 68% stated the lack of familiarity with the names of legislative candidates (DPRD) running in respective electoral regencies for 2024 election. At the provincial level, 65.88% were unaware of the names of legislative candidates (Provincial DPRD) in the constituencies (Table 3).

Concerning national-level legislative candidates representing regional political party organizations in Lampung Province, 70% of respondents did not recognize the names of DPR RI legislative candidates. Similarly, for national-level legislative candidates representing Lampung Province, another 70% were unfamiliar with the names of candidates. The primary reason for this lack of knowledge was attributed to not receiving information through print media, online sources, or direct engagement through socialization and campaign efforts.

Table 3 Perception of Provincial Legislative Candidate Names

Name of Provincial Legislative Candidate	Frequency	Percentage
Know	58	34.12%
Do not know	112	65.88%
Total	170	100%

Respondents showed a higher level of awareness regarding 2024 national-level election compared to the knowledge of regional election, particularly in distinguishing executive leaders at the national level from political figures at the regional level. Some demonstrated greater familiarity with presidential candidates compared to candidates for DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD. The coverage of presidential candidates was more extensive through mass and social media compared to the exposure given to legislative candidates at the provincial, regency, and city levels.

The registration for legislative candidates for DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/City DPRD commenced on May 1, 2023, and concluded on May 14, 2023. The candidate campaign period had not started during the interviews. While legislative candidates officially registered with KPU and experience substantial socialization, official campaign activities had not commenced.

2. Political Orientation of Youth Toward 2024 Election

Political orientation refers to the perspective, direction of thought, tendency, interest, belief, or judgment held by individuals and groups in the societal structure.

(1) Political orientation of youth tended to be positively inclined toward the practice of electoral democracy in the context of 2024 election. This inclination was evident in youth assessment of election campaigns based on principles of honesty and justice. Most respondents rejected black campaign practices and strategies (88.23%), whether by political parties, candidates, or other entities affiliated with election respondents (Table 4).

Negative campaigns entailed identifying the weaknesses and mistakes of political opponents. Meanwhile, black campaigns entailed making false or unproven accusations or irrelevant claims about the leadership abilities of opponents (Santoso, 2019). All respondents unanimously disagreed (100%) with the use of black campaign

strategies, denouncing any attempts by political parties or candidates to spread lies and slander.

Table 4 Orientation toward Black Campaign with Primordial Issues

Primordial Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	20	11.77%
Disagree	150	88.23%
Total	170	100%

(2) In addition to black campaign strategy that incited primordial sentiments (ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group), 94.71% of respondents disagreed with the use of negative campaign strategies by political parties or candidates to spread disgrace and disparagement against political opponents (Table 5). During the campaign period, candidates frequently resort to various deceptive tactics, such as spreading slander and fake news, in an attempt to garner sympathy from the voting public (Hui, 2020).

Table 5 Orientation toward Negative Campaign

Negative Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	9	5.29%
Disagree	161	94.71%
Total	170	100%

Black campaigns leveraging primordial issues and sentiments of ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group relations in Indonesia had the potential to cause various dangers and negative impacts on multicultural societies and political stability. These campaigns possess six potential risks, namely the division of society; disruption of tolerance and harmonization; weakening of democratization; instigation of political conflicts; fostering extremism, radicalism, and terrorism; and reduction in political participation.

To overcome the dangers of black campaigns using primordial issues, it was important for all stakeholders, including politicians, political parties, civil society organizations, mass media, and the general public, to promote understanding, dialogue, and education that strengthen national unity and integration. In addition, strict regulations on political campaigns leveraging primordial sentiment issues should be strengthened to ensure a fair and peaceful political process. All parties should also commit to respecting diversity and encouraging inclusiveness in political process to realize the stability and progress of Indonesia as a democratic country.

3. Reasons to Consider Voting 2024 Election Candidates

All respondents (100%) expressed the intention to cast votes at the polling stations during 2024 election. Voters aimed to select both executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) based on consideration of vision and mission. The majority (76.06%) showed that the choice was shaped by the same reason (Table 6).

A significant portion (64.12%) selected legislative candidates (DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD) based on the vision and mission delineated by preferred candidates. Moreover, (73.53%) selected specific governor candidates and (89.41%) selected regent or mayor candidates based on similar reasons.

