

Confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in *Disorder*, a novel by Akmal Nasery Basral. The novel portrays how information aligned with pre-existing beliefs is more readily accepted than contradictory evidence, particularly in situations involving social, political, and health-related uncertainty. Literary works provide an important space for examining disinformation because they not only represent social reality but also reveal how meaning, ideology, and public opinion are constructed. This study employed a qualitative descriptive method using a sociology of literature approach, with the researcher as the primary instrument for data collection and analysis. The data consisted of monologues and dialogues that indicate forms of confirmation bias functioning as disinformation strategies. Data were collected through close textual observation and analyzed through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings show that confirmation bias in *Disorder* functions not merely as a psychological tendency of the characters but as a disinformation strategy constructed through narrative, dialogue, characterization, and plot conflict. This strategy reinforces subjective viewpoints and constructs manipulative realities, including the symbolic representation of food as an expression of piety and the stereotyping of ethnic Chinese people as the source of the pandemic. These representations reflect communication practices through which selective information reinforces existing beliefs and shapes public opinion. This study extends disinformation research beyond media studies into literary studies by demonstrating how the novel functions as a space for representation, social criticism, and reflection on the mechanisms of public opinion formation and the dissemination of disinformation in the post-truth era.

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Introduction

In recent years, the term fake news has become an integral part of public, academic, and political discourse. It is widely employed to describe various forms of problematic information, ranging from entirely fabricated news and misleading content to information that is deliberately manipulated to serve specific interests (Tandoc, 2021). Nevertheless, despite its increasingly pervasive use, the concept of fake news remains ambiguously defined and is often applied inconsistently across contexts (Fajri et al., 2022).

The rapid growth of digital and social media has accelerated the widespread dissemination of information with minimal editorial control, making fake news increasingly prominent (Kietzmann et al., 2020; Tolosana et al., 2020; Fatmawati, 2020). This has blurred the distinction between credible and false information, creating serious challenges for journalism, society, and democracy. According to Tandoc

(2021), false information not only misleads the public but also shapes public opinion, undermines trust in the media, and intensifies social and political polarization.

According to the framework of Wardle and Derakhshan (as cited in Balkan & Ülgen, 2023; Hussain & Soomro, 2023; Lim, 2023), fake news consists of three categories: misinformation, namely false information shared without intent to cause harm; disinformation, false information deliberately created to harm individuals, groups, organizations, or states; and malinformation, factual information used intentionally to harm individuals, organizations, or states.

An important distinction is that misinformation and disinformation are both false or misleading and may lead to social polarization, manipulation, and other harmful consequences (Broda & Strömbäck, 2024). However, their key difference lies in intent: disinformation is deliberately created and disseminated to cause harm (Balkan & Ülgen, 2023). Therefore, this study focuses on disinformation.

One of the main characteristics of disinformation is its reliance on inaccurate information that lacks verifiable evidence, often using ambiguous or unverified sources with inadequate verification and cross-checking (Lamprou et al., 2021). This creates an information ecosystem of uncertainty that undermines the credibility of information among individuals, society, and government institutions (Meel & Vishwakarma, 2020). The spread of disinformation is further amplified by social media algorithms that prioritize user engagement over accuracy (Li & Xie, 2020; Peters, 2015). Beyond fake news, disinformation also appears in cultural products, including literary works, where manipulative narratives subtly reinforce prejudice and reduce readers' objectivity (Vidal-Perez et al., 2025).

However, the persistence of disinformation depends not only on technologies of dissemination but also on the narratives that accompany it. People interpret information through stories rather than isolated facts, as narratives connect events, construct identities, evoke emotions, and provide meaning within a broader social context (Jones & McBeth, 2010). Consequently, disinformation is effective not simply because it spreads false information, but because it embeds that information in narratives aligned with people's existing values, beliefs, and identities (Nabila & Djokoto, 2025).

Since narratives shape perceptions of reality, factual corrections alone are often insufficient to counter disinformation, as they may arrive too late or fail to address its emotional appeal. Therefore, strengthening public resilience requires truthful, inclusive, and persuasive narratives that integrate factual information while reinforcing shared democratic values (Nabila & Djokoto, 2025). Storytelling should thus be viewed not merely as a cultural practice but as a strategic tool for safeguarding democracy.

According to Kurniati (2021), Imaroh et al. (2023), Simarmata et al. (2019), Pratama (2019), and Purwanto et al. (2021), fake news takes various forms. Nevertheless, these forms can generally be classified into seven broad categories: (1) fake news (fabricated news), (2) clickbait (links designed with sensational headlines or images to attract attention), (3) confirmation bias (the tendency to interpret new events as evidence that supports pre-existing beliefs), (4) misinformation (inaccurate or incorrect information), (5) satire (writing that employs humor to comment on events), (6) post-truth (the predominance of emotional appeals over factual information in shaping public opinion), and (7) propaganda (the dissemination of partially true information with the intention of influencing public opinion). The focus of this study, however, is on confirmation bias as a specific form of fake news.

Confirmation bias is the cognitive tendency to selectively seek, interpret, and recall information that confirms pre-existing beliefs while ignoring contradictory evidence. In this process, beliefs and expectations shape the selection, storage, and evaluation of information (Peters, 2022; Suzuki & Yamamoto, 2021; Berthet et al., 2024). Hahn and Harris (as cited in Peters, 2022) identify four forms of confirmation bias: (1) hypothesis-driven information search and interpretation, (2) failure to apply falsification strategies in conditional reasoning, (3) resistance to changing established beliefs, and (4) overconfidence or the illusion of validity regarding one's own views.

Confirmation bias is a widespread cognitive tendency with significant social impacts, including the persistence of disinformation, conspiracy beliefs, and political polarization (Berthet et al., 2024; Rollwage et al., 2020). Although recognized as a common reasoning error, its various forms remain interconnected in complex ways. Oswald & Grosjean (2004) describe confirmation bias as an umbrella concept involving three related stages of information processing: information search, information interpretation, and information recall.

The researcher selects confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder* because disinformation operates not only through false or misleading information but also through individuals' tendency to accept information that aligns with existing beliefs or prejudices. In the novel, confirmation bias functions as both a psychological mechanism shaping characters' perceptions and a narrative strategy illustrating how socio-political forces construct and manipulate public opinion through belief-confirming information.

