Visual Accuracy of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia in the Eyes of ChatGPT (Semiotic Analysis of Illustrations of ChatGPT's Works)

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Abstract

In today's era, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly entering into the layers of society, including the historical aspect. This study aims to analyze the accuracy of the illustration of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence 1945 produced by ChatGPT using a qualitative research approach with Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis research method. This study found that the illustrations produced by AI were historically inaccurate, both in the depiction of the proclaimer, clothing, crowds, and main symbols such as the red and white flag. In addition, although some aspects, such as people's clothing, are close to the facts, most of the illustrations show deficiencies in conveying the true meaning of history. This distortion creates hyperreality, where the resulting visual elements reflect the algorithm's interpretation more than historical facts. This study also highlights that the inaccuracy is due to the limitations of AI in understanding cultural and historical contexts in depth. AI illustrations tend to function as symbolic metaphors rather than factual representations, obscuring the original meaning of events. That makes AI categorized as popular culture, which makes it inauthentic and unoriginal. It shows that AI still requires human intervention to ensure cultural and historical accuracy because AI illustrations tend to function as symbolic metaphors rather than factual representations. This study concludes that the use of AI in representing historical events requires critical oversight to prevent the spread of biased or misleading information. The study emphasizes the need for collaboration between technology and human interpretation to maintain the accuracy of historical information in various digital works, especially AI.

Keywords: Semiotics, Artificial Intelligence, Popular Culture, New Media, ChatGPT

INTRODUCTION

This year is widely used in society. Based on data from the Boston Consulting Group, Indonesia is among the top ten AI users, especially ChatGPT, in the world, occupying sixth position (Rakhmayanti Dewi, 2024).

ChatGPT not only operates in the text realm but also develops artificial intelligence to create illustrations. Illustrations produced by AI, such as ChatGPT 4.0, are one of the new forms of creating illustration materials. In terms of use, this menu can be used for free for every account that logs into the ChatGPT site. With the broad selection of generative AI, the capacity to associate with AI effectively and viably is additionally one of the critical things in media. Subsequently, it is exceptionally vital for generative AI users to know and utilize a command base called prompts, (Situmorang, 2024). Users must write keywords such as what kind of image they want to create, and then from the text ChatGPT will process it based on the data they have.

One of the significant advantages of the AI image generator is its ability to create many art concepts in a short time. Unlike human illustrators who may take days to create an illustration, AI can produce a series of different colored images in minutes. The high speed of producing these illustrations allows for rapid exploration of concepts and ideas, giving one a wide range of visual examples to choose from. Furthermore, the low cost associated with AI image generators, often considered nearly free compared to human artists, further facilitates experimentation and the ability to try new

approaches that would otherwise be impractical or financially burdensome (Noel, 2024).

However, behind this convenience, there are major challenges related to the accuracy of the data and visuals produced. Illustrations created by AI are often based only on pre-programmed data patterns, making them prone to errors in conveying messages, especially in contexts related to history and culture.

Illustrations are full of elements that are rich in meaning. Therefore, in addition to analyzing as "text or image", contextual analysis is also carried out, namely by connecting the artwork with the situation in society. This is done to maintain the significance of the problem while avoiding the bias of the interpretation of meaning, where illustrations are easily captured by people's minds, but are unable to explain the ongoing problem completely and accurately, (Setiawan et al., 2017).

AI models that convert text to images can only understand things that already exist in the real world because they are trained using real-world image references. This AI can also only create images that are extensions of familiar objects. In addition, AI tends to more often imitate the visual characteristics of objects that are commonly encountered in everyday life. As a result, using this AI to develop new ideas or concepts has the potential to produce less original work. This AI is difficult to use to create new products that do not have similar examples in the real world, (Brisco et al., 2023)

In the context of the 80th anniversary of independence, the analysis of the illustration of

the Proclamation of Independence by ChatGPT becomes increasingly relevant to understanding how historical symbols are produced, translated, and understood in new media.