Table 6 Consideration of Political Orientation in the Selection of Presidential Candidates

Reasons for Consideration	Frequency	Percentage
Candidate Vision & Mission	131	76.06
Integrity	19	11.18
Track Record	8	4.71
Vision, Mission & Integrity	3	1.76
Performance and Achievement	3	1.76
Performances	2	1.18
Gender equality	2	1.18
Ethics	1	0.59
No response	1	0.59
Total	170	100

The inclination of respondents' political orientation in selecting a president often conforms with rational choice considerations. This approach entailed an objective analysis based on available information and a comprehensive understanding of the public interest and basic values of the nation. Therefore, millennial voters (commonly referred to as generations Y and Z) are typically classified as rational and critical voters. According to the rational choice theory, these individuals exercise control over decisions. The majority of voters select candidates based on rational judgement rather than impulse, tradition, or unconscious environmental influences. Rationality serves as a fundamental assumption in understanding individual behavior across various contexts outside economics.

The following factors are often considered when selecting a candidate in an election. Policies and platforms (political party programs, candidate vision, and mission): Voters often consider policies and platforms proposed by candidates, assessing conformation with the values and interests, as well as the candidate stance on issues like the economy, education, environment, health, and social justice. Reputation and Track Record: Candidate reputation, work experience, political achievements, integrity, and honesty are crucial considerations. Voters prefer candidates with proven abilities and confidence to fulfill political tasks competently. Character and Integrity: Voters highly value a candidates' character, integrity, honesty, responsible, and commitment to principles considered significant. Personal ethics and morality also play a role in voters' decision-making. Leadership Ability: Candidates with strong leadership abilities, decision-making prowess, and positive societal impact are often preferred. Communication Abilities: Candidate capability to communicate effectively and deliver convincing messages influences voter decisions. Candidates who articulate the vision, mission, and work plans tend to attract voters. Party or Group Support: Voters often consider the support of a particular political party or group that resonates with the interests. Perception of a party or group representation of interests may impact voter choices. Responsiveness to Problems and Constituents: Candidates responsive to public concerns and interests hold appeal. Voters often favor candidates who listen and act appropriately to the public interest, although choices may vary depending on the individual, socio-political conditions, and electoral context.

Discussion

The majority of respondents (80%) reported familiarity with the presidential candidates contesting 2024 election. This knowledge originated from sources such as social media,

television, and other mass media outlets. Ly (2023) showed that promoting public engagement on social media contributed significantly to fostering trust between the government and citizens. Social media serves as a space to express political views and engage in discussions about societal issues.

In the lead-up to regional head election, a recurrent debate revolves around the differentiation between rational and emotional choices. Emotional choices are generally associated with the selection of candidates on the basis (sentiment) of similarities in ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group identities. In the context of gubernatorial candidate selections, a minimal proportion of respondents (1.76%) showed voting based on religious similarity. Theoretically, selecting candidates based on religion remains an option for certain voters. In an inclusive democratic system, selecting a candidate should not be based solely on religion.

Theoretical justifications often presented by voters who chose candidates based on religious similarity are as follows: Representation of religious values and interests: Some voters believe that electing candidates with the same religion would better represent the religious values and interests. Candidates are expected to comprehend and advocate for the needs and aspirations of the religious community. Moral and ethical ties: For some voters, sharing a religion with a candidate is considered a strong moral and ethical bond. Trust and security: Certain voters place more trust and confidence in candidates of the same religion, demonstrating a deeper understanding of religious life, supporting religious freedom, and protecting the rights of believers within the faith.

Maintaining the principle of inclusive democracy is crucial, although the reasons above might influence the consideration of some voters. Election decisions should prioritize candidate qualifications, competence, and vision rather than solely relying on religious affiliation. Democratic principles signify the importance of respecting religious freedom and promoting diversity in candidate selection.

Orfan (2020) investigated political participation of Afghan youth on Facebook, examining the frequency of usage and assessing the influence of gender, age, and employment status on political participation and engagement in 2019 presidential election. The results showed that despite spending approximately half an hour daily on Facebook, youth demonstrated limited active participation in political activities on the platform. The engagement constituted low-cost, low-risk political activities, primarily centered on following Afghan politicians. Similarly, the engagement in 2019 presidential election on Facebook appeared to be superficial, often limited to activities requiring minimal effort and commitment, such as following presidential candidates.