Confirmation bias demonstrates that disinformation effectiveness depends on both information producers and recipients' cognitive tendencies. It refers to the tendency to interpret information based on prior beliefs or commitments (Rodhan, 2020). In *Disorder*, this bias is exploited by characters and groups to influence public opinion, strengthen social polarization, and reinforce ideological, religious, and ethnic narratives. Thus, the novel shows that social disorder and identity conflict result not only from hoax circulation but also from society's active acceptance and dissemination of information that supports existing beliefs. This focus is theoretically relevant because confirmation bias is central to studies of information manipulation and political communication in the post-truth era.

Novels uniquely represent confirmation bias by illustrating not only information but also the social, psychological, and ideological processes through which beliefs are formed, maintained, and disseminated. Unlike news and social media, novels explore these processes through dialogue, characterization, conflict, and plot within broader social contexts.

In *Disorder*, confirmation bias is portrayed through characters who selectively interpret, maintain, and spread information based on existing beliefs, prejudices, ideologies, and group interests, while rejecting contradictory evidence. Through character interactions and narratives, the novel reveals how information is accepted because it supports existing viewpoints.

Novels also reveal the psychological dimensions of confirmation bias by presenting characters' inner thoughts through techniques such as monologue, dialogue, and internal conflict, showing that confirmation bias is a cognitive and social process rather than merely the acceptance of false information. Furthermore, *Disorder* demonstrates that disinformation can be strategically constructed through ideological groups, social structures, political interests, and power relations to influence public opinion. The acceptance and meaning of information are shaped not only by its content but also by social relationships, experiences, intentions, and contextual interactions between storytellers and audiences (McDowell, 2024).

In literature, hoaxes refer to the artistic capacity of literary works to create meaning through aesthetic language, generating tension between truth and falsehood (Trianton, 2019). Literary works are characterized by complex structures and a semiotic system of linguistic signs that enables multiple layers of interpretation. Authors manipulate this system to enrich meaning, allowing words and syntactic structures to convey diverse interpretations. According to Trianton (2019), hoax literature uses semiotic manipulation and satire to obscure factual reality as an evolving artistic practice. However, this manipulation is grounded in ethical awareness, aiming to communicate constructive and meaningful messages rather than merely deceive.

According to Saryono (2021), epidemics and pandemics are among the major human experiences frequently represented in literature. Writers have shown strong sensitivity to infectious disease outbreaks, making them central themes or important elements in poetry, drama, and fiction throughout literary history. Meanwhile, McDowell (2024) argues that storytelling not only communicates information but also builds social relationships, shapes community identities, preserves cultural knowledge, and influences how people understand shared experiences. In disinformation studies, storytelling is particularly important because it can transmit accurate knowledge as well as construct narratives that shape public perceptions.

The material object of this study is the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral, published in 2020 by PT Bentang Pustaka and comprising 477 pages. *Disorder* presents a fictional narrative inspired by the reality of a global pandemic. The story is set against the outbreak of the SOIV-26 virus, a mysterious disease that spreads across the world in the year 2026. A new epidemic emerges, threatening cities in various regions worldwide, including Indonesia. An epidemiologist, Permata Pertiwi, races against time to trace the origin of the virus, which belongs to the SOIV (Swine Origin Influenza Virus) family that infected approximately 500 million people—nearly one-third of the world's population—during the 1918 global pandemic and caused 100 million deaths. In this instance, however, the virus represents a new strain with significantly higher virulence, rendering it far more dangerous than SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic that paralyzed the world in 2020. Beyond precipitating an unprecedented health crisis, the virus also exposes complex social, political, and economic dynamics within societies gripped by fear and uncertainty.

The researcher selected *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral because its narrative closely reflects the dynamics of modern communication during a global health crisis, where society faced both a pandemic and an infodemic of facts, rumors, conspiracy theories, and interest-driven narratives. The novel portrays how characters receive, spread, and maintain information based on their beliefs, interests, and prejudices.

The novel was also chosen because it represents confirmation bias as a strategy for constructing and reinforcing disinformation. Information is accepted not because it is objectively true but because it supports existing beliefs or ideologies. Through narratives blaming particular countries or ethnic groups for the pandemic, the characters demonstrate selective exposure, selective interpretation, belief perseverance, and motivated reasoning.

Furthermore, *Disorder* provides a strong social critique of modern digital society by showing that advances in communication technology can facilitate information manipulation when people prefer belief-confirming narratives over factual verification. Through its fictional narrative, the novel reflects how individuals can become trapped in information environments that continually reinforce their existing perspectives.

This study focuses on the sociology of literary works. The sociology of literature examines literary texts in relation to social issues present within society (Endaswara, 2013). This approach is grounded in Plato's theory of mimesis, which views literature as an imitation of reality. Accordingly, the sociology of literary works directs its attention to the content of literary texts, their purposes, and other implicit elements embedded within them that are connected to social issues (Wellek & Warren, 1994). As argued by Damono (1979), the sociology of literary works investigates literature as a mirror of society, wherein the meanings implied in literary texts are understood to reflect or re-present the realities that exist within the social world.

The researcher applies a sociology of literature approach to examine confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder* because the novel is viewed not only as a fictional work but also as a representation of the relationship between literature and social reality. This approach explores how disinformation, conflicts of interest, social polarization, and information manipulation during crises are reflected through the novel's characters, events, dialogues, and conflicts.

From the perspective of the sociology of literature, *Disorder* represents the communication challenges of modern society during a pandemic, where facts, opinions, and manipulative narratives circulate simultaneously. The approach enables the study to analyze how confirmation bias in the novel reflects broader social realities, including crises of trust, widespread fear, and struggles for influence through information.

This approach was chosen because *Disorder* presents confirmation bias not only as an individual psychological tendency but also as a social phenomenon shaped by interactions among individuals, social groups, and power structures. The novel shows how characters create, reinforce, and exploit information about the virus, politics, public health, and economic interests to influence public opinion, allowing the study to examine how beliefs are shaped by social environments, ideologies, political interests, and conditions that increase vulnerability to disinformation.

Previous studies have shown that disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic extends beyond issues of information accuracy, encompassing social, psychological, and communicative processes that shape how people receive and trust particular narratives. For example, Bafadhal & Santoso (2020) demonstrated that COVID-19 disinformation in Indonesia spread through various digital platforms, covering a wide range of themes and sources. Likewise, Launa (2020) argued that the infodemic phenomenon highlights the interplay between limited information literacy, the rapid development of digital technology, and the emergence of conspiracy narratives that influence public perceptions. The studies conducted by Setyawan et al. (2021), as well as Ikhsan et al. (2021), further reinforce the view that disinformation cannot be addressed solely through factual corrections; rather, it requires a deeper understanding of public communication, social trust, information literacy, and the ways in which society responds to information.

