

**THE INFLUENCE OF ELECTRONIC WORD OF
MOUTH TO CONVERT INTENTION INTO ACTUAL
PURCHASE BEHAVIOR**

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**THE INFLUENCE OF ELECTRONIC WORD OF MOUTH TO CONVERT
INTENTION INTO ACTUAL PURCHASE BEHAVIOR**

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ABSTRACT

The proliferation of Internet users has provided a huge opportunity for businesses to anticipate the increasing value of online retail. In Thailand, the number of Internet users shows promise for e-commerce, and yet success in revenues has not emerged. Understanding the behavior in performing the actual transaction will provide valuable information and help to remove the barriers that prevent consumers opting for online shopping. The purpose of the present study is to examine factors that turn consumer intention into actual purchase in the online context among Thai consumers. The theoretical framework in the present study was developed using Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) by incorporating trust, perceived informativeness and electronic word of mouth. Stratified random sampling was employed to select sample among students from selected universities in Thailand. Data were collected using questionnaires. A total of 826 effective samples were collected and the analyses were carried out using both descriptive analysis and structural equation modeling (SEM). The results indicate moderate level of intention and actual purchase in online context. Online purchase intention is found to be a significant determinant of actual online purchase. Perceived usefulness, perceived informativeness and trust are the factors that influence online purchase intention respectively. There were significant indirect influences of electronic word of mouth on purchase intention mediated by direct influences of perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, trust, and perceived informativeness. The results are also beneficial for both business sector and government sector to understand Thai online consumer behavior and gain clearer picture of the factor driven behind the consumer's need that can be used to spur their demands to buy more online.

Keywords: online purchase, actual purchase, electronic word of mouth, perceived informativeness, Thailand

ABSTRAK

Peningkatan penggunaan Internet telah menyediakan satu peluang yang besar kepada syarikat perniagaan untuk meramalkan nilai runcit yang semakin meningkat dalam perniagaan secara atas talian. Di Thailand, bilangan pengguna Internet menunjukkan kemajuan dalam e-dagang, namun kejayaan dalam meningkatkan pendapatan masih belum dicapai. Memahami tingkahlaku pengguna dalam membuat pembelian akan memberikan maklumat yang berharga dan membantu menghapuskan jurang yang menghalang pengguna untuk membeli secara atas talian. Tujuan kajian ini dijalankan adalah untuk mengkaji faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi niat pengguna untuk melakukan pembelian secara atas talian di kalangan pengguna Thai. Rangkakerja teori dalam kajian ini telah dikembangkan menggunakan Model Penerimaan Teknologi (TAM) dengan memasukkan elemen kepercayaan, penyampaian maklumat dan penyampaian secara elektronik. Persampelan rawak berstrata telah digunakan untuk memilih sampel di kalangan pelajar dari universiti terpilih di Thailand. Data dikumpul dengan menggunakan kaedah soal selidik. Seramai 826 sampel telah dikumpulkan dan analisis telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan kedua-dua analisis deskriptif dan Pemodelan Persamaan Struktur (SEM). Hasil kajian menunjukkan tahap niat yang sederhana terhadap pembelian sebenar dalam konteks atas talian. Niat untuk pembelian secara atas talian didapati merupakan penentu penting kepada pembelian sebenar. Tanggapan kegunaan, penyampaian maklumat dan kepercayaan adalah faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi niat pembelian atas talian. Terdapat hubungan signifikan tidak langsung antara penyampaian secara elektronik dan niat pembelian yang dipengantarakan oleh faktor penggunaan yang mudah, tanggapan kegunaan, kepercayaan, dan penyampaian maklumat. Hasil kajian juga memberi manfaat kepada kedua-dua sektor perniagaan dan sektor kerajaan Thai untuk memahami gelagat pengguna atas talian dan mendapatkan gambaran yang lebih jelas daripada faktor yang mempengaruhi keperluan pengguna yang boleh digunakan untuk merangsang permintaan mereka untuk membeli lebih banyak secara atas talian.

Kata Kunci: pembelian atas talian, pembelian sebenar, perbincangan secara elektronik, penyampaian maklumat, Thailand

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AP	Actual online purchase
EWOM	Electronic word of mouth
INFO	Perceived informativeness
OPI	Online purchase intention
PEOU	Perceived ease of use
PU	Perceived usefulness
T	Trust
WOM	Word of mouth

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of research background, a discussion of the research problems, research objectives, research questions and the scope of the study. The significance of the study and the definitions of key terms are also provided at the end of the chapter.

1.2 Research Background

Buying products/services via websites has become part of life nowadays. The rapid growth of digital markets has occurred through the advancement of technology, especially the accessibility of the Internet. Today, people can connect to the Internet not only from their own desktop but also from many other devices, such as smartphones and tablets, bringing a consequence of which has resulted in the rapid growth of Internet users worldwide. According to Internet World Stats (Miniwatts Marketing Group, 2013), as of December 31, 2012, there were 2.7 billion Internet users around the globe, accounting virtually for 40% of the world's total population. Internet users are potential customers for online business; however, not all Internet users have experience of online buying. Some surf the Internet for information, to chat, and for entertainment. Under this circumstance by turning these Internet users into online consumers would yields tremendous benefits to business operators at large. However, online buying consumer behavior is different from offline behavior.

The contents of
the thesis is for
internal user
only

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