News of the proclamation of Indonesian independence on the morning of August 17, 1945, spread widely orally so that several figures prepared to come, after a long process of the battle of ideas between the old and young groups, the preparation of the proclamation text, to the determination of the signing of the proclamation text. Meanwhile, others prepared the necessary ceremonial equipment. Soediro prepared the rope and flagpole. Wilopo prepared the microphone and loudspeaker. The Red and White flag was sewn by Mrs. Fatmawati herself. That morning the audience was ready in front of Soekarno's house. They included Ki Hadjar Dewantara, Abikoesno Tjokrosoejoso, Buntaran Martoatmodjo, A.A. Maramis, Latuharhary, Anwar Tjokroaminoto, Otto Iskandardinata, K.H. Mas Mansyur, Sajoeti Melik, Moewardi, A.G. Pringgodigdo and Soewirjo. On August 17, 1945, at 10:00 WIB, the proclamation text was read by Soekarno accompanied by Moh. Hatta. The reading was done in front of Soekarno's house on Jalan Pegangsaan Timur No. 56 Jakarta (now Jalan Proklamasi). Before the proclamation text was read, Soekarno gave an introduction that the struggle of the Indonesian people had been going on for hundreds of years without stopping. Now is the time for the Indonesian people to take their fate and homeland into their own hands. After reading the proclamation text, Soekarno declared that the Indonesian people were independent.(Wiharyanto, 2011).

The selection of the illustration of the Proclamation of Independence as the object of research opens new discussions and updates regarding the accuracy and ability of AI to visualize complex historical events. Moreover, ChatGPT is one of the technologies that is popularly used in the current era. Technologies such as ChatGPT, which are designed to produce data-based content, provide an opportunity to evaluate the extent to which AI can produce historically accurate illustrations.

The Proclamation of Indonesian Independence is an ideal case because it involves many elements of culture, history, and national symbols that must be presented accurately. This is relevant considering that inaccurate visual depictions can obscure historical understanding. Not only that, 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence, which makes this research more relevant. The study of the Proclamation illustration can contribute to discussions of culture, history, and technology.

This study uses Ferdinand Sausure's semiotic approach to analyze the illustration of the 1945 Proclamation of Independence produced by AI. By analyzing the signifiers and signifieds behind its visual elements, this study aims to explore how AI depicts historical narratives through data owned by ChatGPT, and how popular culture influences the analytical process and its creation.

This study also complements previous studies, namely:

1. Problems of Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the Field of Illustration: AI VS Artist by Alya Nur Fadilla, Putri Munadiyah Ramadhani, and Handriyotopo discusses how artificial intelligence is used in the world of illustration. This journal emphasizes the debate between traditional illustrators and increasingly sophisticated AI technology in producing works of art. Some illustrators feel disturbed by the presence of AI that can create illustrations automatically, while others provide the perspective of AI as a tool that can increase productivity and creativity. This journal also discusses aspects of ethics, copyright, and the quality of the work produced by AI compared to human artists. In conclusion, the use of AI in the field of illustration poses challenges and opportunities, so a balanced approach is needed to utilize this technology without neglecting the role of traditional artists. (Nur Fadilla et al., 2023)

2. Analysis of the Utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a Reference in Visual Communication Design by Muhammad Muhaemin analyzes how AI can be used as a reference for finding inspiration through design creation. This journal explores how AI can produce references for design ideas and concepts that can help someone develop their creativity. However, this journal also emphasizes the importance of the human role in analyzing and modifying the results produced by AI. Thus, original works are created that are in the cultural context of the message that appears in a work. Therefore, the collaboration of using AI in visual communication design should be seen as a tool that enriches the creative process, not as a substitute for the role of the designer himself, (Muhaemin, 2023).

3. Text-to-Image Visualization with the Power of AI Art Generator: Potential or Problem? Analyzes the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in visualizing poetry texts, especially the poem "Nachtzauber" by Joseph von Eichendorff. This journal reviews three main aspects, namely: aesthetics (color, composition, visual harmony), interpretation (understanding of art, theme, symbol), and creativity (combination of images and narratives). Interpretation using hotpot.AI shows that AI can produce visualizations that are aesthetically and emotionally appropriate, although it still requires a human touch to deepen the interpretation and overcome visual misconceptions. The results show the great potential of AI in language and literature learning but also pose a risk of misinterpretation and loss of linguistic value. Therefore, AI integration must be carried out wisely to support creativity without replacing the role of humans, (Aini, 2023)

Researcher used a data analysis technique through text analysis, which analyzed the work from ChatGPT by entering the keyword "Create an illustration of the Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945". By analyzing the meaning behind visual elements, such as illustration objects to the use of color, this study aims to explore how AI processes historical narratives through big data owned by ChatGPT, and how popular culture influences the analytical process and its creation.

Key Issue: How Accurate is the Illustration of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia 1945 Resulting from ChatGPT?

LITERATURE REVIEW
Semiotics

The term semiotics comes from the ancient Greek word "semiion" which means character, or "sign" in English. Semiotics is the science that studies signs. This is a science that understands social phenomena, or society and the culture within it, as symbols. Semiotics also studies the system and rules for giving meaning to these symbols, (Agustina, 2017).