Previous studies mainly examine disinformation as an empirical communication phenomenon by focusing on its dissemination, social impacts, and mitigation, but they provide limited insight into how beliefs, prejudices, and subjective interpretations lead to the social acceptance of information. Literary works offer a valuable representational space for exploring these belief-formation processes and the psychological mechanisms underlying information acceptance.

Unlike empirical communication studies, Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder* reveals not only what information circulates but also why it is believed, how characters maintain their beliefs, and which social interests drive its dissemination. Through its characters, dialogues, conflicts, and plot, the novel portrays confirmation bias in the forms of selective exposure, selective interpretation, belief perseverance, and motivated reasoning.

Therefore, this study examines disinformation as a social and cognitive process rather than merely the spread of false information. Using a sociology of literature approach, it demonstrates how *Disorder* represents the relationships among information, beliefs, ideology, and group interests, while revealing the processes of internalization, negotiation, and reinforcement that enable disinformation narratives to persist in society.

The research title "Confirmation Bias as a Strategy of Disinformation in the Novel Disorder by Akmal Nasery Basral" has strong academic urgency because it addresses a crucial issue in the contemporary information era: disinformation not only operates within digital spaces but is also internalized through psychological tendencies such as confirmation bias, which reinforces false narratives within society. The

novelty of this study lies in its interdisciplinary approach, integrating literary analysis with social studies, thereby offering a new perspective on understanding the representation of disinformation as a cultural phenomenon through fictional texts. The distinctiveness and uniqueness of this research are evident in its focus on disinformation not merely as factually incorrect messages, but as a narrative strategy embedded within the story structure and character construction of the novel *Disorder*.

The appeal of this study is further strengthened by the novel's context, which is highly relevant to contemporary Indonesian social realities, particularly during the pandemic and the increasing social polarization driven by the widespread circulation of hoaxes and propaganda. Through a literary sociology approach, this research explores in depth the relationship between text and social context, while also opening an interpretive space to understand how literature can function as a medium of reflection and critique of public communication dysfunctions and the crisis of truth.

Therefore, the substance and scope of this study are highly relevant and timely, and merit further academic investigation, as they offer both theoretical and practical contributions to the understanding of disinformation phenomena within cultural and ideological frameworks. Based on this research background, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled "Confirmation Bias as a Strategy of Disinformation in the Novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral."

Method

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method to explore the forms of confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy represented through the characters and narrative in Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder*. The approach enables an in-depth interpretation of how disinformation narratives are constructed and how confirmation bias shapes public opinion, reinforces particular narratives, and influences readers' perceptions of truth. The sociology of literature approach is used to examine the novel as a social product reflecting the dissemination of information, public opinion, conflicts of interest, ideology, and social realities.

The study integrates the sociology of literature approach with disinformation theory. From the sociology of literature perspective, *Disorder* is analyzed as a cultural product and social text reflecting social conditions, ideologies, public discourse, opinion formation, and information manipulation. The analysis examines how confirmation bias is represented through characterization, dialogue, conflict, events, and narrative perspective, showing that it functions not only as an individual psychological tendency but also as a social phenomenon shaped by ideology, interests, and power relations.

Disinformation theory provides the analytical framework for identifying how false, misleading, or manipulated information is strategically used to influence public opinion and shape perceptions. In *Disorder*, it explains how characters selectively construct, interpret, and distort information according to their beliefs. By combining these two perspectives, the study offers a comprehensive framework for understanding confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy that reinforces beliefs, strengthens prejudices, and shapes the construction of reality in the novel.

The data in this study consist of textual excerpts that describe forms of confirmation bias as strategies of disinformation in the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral. These texts include monologues and dialogues that depict characters' behaviors, speech, traits, and actions. The data comprise linguistic expressions presented in the form of textual segments that specifically illustrate the various forms of confirmation bias functioning as disinformation strategies within the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral.

The data collection technique employed in this study is textual observation. This technique is carried out through the following five steps. First, the researcher conducts an intensive reading of the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral. Second, the researcher selects and marks (codes) forms of confirmation bias as strategies of disinformation found in the novel based on identified indicators. Third, the researcher identifies the data in accordance with the research problems and objectives. Fourth, the researcher classifies the data in the form of confirmation bias as strategies of disinformation in the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral. Fifth, the researcher processes and analyzes the data using the identified forms of confirmation bias as strategies of disinformation in the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral.

According to Miles & Huberman (1994), data analysis consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. In literary research, these stages involve not only identifying textual elements but also interpreting their meanings within the broader narrative context, including characterization, plot, conflict, and the social realities represented through the sociology of literature approach. Data reduction was conducted through an in-depth reading of *Disorder* to identify and classify passages representing confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy by considering both biased statements and their narrative context, including the speaker, audience, purpose, social circumstances, and contribution to the conflict.

Data display involved interpreting the data according to the forms of confirmation bias—selective interpretation, belief perseverance, selective evaluation, motivated reasoning, and selective exposure—while relating dialogues, narration, and characterization to broader issues of disinformation, conflicts of interest, public opinion manipulation, and perception construction. This stage also explains their narrative functions and the author's social critique. Conclusion drawing synthesized the findings to explain how confirmation bias functions as a disinformation strategy that shapes narrative conflict, influences characters' actions, and represents broader social phenomena. Through the sociology of literature approach, the study connects the novel to issues of information production, belief formation, and manipulative narratives in the digital era, demonstrating that *Disorder* functions not only as fiction but also as a reflection of the psychological and social mechanisms sustaining information that may not correspond to factual reality.

The technique used to ensure the trustworthiness of the data in this study is triangulation, which includes prolonged engagement, persistent observation, and peer debriefing (Moleong, 2018). Prolonged engagement is conducted by repeatedly reading and comprehensively understanding the text of the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral. Persistent observation is carried out by identifying elements within the text that are relevant to the issues being examined and then focusing on these elements in detail. Peer debriefing involves discussions with colleagues who have an understanding of forms of confirmation bias as strategies of disinformation in the novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral, in order to produce accurate analytical results. These three procedures are implemented to ensure that the findings of the data analysis are credible and academically accountable.

