Detecting Fake News: How Do Governments Fool Us?

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ABSTRACT

People use social media to gather information about many things including events, people, and news. False information, or "fake news," has been present for as long as humans have had the ability to communicate with each other. It is not a new phenomenon, but rather a longstanding issue that has persisted throughout history. While it may be difficult to eliminate fake news, social media companies are working to implement systems to identify and combat it. However, these efforts can be challenged when dealing with coordinated campaigns by governments to manipulate the portrayal image of events. In this study, we investigate the events following the death of a 22-year-old Iranian girl while in police custody that embarked national and international outrage. We collected data from Twitter during the events and focused on disinformation and fake contents generated by potential government-backed users. This study has several practical and theoretical contributions

Keywords: Disinformation, Fake News, Social Media, Government, MahsaAmini.