Gender, age, and employment status had no significant influence on the frequency of Facebook use, political participation, and engagement in 2019 presidential election among the Afghan youth. Fionna (2016) identified the significant reliance of Indonesian political parties on charisma and personal figures to garner public sympathy during elections. The continued preference of the public for established elite figures prompted many parties to use these individuals in campaigns.

Wilson and Kimmelmeier (2019) found a correlation between the perceived importance of voting and the interest levels of youth in voting. Meanwhile, Asrinaldi (2022) identified four causes of voter perception in West Sumatra that were not in line with voting

behavior, namely value pluralism, failure of political education, money politics, and the dominance of information altering voter perception.

According to Clarke and Acock (2009), a crucial political attitude in elections is effectiveness, comprising the belief that individual political actions have, or can have, an impact on political process. While many studies showed a positive correlation between political effectiveness and electoral participation, the specific causal mechanisms remained inadequately understood. Some typically assumed a unidirectional relationship, presuming that effectiveness influenced participation, particularly from behavioral attitudes.

Regarding political disengagement, the youth consistently raise concerns for two primary reasons, demonstrating less interest than older generations to participate in established forms of political activities across various countries (Zhang, 2022: 1). Globally, there is a significant trend where youth are less interested in traditional politics and engage in fewer classic performances of political activities (voting). This is also observed in both developed and developing countries, as well as established democracies and growing economies.

Youth are currently spearheading a novel wave of collective action not typically associated with traditional institutions, and supported several new forms of politics, such as individualized activism (Bosch, 2017), political consumerism (Stolle et al., 2010), and new media-based participation (Zhang, 2005, 2013; Vromen et al., 2015). Different observations prompted scholars to reflect on the dichotomous view of activism versus passivity (Amna and Ekman, 2014) and suggest that youth participatory practices take the form of "informal, individualized and everyday activities" (Harris et al., 2010). These shifts should be observed over time rather than through momentary snapshots.

Conclusion

In conclusion, individual perception, political orientation, and judgment reflected the readiness to engage with political elements, particularly in the context of election. This engagement constituted belief, feeling, and assessment related to political entities in the electoral system. Each response component could be categorized as conformist, apathetic, or skeptical. Conformist responses showed a correlation with the existing political and electoral structures. Apathy denoted a lack of response or engagement with political and electoral systems, while skepticism implied a discrepancy between individual response and political or electoral system in place. The results showed that youth political perception tended to be positive and conformist, with responses corresponding with the prevailing electoral system.

The youth were expected to play an active role in politics, whether through participation in elections, social movements, or political organizations. Active political participation had the potential to shape a better future and foster a more inclusive, just, and responsive society catering to the needs of all members.

A. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

Youth perception and orientation toward 2024 Election were generally positive. Most respondents (97%) confirmed registering as voters in the Permanent/Provisional Voters

List (DPS/T) for 2024 Election. Furthermore, all respondents (100%) expressed the intention to cast votes at polling stations, and some (80%) claimed familiarity with the presidential candidates.

The knowledge about candidates primarily originated from social platforms, television, and other media content sources. Respondents were able to name potential competing candidates, namely Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, Prabowo Subianto, and others such as Puan Maharani, Erlangga Hartarto, etc. However, political literacy among most of youth was still not 'established'. Narratives about politics were often shaped and influenced by 'secondary' sources such as social media.

B. The Voting Orientation of Youth toward 2024 Election

Youth demonstrated a positive attitude toward the practice of electoral democracy in 2024 election. This inclination was reflected in the approach to election campaigns characterized by honesty and justice. Election campaigns comprised activities initiated by respondents or designated representatives aimed at persuading voters through the presentation of vision, mission, programs, or self-image of election respondents.

Negative and black campaign trends had consistently surfaced in Indonesian electoral landscape. Negative campaign comprised identifying the weaknesses and mistakes of opponents, while black campaign entailed false or baseless accusations irrelevant to the capacity of candidates as leaders.