Results and Discussion

Confirmation Bias in the Novel *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral

Confirmation bias refers to the tendency of individuals to seek, interpret, and remember information that supports pre-existing beliefs (White, 2022). This bias explains why contradictory evidence often fails to change beliefs and may even reinforce them.

In Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder*, confirmation bias is represented through characters who selectively accept information that aligns with their beliefs, interests, or group identities while rejecting opposing views. Within political conflicts and competing interests, characters spread unverified information to strengthen certain narratives, leading to polarization and different claims of truth. The novel reflects contemporary Indonesian socio-political conditions, where the abundance of information without critical literacy can trap society in echo chambers and reduce objectivity. This study identifies twelve data points showing confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in *Disorder*.

1. Confirmation Bias on Food Issues as Symbols of Gratitude and Obedience to God

In Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder*, confirmation bias is reflected through characters who selectively accept information that supports their personal and group beliefs while rejecting contradictory evidence. In the context of political intrigue and conflicts of interest, unverified information is disseminated to strengthen certain narratives, increasing polarization as each group claims its own version of truth. The novel reflects contemporary Indonesian socio-political conditions, where excessive information without critical literacy can create echo chambers and reduce objectivity. This study identifies twelve data points showing confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy in *Disorder*.

Data 1

Lima belas menit kemudian di layar televisi Italia tampil Mauro Salvatore, pemimpin Lega Destra d'Italia, kelompok sayap kanan ultranasionalis antiimigran yang selalu mengecam kebijakan pro-multikulturalisme yang diusung Vatikan.

"Apa yang sedang terjadi di Takhta Suci adalah hukuman Allah Bapa karena Paus Yohanes Paulus III mengubah menu makanan yang sudah beradab-adab menjadi identitas bangsa Italia. Sebab, bagi kita makanan bukan hanya pengisi lambung. Makanan adalah tanda kesyukuran dan ketaatan kepada Tuhan Maha Pemberi. Ini filosofi yang sudah dirumuskan leluhur kita sejak Santo Petrus dan menjadi jiwa bangsa ini terus-menerus. (DIS-MEK-D-1)

Data 1 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's interpretation of events based on pre-existing ideological beliefs. The character links the Holy See crisis to Pope John Paul III's changes in Italian food traditions without objective evidence, reflecting selective interpretation by accepting information that supports his views. As the leader of *Lega Destra d'Italia*, an ultranationalist anti-immigrant group, he shows belief perseverance by maintaining his convictions despite limited evidence. The character also uses cultural, religious, and historical values to justify his beliefs, presenting culinary traditions as symbols of

Italian identity. Thus, the excerpt illustrates confirmation bias through selective interpretation, persistence of ideology, and the use of cultural and religious arguments to reinforce existing narratives.

2. Confirmation Bias in Negative Views toward China

Data 2

"Ya, itu dia. Penyakit datangnya dari Cina. Virus Flu Burung datangnya dari Cina, virus Corona dari kelelawar di Cina. Seharusnya negara itu dihukum karena selalu menularkan penyakit ke negara lain. Tetapi, saya lihat tak pernah ada hukuman yang dijatuhkan kepada Cina seperti embargo kepada Iran atau negara-negara musuh Amerika lainnya. Kenapa? Mungkin karena mereka kaya raya. Mereka menjual daging babi ke seluruh dunia dengan harga lebih murah dibandingkan peternakan kami atau peternakan lainnya? Kenapa? Karena kami menjaga mutu, Cina tidak. Semua barang mereka jual murah untuk merusak harga pasar. Made in Cina itu sama dengan barang jelek." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-2)

Data 2 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to select and interpret information that supports negative beliefs about China. Statements such as *"Diseases come from China..."* show selective interpretation and selective exposure, as the character highlights disease cases associated with China while ignoring broader factors. The statement *"That country should be punished..."* reflects overgeneralization by assuming China is always responsible for global epidemics. The claim *"Perhaps because they are so wealthy"* illustrates motivated reasoning, as the character creates unsupported explanations to maintain prejudice. Meanwhile, *"Made in China is the same as poor-quality goods"* represents stereotyping and negative generalization. Overall, Data 2 reveals confirmation bias through selective exposure, selective interpretation, motivated reasoning, and overgeneralization in constructing a negative narrative about China.

3. Confirmation Bias Regarding Laboratory Leaks as the Cause of the Pandemic

Data 3

"Ata, saat kita bicara sekarang ini aku masuk deep web dan menemukan informasi sebuah kasus patient zero untuk SOIV-26 terdeteksi dari Harbin. Ada dua penjelasan. Versi pertama menyatakan patient zero adalah seorang perempuan peneliti di Lab BSL-4 yang baru pulang dari Pegunungan Yaji. Dia ke sana bersama suami dan anak lelakinya berumur 6 tahun yang tergila-gila pada babi. Versi kedua menyatakan patient zero adalah istri dari seorang peneliti Lab BSL-4 yang baru kembali dari Fort Detrick, Amerika Serikat. Perempuan itu sedang hamil 7 bulan dan terjangkit melalui suaminya yang asymptomatic. Versi kedua ini menyatakan terjadi kebocoran pada riset virus H3N3 yang merupakan kelanjutan virus influenza tipe A yang dikenal sebagai H1N1, H1N2, H2N1, H3N1, H3N2, dan H2N3 yang selama ini merupakan kelompok SOIV," papar Alex dengan lancar. (DIS-BTK-BK-D-3)

Data 3 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to seek and accept information that supports existing assumptions about the virus origin without verifying its credibility. The statement *"I went into the deep web and found information about a patient zero case for SOIV-26 detected in Harbin"* reflects selective exposure, as the character chooses unverified information that confirms personal beliefs. The presentation of conflicting patient zero narratives as evidence of a laboratory leak also shows selective interpretation of uncertain information. Additionally, the use of scientific terms and laboratory references creates an impression of credibility despite the lack of verification. Overall, Data 3 illustrates confirmation bias through selective exposure, selective interpretation, and acceptance of unverified information, contributing to the construction and spread of disinformation.