Semiotics is one of the literary studies that discusses the meaning of signs. In the understanding of semiotic literary studies, all literary works have the meaning of signs as builders of works, and signs are understood through semiotic studies. Thus, readers and connoisseurs of works can find the meaning expressed by the author, (AS & Umaya, 2010).

Signs are all things, both physical and mental, both in the world and in the universe, both in the human mind and the biological systems of humans and animals, which are given meaning by humans. Humans are creatures who always seek meaning about what is around them. Through this view, humans also give meaning to themselves, both physically and mentally. (Hoed, 2014)

The existence of semiotics can be meaningful to someone because they can gain more insight when they decode messages or message symbols than others, depending on a person's insight in understanding the media they consume. A person will gain a higher understanding, control, and appreciation of the messages they receive (Rorong, 2024)

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence is intelligence that is added to a system that can be arranged in a scientific context or can also be called Artificial Intelligence or simply abbreviated as AI, defined as the intelligence of a scientific entity. (Siahaan et al., 2020). AI is a part of computer science that makes machines (computers) able to do work like and as well as humans do, and when compared to natural intelligence (intelligence possessed by humans). Artificial intelligence has several commercial advantages, including it is more permanent, easier to duplicate and distribute, cheaper than natural intelligence, consistent, and can be documented, can do work faster than natural intelligence, and can do more structured work than natural intelligence. Meanwhile, human natural intelligence lies in the inherent human creative ability. Humans can add and expand knowledge flexibly, while artificial intelligence requires a certain system to update or add information. In addition, natural intelligence allows a person to use direct experience in decision making, while artificial intelligence relies on programmed symbolic input. Human thinking is also broader and more adaptive than artificial intelligence which has limitations according to its design and algorithms. (Jaya et al., 2018)).

Illustration

Illustration is a translation of text. Illustration can help communicate a message accurately, quickly and firmly. Another ability is the power to create an emotional atmosphere and make an idea seem real. With the presence of illustrations, the message in the text will be more memorable, this is because readers find it easier to remember images than text, (Maharsi, 2016).

Text to Image

AI image generators can create illustration easier for users to make digital illustrations by typing a prompt description and letting the technology produce illustration based on the text description given. Text to image technology is also developing with its advant ages in producing realistic images, (Herliyani et al., 2024).

When OpenAI released CLIP in 2021, the technology represented a breakthrough in making text into images. CLIP is a trained vision language model that can manipulate images using only text as a guide without any additional training. This model places images and text in the same feature space, allowing instant transfer to new tasks using text commands. CLIP is used by production systems as an "identifier" to assist in the production of digital images. The combination of text and image expressions allows natural language control over the image creation process. (Lyu et al., 2022).

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with semiotic analysis research methodology. Semiotics is the science that studies the function of signs, or symbolic systems, in language and communication. Creswell said that qualitative research is a form of research method were understanding the problems of people, or the social environment allows for a comprehensive picture to be formed and then presented in words, providing step-by-step information from reliable data sources (Chatra et al., 2023). Ferdinand de Saussure, one of the pioneers of semiotics, introduced an important concept, namely the signifier and the signified. The concept of signifier and signified explains that a sign is composed of the physical form or symbol itself (the signifier) and the concept it represents in the human mind (the signified). (Dayu & Syadli, 2023)

The signifier is seen as the physical form or image that can be recognized through the form of the work, while the sign is seen as the meaning that is revealed through the concept, function, or value contained in the work. The existence of Saussure's semiotics is the relationship between the signifier and the signified based on convention, commonly referred to as signification. Semiotics of signification is a sign system that studies the relationship between sign elements in a system based on certain rules or conventions (Husna & Hero, 2022).
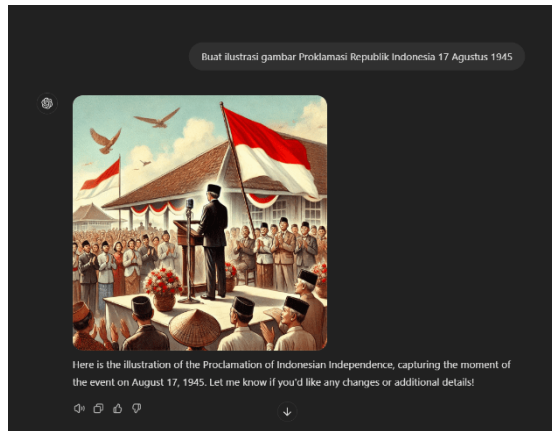
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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 1. Process creating illustrations Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

In this image there are several key elements of the sign that dominate the illustration:

Signifier:

A white-haired man wearing a black suit is giving a speech.