In response to campaigns, 88% of respondents disagreed with the use of black campaign strategies that incorporated primordial nuances and ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group sentiments. In addition, 95% expressed disagreement with political parties or candidates using black campaign to spread disgrace and slander against political opponents. The use of negative and black campaigns could lead to conflicts, disputes, and legal violations. Concern could also arise about potential grassroots clashes among supporters, particularly when the favored candidate loses.

C. The Reasons for Selecting Specific Candidates

Most respondents selected executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative candidates (DPR, DPD, DPRD) for 2024 election based on careful consideration of the vision and mission articulated by the preferred candidates. This rationale choice approach comprised objective analysis using available information and a comprehensive understanding of the public interest or basic values of the nation and state.

Youth perception, orientation, and positive assessment of 2024 election could significantly influence voting behavior as a form of political participation. Youth were essential elements in politics, representing the future of a nation, and for the following reasons. Firstly, inclusive representation: youth had a better understanding of personal issues, such as education, employment, the environment, and mental health. Engaging in political process often ensured that the voices of youth were heard and needs were considered in policy-making. Secondly, change and innovation: youth often provided novel perspectives, enthusiasm and innovative ideas to politics, thereby challenging the status quo and instigating positive transformations to address societal challenges. Thirdly, learning and growth: political participation enabled youth to understand political system, decision-making processes, and democratic values. This also helped in nurturing essential

abilities such as leadership, negotiation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which were crucial for personal and professional growth. Fourthly, building a sustainable future: issues such as climate change, sustainable development and social equality were becoming increasingly important to youth. Active engagement in politics could enhance advocacy for sustainable policies, environmental protection and social justice, contributing to a better future. Fifthly, respect for democratic rights and responsibilities: democracy necessitated the active participation of all citizens. Therefore, youth were expected to comprehend the rights and responsibilities as citizens, specifically the right to vote and be elected. Civic responsibilities could also be exercised with significant influence on the nation trajectory by participating in political process.

Future Study Directions

The limitation of this study was based on the primary data used. Therefore, future studies were recommended to incorporate secondary data from existing literature to comprehensively understand youth perception. In addition, this study only focused on the influence of youth political perception, orientation, and judgment. Subsequent investigations should explore the interrelationships among various factors affecting political perception. While the results provided valuable and novel insights into the existing pool of knowledge, previous studies remained quite diverse. Consequently, quantitative methods should be adopted to further enrich the literature and provide a deeper understanding of youth political perception in millennial era. Adhering to these recommendations would not only contribute to literature and science but also benefit the academic field.