4. Confirmation Bias in Global Conflict

Data 4

"Konflik dunia semakin memanas. Negara-negara besar menyiapkan senjata biologis masing-masing. Suka atau tidak, Perang Dunia III akan pecah. Pertempuran konvensional tidak akan terjadi. Tidak ada ledakan bom, desing peluru, gemeretak mortir. Tidak ada bau sangit mesiu. Sebuah perang global yang berbeda dan kita semua akan sangat menderita. Pertarungan bukan hanya melibatkan negara, melainkan juga kelompok-kelompok internasional yang memiliki kemampuan dalam bioteknologi modern. Mereka yang selama ini sudah marah dengan ketidakadilan dunia akan ikut turun gelanggang. Semua pihak punya motif karena kegagalan PBB dalam mengelola tata dunia. PBB hanya menjadi stempel kapitalisme keluarga borjuis dari seluruh dunia. Para penghamba materi. Ah, maafkan aku, Mademoiselle, jika membuatmu takut," katanya melihat arloji. "Sudah hampir pukul 6.00. Aku masih ada urusan lain. Kotak ini saya bawa. Kita bertemu besok. Pascal akan menjemput Mademoiselle di lobi pukul 8.00 pagi." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-4)

Data 4 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to interpret global political issues based on pre-existing beliefs rather than verified evidence. The statement *"World War III will break*

out" reflects belief perseverance, as the character treats biological warfare as inevitable despite limited evidence. The connection between nations, biotechnology groups, and the United Nations as part of a global conspiracy shows selective interpretation by linking events according to existing assumptions. The criticism of the United Nations also represents selective evaluation, as the character focuses only on negative aspects while ignoring broader functions. Overall, Data 4 illustrates confirmation bias through belief perseverance, selective interpretation, and selective evaluation, showing how ideological beliefs can shape perceptions and legitimize unverified claims.

5. Confirmation Bias in Food and Beverage Testing

Data 5

"Informasi mengejutkan datang dari Takhta Suci Vatikan dengan raibnya Monsignor Alberto Gasparri, Kepala Rumah Tangga Kepausan. "Semakin kuat dugaan bahwa Monsignor Gasparri adalah orang yang paling bertanggung jawab terhadap insiden peracunan makanan Paus Yohanes Paulus III karena tak ada setetes minuman dan seketul roti yang dimakan Paus yang bisa lolos dari pengujiannya lebih dahulu. Semua harus dicicipi oleh Monsignor Gasparri, bahkan jika makanan dibuat di dapur Takhta Suci oleh para koki yang setia di jalan Kristus." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-5)

Data 5 demonstrates confirmation bias through the tendency to accuse an individual based on information that supports an initial assumption without verified evidence. The statement *"There is growing suspicion that Monsignor Gasparri is the person most responsible for the food poisoning incident"* reflects belief perseverance, as suspicion is maintained despite the absence of conclusive proof. Gasparri's role in testing the Pope's food is also interpreted as evidence of guilt, showing selective interpretation by viewing neutral information according to existing assumptions. His disappearance is similarly linked to the poisoning without considering alternative explanations. Overall, Data 5 illustrates confirmation bias through belief perseverance, selective interpretation, and selective use of information, demonstrating how assumptions and media narratives can shape public opinion before factual verification.

6. Confirmation Bias in Unfair Judgments of Individuals

Data 6

"Iya, Dok. Selain itu, berkembang rumor bahwa Doktor Ata adalah otak pembunuhan Yeskiel. Doktor Ata yang membuat kehebohan soal virus Flu Babi dan memecah belah masyarakat serta mengobarkan isu SARA sehingga Koko Han yang selama ini mendukung perekonomian rakyat dan mengurangi jumlah pengangguran, harus mengungsi ke luar negeri. Sementara itu, istrinya justru terinfeksi virus dari istri peternak dan Doktor menolak membantu pengobatan di RSUI meski sudah dihubungi Koko Han." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-6)

Data 6 demonstrates confirmation bias through the public's tendency to accept and spread unverified information that supports existing prejudices against Doctor Ata. The statement *"Rumors spread that Doctor Ata was the mastermind behind Yeskiel's murder"* reflects belief perseverance, as accusations are maintained without sufficient evidence. The attribution of various complex events solely to Doctor Ata shows selective interpretation, where information is connected selectively to reinforce existing beliefs while ignoring other possibilities. The accusation regarding his refusal of medical treatment further strengthens negative perceptions without considering alternative explanations. Overall, Data 6 illustrates confirmation bias through rumor acceptance, selective interpretation, and incomplete information use, showing how disinformation and collective beliefs can shape public opinion based on assumptions rather than verified facts.

7. Confirmation Bias in a Major Conspiracy Involving the Vaccine Industry

Data 7

"Itu salah satunya. Vaksin bukan industri recehan. Ini industri miliaran dolar. Anda tahu ini. Apakah tewasnya tiga peternak babi di negara Anda hanya kebetulan? Tidak, Doktor Ata. Itu tahap awal berjalannya bisnis raksasa multinasional yang melibatkan banyak pihak, termasuk tokoh-tokoh penting di negara Anda. (DIS BTK-BK-D-7)

Data 7 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to interpret pandemic events based on the belief that the outbreak is driven by global business interests. The statement *"Vaccines are not a trivial industry. This is a billion-dollar industry"* reflects selective interpretation, as economic information is used to support assumptions about financial motives. The connection between the deaths of three pig farmers and a larger conspiracy shows belief perseverance, as the character maintains this assumption despite limited evidence. The claim about multinational business operations also combines unrelated events into a conspiracy narrative. Overall, Data 7 illustrates confirmation bias through selective

interpretation, rejection of alternative explanations, and reinforcement of conspiracy beliefs in constructing persuasive disinformation narratives.

8. Collective Trauma Confirmation Bias

Data 8

"Syaratnya satu, Profesor Hermanu Hermawan sebagai pakar neurosains, Profesor Pedro Rodriguez sebagai ahli AI dan Big Data, dan saya sendiri harus segera merampungkan cetak biru program komprehensif Reorientasi Sejarah Australia yang akan mengurangi trauma kolektif bangsa itu tentang leluhur mereka yang mayoritas merupakan narapidana dari Inggris dan negara-negara Barat lain. Sebetulnya faktor itu saja yang masih menjadi beban bawah sadar orang-orang Australia sehingga mereka belum mampu melakukan lompatan besar sampai sekarang, meski mereka memiliki kapasitas untuk itu. (DIS-BTK-BK-D-8)

Data 8 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to simplify complex issues by attributing Australia's progress solely to convict history. The statement *"that factor alone"* reflects selective interpretation, as the character accepts only information that supports existing beliefs while ignoring other social, economic, political, and educational factors. The use of experts in neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and big data to support the Historical Reorientation program illustrates motivated reasoning, where scientific authority is used to strengthen assumptions without sufficient evidence. Overall, Data 8 shows confirmation bias through oversimplification, selective interpretation, and the use of scientific authority to validate pre-existing beliefs.