Signified:

In the context of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia, the proclamation was announced by Ir. Soekarno, but in the positioning in the photo archive of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, Muhammad Hatta is not far from Soekarno.

Fig. 2. Soekarno reads Proclamation of the

Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945, Photo: Frans Mendur

In taking the angle of the illustration, the proclaimer in the ChatGPT design does not show a specific face of a person standing on stage. This condition shows that the resulting illustration has not been able to provide a specific picture related to the subject of the proclaimer of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. Moreover, the proclaimer shown is only one person, not two people as in the historical events that took place in 1945.

Regarding the color of the clothes, in the illustration the clothes worn by the proclaimer are black. But in the historical context, when the proclamation of independence was read, Soekarno as the reader of the proclamation text wore a black peci and a white safari suit, (Museum Perumusan Naskah Proklamasi, n.d.). This also gives a misperception of the history of the proclamation of Indonesian independence in 1945. Artificial intelligence has not been able to specifically explore the historical context related to the proclamation of Indonesian independence in 1945.

Signifier:

A group of people with irregular faces, wearing kebaya, jackets, and shirt and sarong suits.

Fig.3. Element of group of people in illustration

Signified:

The irregular faces of society are often referred to as moments of distortion. AI has not been able to specifically depict each face in the illustration of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence. A popular diffusion-based, text-to-image generative AI system is surprisingly vulnerable to data poisoning with its own creation. This data poisoning can occur unintentionally, for example, by taking and absorbing images from online sources indiscriminately. (Bohacek & Farid, 2023)

From a historical perspective, this condition is very crucial to carry out development because AI illustrations cannot provide a specific picture of the characters in the illustration of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence.

This is because of the potential for historical errors that can occur because AI illustrations cannot precisely display elements of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence event.

Regarding clothing, the illustrations produced by AI are quite close to the clothing worn by people at the 1945 Proclamation of Indonesian Independence event.

Fig. 4. Fatmawati (wear hijab) Soekarno's Wife, and group of people on Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945. Photo: antara.com

In this photo, it appears that the women present are wearing kebaya, and the men are wearing suits or safaris. In the illustration produced by AI, the clothes illustrated are not much different from the clothes now of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945. When viewed from the density of the crowd, the illustration from AI is also quite close to the conditions when the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945 took place, when compared to the image above.

Signifier:

There are two eagle elements in the sky in the AI illustration of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence.

Fig. 5. Eagle element on illustration Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

Signified:

Birds are one of the symbols in the journey of the Indonesian nation. The most popular is the Garuda bird. Pancasila with the symbol of the Garuda bird, the symbol of the Indonesian

state, is a mythical bird that comes from Hindu teachings. In its story, Garuda appears as the vehicle of the God Vishnu. The mythical creature Garuda is also known in several countries other than Indonesia, including Thailand and Japan. However, each country has a different appearance and name. In Indonesia, according to Hindu mythology, Garuda is depicted as a heroic figure who bravely fights the enemy. (Suratman et al., 2023)

For this reason, the use of the Garuda bird element related to the 1945 Proclamation of Indonesian Independence is a condition for Hyperreality. Hyperreality is a state in which reality is disrupted because it is dominated by virtual technology that is believed to be more real than reality itself, thus blurring the boundaries between the two, (Febriana, 2017). The Garuda bird, which is a mythology to describe a heroic figure in the context of the state symbol, is presented through the illustration design of the 1945 Proclamation of Indonesian Independence from ChatGPT. Thus, the accuracy of the illustration data created by ChatGPT seems metaphorical and obscures the facts that existed during the history of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945.

Signifier:

In this illustration, there are two red and white flag elements. The flags appear to be attached to the flagpole, and there is no flag-raising process.

Fig. 6. Two flag elemen on illustration Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

Signified:

Based on historical records, the first three people to raise the red and white flag on August 17, 1945, during the independence era were Latif Hendraningrat, Suhud Sastro Kusumo and SK Trimurti. (Gabriela, 2024) Fatmawati, Soekarno's wife who sewed the Red and White flag. The ceremony began without protocol. After Sukarno read the proclamation text accompanied by Hatta, then Latif Hendraningrat took the flag from Fatmawati, then raised it accompanied by the song Indonesia Raya by W.R. Soepratman. (Adam, 2011)

Fig. 7. Moment of raising red and white flag Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

In this image, the flag raising is not in an open place close to an open podium. Thus, hyperreality occurs again through this element. AI performs hyperreality by using the flag element that is not appropriate in its use. Visually, the design uses the flag element as a mere visual sweetener, without analyzing more deeply the historical context that occurred during the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945.