Acknowledgments

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Regulations

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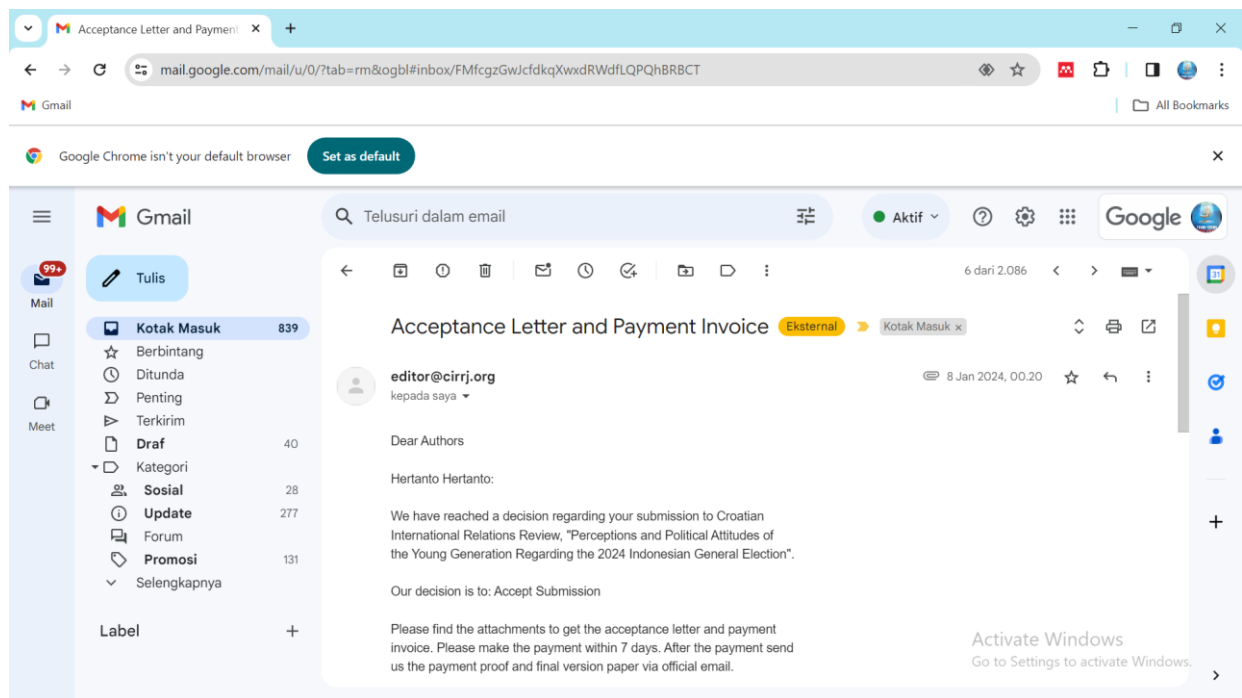
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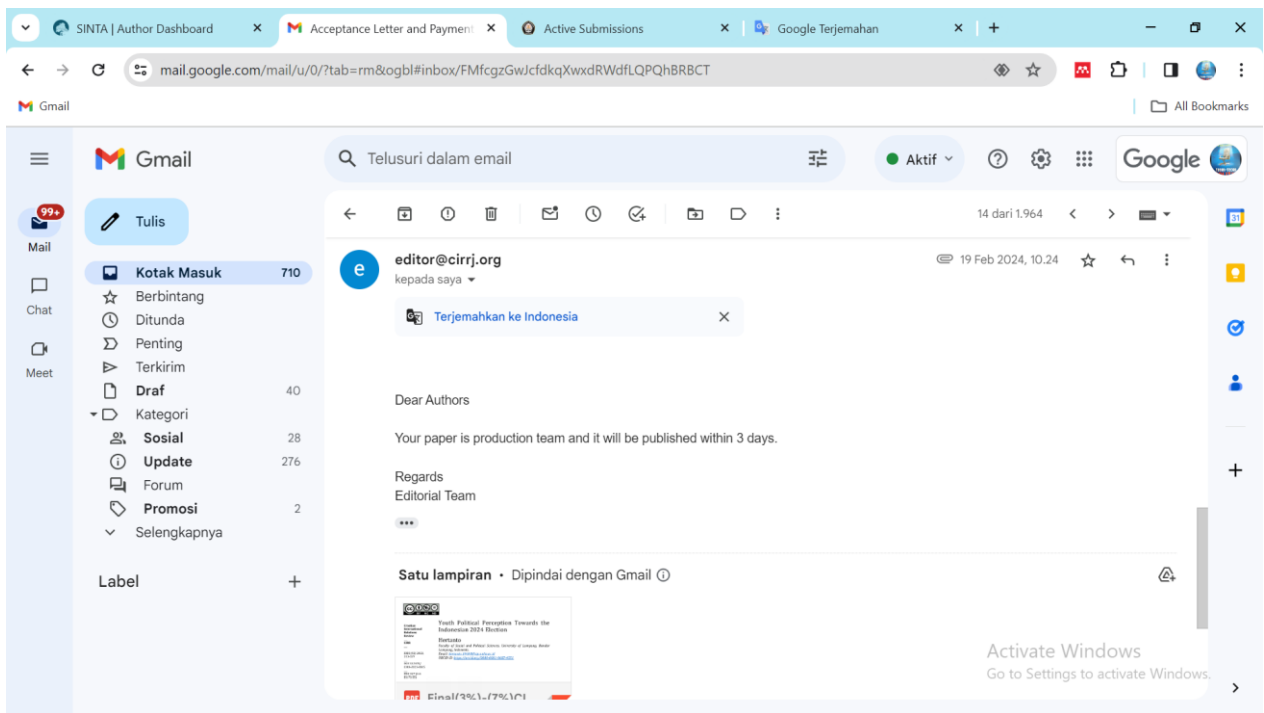


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