9. Social Engineering Confirmation Bias

Data 9

"Jika cetak biru kita selesai pada 2030, 15 tahun selanjutnya adalah waktu yang cukup untuk menginjeksi bangsa Australia dengan keyakinan baru bahwa mereka adalah Amerika Serikat abad ke-21, sedangkan AS saat ini adalah Australia abad ke-20. Inilah Rekayasa Sebuah Bangsa (Engineering of A Nation). Komposisi ideal bangsa Australia, akan dirumuskan Grand Master Kim Myung-dae, baik berdasarkan ras maupun keyakinan agama sehingga komposisi masyarakat Inggris yang didominasi WASP. Demikian Bhante." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-9)

Data 9 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to construct conclusions based on ideological beliefs and justify them without verification. The statement *"The next 15 years will be sufficient to inject the Australian nation with a new belief"* reflects selective interpretation, as the character ignores complex social, political, economic, and historical factors influencing national development. The concept *"This is the Engineering of A Nation"* illustrates belief perseverance, as the character maintains social engineering as the solution despite limited evidence. The use of Grand Master Kim Myung-dae's authority to determine national composition based on race and religion represents motivated reasoning. Overall, Data 9 shows confirmation bias through selective interpretation, belief perseverance, and motivated reasoning in reinforcing ideological narratives about national identity.

10. Confirmation Bias: Australia as a "Socio-Political Laboratory"

Data 10

"Terima kasih, Bhante. Australia memang laboratorium sosial-politik dan lingkungan yang bagus untuk masyarakat baru yang heterogen & toleran, teknologi tinggi & tetap cinta lingkungan. Selain daratannya masih sangat luas dengan sepuluh gurun yang mereka miliki, juga keanekaragaman hayati mereka luar biasa. Laut, samudera, koral, terumbu karang, kandungan gas, minyak, dan mineral. Benua yang sempurna. Untuk komposisi masyarakat, peran Aborigin sebagai warga asli harus ditingkatkan. Kisah sedih kaum Indian yang menjadi korban ketamakan Amerika Serikat yang berpura-pura menjadi penyelamat dengan memberikan mereka selimut untuk menghadapi musim dingin-tetapi sudah diinfeksi dengan virus cacar Variola major dan Variola minor yang membuat kaum Indian secara perlahan punah-adalah bukti bagaimana perang biologi sudah terjadi sejak dulu kala. (DIS-BTK-BK-D-10)

Data 10 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's use of selected historical events to reinforce beliefs about biological warfare and social engineering. The tragedy of Native Americans is interpreted as evidence of biological warfare while ignoring broader historical contexts, reflecting selective interpretation. The portrayal of Australia as an ideal socio-political laboratory shows selective exposure, as the character emphasizes supporting information while overlooking social, political, and cultural challenges. The use of historical suffering to justify strengthening Aboriginal roles represents motivated reasoning. Overall, Data 10 illustrates confirmation bias through selective interpretation, selective exposure, and motivated reasoning in legitimizing ideological and political agendas.

11. Confirmation Bias: Granting Greater Positions to Aboriginal People

Data 11

"Di Australia, pola ini tak boleh terjadi pada kaum Aborigin yang sudah berbaik hati menyambut para pendatang dengan tangan terbuka. Kalaupun hal semacam itu pernah terjadi di awal perkembangan Benua Australia, kita akan pastikan hal itu tak akan terjadi lagi pada melinium ketiga. Kaum Aborigin harus diberi kesempatan lebih banyak untuk menempati posisi kunci dalam pemerintahan, baik di tingkat negara bagian atau pemerintahan pusat. Abad ini harus menyaksikan seorang Aborigin bisa menjadi Perdana Menteri Australia. Mereka bukan saja pantas, melainkan sangat berhak. Idealnya mereka berjumlah 20-25% dari populasi Australia Baru, bukan 3,5% yang sangat minoritas seperti sekarang. Persentase Aborigin bahkan sangat jauh dibandingkan Suku Maori di Selandia Baru yang sudah mencapai 16,5-17%, tetapi tetap harus ditingkatkan menjadi sekitar seperempat populasi warga Selandia Baru. (DIS-BTK-BK-D-11)

Data 11 demonstrates confirmation bias through the character's tendency to build arguments based on ideological beliefs about the ideal composition of society. The claim that Aboriginal people must gain greater political representation and that an Aboriginal person should become Australia's Prime Minister reflects selective interpretation, as it presents representation as the main solution without considering broader social and political factors. The use of demographic data showing Aboriginal people as 3.5% of the population to support a target of 20–25% illustrates selective evaluation, as only supportive information is emphasized. The comparison with the Māori population in New Zealand further reinforces this belief. Overall, Data 11 shows confirmation bias through selective interpretation, selective evaluation, and the use of supporting data to justify predetermined ideological conclusions while overlooking social complexity.

12. Confirmation Bias: Gasparri's Role within the Global Group

Data 12

"Kami telah menemukan bukti-bukti lebih meyakinkan bahwa Monsignor Alberto Gasparri, tersangka utama insiden tidak terlibat dengan Lega Desstra D'Italia. Monsigno Gasparri yang saat ini belum diketahui di mana keberadaannya justru merupakan anggota utama kelompok The Global Order of Interconfessionalism for A Better World. Mereka terdiri atas dua belas orang Majelis Tinggi yang disebut Grand Master dan dipimpin seorang ketua yang disebut sang Guru. Kepolisian Vatikan bekerja sama dengan Kepolisian Italia dan Kepolisian Prancis dengan sangat baik sehingga bisa membekuk sang Guru yang merupakan profesor virologi dan epidemiolog di Claude Bernard University Lyon ..." (DIS-BTK-BK-D-12)

Data 12 demonstrates confirmation bias through the continuation of a conspiracy belief despite changes in the suspected individual. Although evidence clears Monsignor Alberto Gasparri from involvement with *Lega Destra d'Italia*, the search for another actor who fits the existing narrative reflects belief perseverance. Gasparri's connection to *The Global Order of Interconfessionalism for A Better World* is interpreted as proof of a hidden network, showing selective interpretation of neutral information. The use of the "Teacher" as a virology and epidemiology professor to strengthen suspicion represents motivated reasoning, where expertise is used to support an unproven claim. Overall, Data 12 illustrates confirmation bias through belief perseverance, selective interpretation, and motivated reasoning, showing how information can be adjusted to maintain existing conspiracy narratives rather than evaluated objectively.