Signifier:

Through this illustration, the main character appears to be in the middle of a podium that is not placed outdoors, not in front of a house. The background conditions that take place in the morning until noon are depicted with a bright blue sky.

Signified:

Through the illustration, in terms of time, AI provides a picture of the appropriate time, namely in the morning. Around 500 people stood in front of the entrance of the house. They asked Sukarno to immediately read the proclamation. But Sukarno said: "Hatta has not arrived." "We do not want to read the declaration without Hatta." Hatta arrived there five minutes before 10 o'clock. Then the declaration process took place, (Adam, 2011)

Fig. 8. Moment of raising flag and Soekarno giving speech on Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

In the context of the location setting, researchers found that AI illustrations could not yet provide the context of the proclamation that took place on Jalan Pegangsaan Timur 56 Jakarta, not in a large field. This again provides an illustration of how hyperreality occurs in works produced by AI.

The hyperreality that occurs in the media certainly has a serious impact. Srinawati, Pratiwi, and Arimbi revealed that its role in the hyperreality era of information and communication is to create humans into unconsciousness. In the past, mass media only controlled public consciousness. Currently, mass media is even able to create a fantasy world. In this world, all that exists are ideas, dreams, fantasies, and perfect utopias. We are forced to enter this world and live in it, (Srinarwati et al., 2020)

Baudrillard in Afdholy stated that simulacra are a duplication that never existed in the original, so that the difference between duplication and the original becomes blurred (Afdholy, 2019). This condition is a concern about the use of AI illustrations that are full of

data accuracy.

This condition also relates to AI as a popular culture. Art should be original, and relevant. Frankfurt School scholars were among the first to offer a strong critique of mass popular culture, viewing it as a product of consumer society and thus as a commodity culture, in which art forms are produced like manufactured commodities, hence their term pop culture as the culture industry. True art is not subject to the market economy and cannot be reduced to the common denominator of mass taste, (Danesi, 2024).

Popular culture is produced for the mass market. This situation makes space increasingly narrow for all kinds of cultures that are not profitable and cannot be mass-produced. (Strinati, 2020). Of course, this will be very relevant to the presence of AI, which makes visual art works can be made quickly and in mass, and the process of making it fast. Compared to human illustration works that take longer and are not made in mass. Thus, AI becomes part of popular culture whose quality is not authentic, and in this study the results of his work cannot be accurate according to the data in the 1945 era.

To help the AI system analyze visual content, researchers tried to provide data input through the chat column of historical photos of the 1945 Indonesian Independence Proclamation. The researchers did this in the hope that it could provide a new perspective for ChatGPT if they would later create illustrations of the 1945 Indonesian Independence Proclamation at other times and for other users.
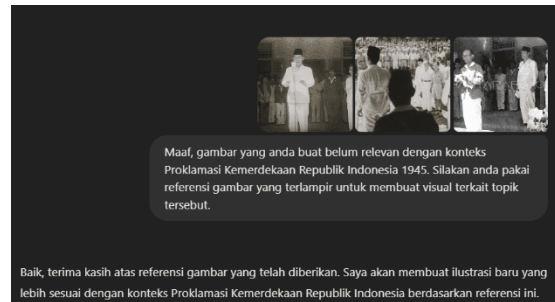

Fig. 9. Author giving visual suggestion to ChatGPT based on photo of Proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945

CONCLUSION

This study evaluates the accuracy of the illustration of the 1945 Indonesian Proclamation of Independence generated by ChatGPT using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic approach. The results of the study show that AI illustrations are often historically inaccurate. In the main visual elements, such as the representation of the proclaimer, clothing, crowds, and the red and white flag, there are many discrepancies with historical facts. AI failed to depict the two proclaimers, Ir. Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta, specifically, even presenting irrelevant elements such as eagles that obscure the historical context. Although some elements, such as the people's clothing, are quite close to the facts, this illustration is still affected by data distortion and hyperreality, where visual elements function more as metaphors than historical facts. This inaccuracy reflects the limitations of AI in understanding and reproducing complex historical contexts. That makes AI categorized as popular culture, which makes it inauthentic and unoriginal. These findings highlight the importance of the role of humans in reviewing and reinterpreting AI results to maintain cultural

and historical accuracy. Thus, AI technology still needs development to be able to accurately represent historical events, especially in contexts such as the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence, which require attention to detail and deep historical value.

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