Discussion

The spread of false information or hoaxes has increased significantly and become a global issue with broad social impacts. Boer (2020) emphasizes that effective disaster communication should build shared understanding among stakeholders, while Setyawati (2022) states that communication functions to convey meaning. Therefore, accurate information is essential as a basis for decision-making and public action in reducing disaster risks during crises.

In contemporary fiction, novels serve not only as entertainment but also as reflections of cognitive and ideological issues, including digital-era disinformation. *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral presents social, political, and moral critiques through manipulative narratives, particularly by representing confirmation bias as a disinformation strategy through the characters and narrator's perspective.

According to Boukes et al. (2022), the persuasive influence of fictional narratives is explained through three mechanisms: identification, in which audiences align their perspectives with story characters (Mutz & Nir, 2010); narrative transportation, where immersion in the storyline reduces resistance and increases acceptance of information (Hoewe & Sherrill, 2019; Slater & Rouner, 2002); and the tendency of audiences to perceive fictional media as reflecting reality to some extent (Liebes & Katz, 1986).

Therefore, fictional programs encourage audiences to think about and discuss real political issues while improving their understanding of political processes (Peters, 2015; Van Zoonen, 2007). As fictional narratives become integrated into real-world knowledge, they can produce lasting persuasive effects (Appel & Richter, 2007). Because the boundary between fiction and reality is often blurred, these mechanisms can also generate agenda-setting effects, leading audiences to perceive dramatized political issues as important public concerns.

In recent years, disinformation has increased dramatically, becoming a major challenge across politics, public health, international security, and the global information ecosystem (Boonprakong et al., 2024). The rapid development of digital technology and social media has enabled the large-scale and high-speed spread of false information, affecting social stability and many aspects of public life (Modgil et al., 2024).

Confirmation bias refers to the cognitive tendency to seek, interpret, and remember information that confirms pre-existing beliefs while disregarding contradictory evidence (Kurniati, 2021). In *Disorder* by Akmal Nasery Basral, confirmation bias is represented through the characters' thoughts, dialogues, and misleading or generalized narratives, functioning as an ideological tool that reinforces stereotypes, obscures facts, and shapes public perception. Therefore, this study critically identifies and classifies the forms of confirmation bias employed in the novel to reveal how disinformation strategies are constructed and reproduced.

1.1 Confirmation Bias: Food as a Symbol of Gratitude and Obedience to God

Data 1 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-1) This excerpt develops the plot by showing how the Holy See crisis expands from a religious issue into a political conflict involving the media, political groups, and society. Mauro Salvatore's media statements connect the Pope's condition with his policies, creating multiple interpretations that intensify the conflict. As a character, Mauro is portrayed as an ultranationalist who interprets changes in food traditions as divine punishment and a threat to national identity, reflecting how ideology shapes perceptions. Through this scene, the author criticizes the exploitation of crises by political elites and the media to promote ideological agendas, demonstrating that information can be used to legitimize interests rather than present objective facts.

1.2 Confirmation Bias: Negative Views toward China

Data 2 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-2) This excerpt develops the plot by showing that the pandemic expands from a health crisis into political, economic, and international conflicts through prejudice and stereotypes toward China. The virus origin is used to assign blame, demonstrating how disease outbreaks are accompanied by the spread of negative information. The character is portrayed as holding strong prejudice against China by linking diseases and product quality to the country, reflecting reliance on personal beliefs rather than factual evidence and illustrating confirmation bias. Through social criticism, the author highlights society's tendency to seek scapegoats during crises, where unverified information can strengthen stereotypes, discrimination, xenophobia, and disinformation. The novel encourages readers to critically evaluate information and avoid generalizing groups based on limited evidence.

1.3 Confirmation Bias: Laboratory Leak as the Cause of the Pandemic

Data 3 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-3) This excerpt develops the plot by presenting conflicting narratives about the origin of the SOIV-26 virus, shifting the pandemic issue into a mystery filled with speculation and conspiracy theories. Information from the deep web creates uncertainty about patient zero and a possible laboratory leak, strengthening narrative tension through unverifiable claims. Alex is portrayed as a character who seeks information from unreliable sources and accepts claims that support his assumptions, reflecting **confirmation bias**. Through social criticism, the author highlights that digital technology can accelerate the spread of rumors, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. The novel criticizes reliance on sensational information over scientific evidence and emphasizes that pandemics are dangerous not only because of disease transmission but also because of unverified information shaping public beliefs.

1.4 Confirmation Bias: Global Conflict

Data 4 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-4) This excerpt develops the plot by expanding the conflict from a health crisis into a geopolitical struggle involving biological warfare, international organizations, and global interests. The possibility of World War III through biological weapons increases tension and presents the pandemic as part of a wider conflict. The character is portrayed as pessimistic and distrustful of the global order, relying on conspiracy narratives rather than objective evidence, which reflects how beliefs influence interpretations of events. Through social criticism, the author highlights society's vulnerability to fear, conspiracy theories, and declining trust in institutions, illustrating the post-truth phenomenon in which emotions and beliefs often outweigh factual evidence.

1.5 Confirmation Bias: Food and Beverage Testing

Data 5 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-5) contributes to the plot by introducing the mystery of Pope John Paul III's poisoning. The disappearance of Monsignor Alberto Gasparri makes him the main suspect, directing the investigation toward assumptions of guilt and increasing narrative tension. In characterization, the excerpt illustrates how characters form conclusions based on limited information, as Gasparri's role in tasting the Pope's food is interpreted as evidence of guilt without objective verification. This reflects the influence of unverified information during crises. From the perspective of social criticism, the author highlights society and media's tendency to judge before facts are confirmed, showing how rumors, speculation, and unverified information can shape public opinion faster than factual investigation. The excerpt emphasizes that suspicion often dominates the search for truth in times of crisis.

1.6 Confirmation Bias: Injustice in the Evaluation of an Individual

Data 6 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-6) contributes to the plot by showing how rumors escalate the conflict surrounding Doctor Ata. Accusations connecting him to Yeskiel's murder and social problems shift the narrative from a health crisis to defamation, intergroup conflict, and declining public trust. In characterization, Doctor Ata is portrayed as a victim of repeated accusations based on unverified information, illustrating how rumors and existing prejudices can damage a person's reputation. From the perspective of social criticism, the author highlights the role of rumors and disinformation in shaping public opinion during crises, where repeated false information can become accepted as truth and create scapegoats. The excerpt emphasizes the importance of critical evaluation of information rather than relying on prejudice or unsupported accusations.

1.7 Confirmation Bias: A Grand Conspiracy Involving the Vaccine Industry

Data 7 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-7) contributes to the plot by expanding the health crisis into allegations of economic and political interests behind the pandemic. The claim that the deaths of three pig farmers were related to a "giant multinational business" introduces conflicts involving conspiracy theories, the vaccine industry, and powerful actors. In characterization, the character is portrayed as suspicious and inclined to interpret events through conspiratorial beliefs, linking the deaths directly to the vaccine industry without considering other possibilities. From the perspective of social criticism, the author highlights how crises can trigger conspiracy narratives connecting pandemics with pharmaceutical and economic interests. The excerpt critiques the spread of unsupported explanations when public trust in institutions declines and encourages readers to critically evaluate information.

1.8 Confirmation Bias: Collective Trauma

Data 8 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-8) contributes to the plot by expanding the pandemic conflict into issues of identity engineering and national transformation. The Reorientation of Australian History blueprint shifts the narrative from health crisis management to attempts at reshaping society through science and technology. In characterization, the character is portrayed as strongly believing that national progress depends on changing historical consciousness, reflecting ambition and confidence in science while simplifying complex issues. From the perspective of social criticism, the author critiques the idea that identity and social progress can be engineered through a single approach, showing how scientific authority may be used to support ideological narratives. The excerpt emphasizes the need to critically evaluate solutions that oversimplify complex social and political realities.

1.9 Confirmation Bias: Social Engineering

Data 9 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-9) contributes to the plot by expanding the pandemic conflict into a broader project of national identity engineering. The concept of *Engineering of A Nation* introduces a long-term agenda involving influential figures and connects the pandemic with wider social and political goals. In characterization, the character is portrayed as believing that national identity can be systematically shaped through changes in beliefs, population, race, and religion, reflecting an ambitious but simplified view of social transformation. From the perspective of social criticism, the author critiques social engineering efforts that attempt to control identity, race, and religion while ignoring historical diversity and individual agency. The excerpt highlights how science and ideology can be used as instruments to direct societal development.

1.10 Confirmation Bias: Australia as a "Socio-Political Laboratory"

Data 10 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-10) contributes to the plot by expanding the pandemic narrative into issues of social engineering, history, and global politics. The portrayal of Australia as a "social-political laboratory" and references to Native American history and biological warfare connect the pandemic with broader conflicts of power, identity, and political interests. In characterization, the character is depicted as strongly supporting social engineering to create an ideal society and using historical events to reinforce his views, showing a strategic but subjective perspective. From the perspective of social criticism, the author critiques the use of history, science, and political influence to legitimize ideological agendas and pursue interests. The excerpt encourages readers to critically examine how history and information shape perceptions of complex social and political issues.

1.11 Confirmation Bias: Granting More Positions to Aboriginal People

Data 11 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-11) contributes to the plot by expanding the pandemic narrative into issues of social justice, national identity, and social engineering. The proposal to increase Aboriginal representation and reshape Australia's demographics adds political and historical complexity to the conflict. In characterization, the character is portrayed as an idealist advocating Indigenous opportunities and greater representation, but his demographic targets reflect a tendency to simplify complex social issues through systematic planning. From the perspective of social criticism, the author highlights Indigenous inequality while questioning whether representation can be achieved through quotas and demographic engineering alone. The excerpt critiques approaches that reduce history, identity, and social justice to numerical targets.

1.12 Confirmation Bias Gasparri's Role in the Global Group

Data 12 (DIS-BTK-BK-D-12) contributes to the plot by presenting a turning point in the investigation of Pope John Paul III's poisoning. New evidence clears Monsignor Alberto Gasparri and redirects the investigation toward *The Global Order of Interconfessionalism for A Better World*. The arrest of the Master, a professor of virology and epidemiology, expands the conflict from an individual suspect to an organized international network. In characterization, the investigators are shown to revise conclusions based on evidence, while the secret organization and the Master represent influential figures who use scientific knowledge for hidden purposes. From the perspective of social criticism, the author highlights the complexity of finding truth amid misinformation, speculation, and competing interests, emphasizing that truth requires evidence rather than assumptions or public opinion.

Conclusion

The findings demonstrate that Akmal Nasery Basral's *Disorder* effectively represents the complexity of disinformation in modern communication through the portrayal of confirmation bias as a strategy of information dissemination. The novel depicts five forms of confirmation bias—selective interpretation, belief perseverance, selective evaluation, motivated reasoning, and selective exposure—shown through characters who selectively accept, interpret, evaluate, and defend information that confirms their existing beliefs while disregarding contradictory evidence. These biases function as disinformation strategies to influence public opinion, manipulate social situations, and blur the distinction between fact and opinion.

Through issues such as food as a symbol of identity and religion, stereotypes toward China, vaccine conspiracy narratives, biological warfare, and social and political engineering, the novel illustrates that disinformation arises not only from a lack of information but also from the tendency to accept information consistent with prior beliefs. Consequently, reality is shaped more by constructed perceptions than by verified facts, reinforcing the spread of disinformation and social polarization.

From the perspective of the sociology of literature, *Disorder* functions as both a literary work and a representation of social reality, reflecting communication dynamics, power relations, ideology, and social change in the digital era. The novel shows how information is used to shape public opinion and sustain political, economic, and group interests while criticizing the prevalence of disinformation in contemporary society. Accordingly, this study demonstrates that analyzing confirmation bias in *Disorder* contributes not only to literary studies but also to the development of the sociology of literature by deepening understanding of the relationship between literary works, disinformation practices, and social reality in the digital communication era.

Several suggestions are proposed for the development of language, literature, and communication studies. Indonesian Language Education lecturers are encouraged to integrate disinformation topics into critical reading and text analysis courses to help students understand how fiction shapes public perception and identify misinformation. Communication lecturers should further examine how fictional narratives and media contribute to disinformation and influence public opinion. Literature lecturers are encouraged to connect literary studies with communication and media theories to explore literature as a medium for criticizing social issues. Future researchers are also advised to analyze other literary works related to disinformation across different cultural contexts and further investigate its influence in mass media and literature on public opinion and behavior, particularly during crises.

Declarations

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