RESEARCH ARTICLE

Love Scams and Its Legal Protection for Victims

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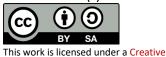✉ ajirahmawijayanto@gmail.com

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Abstract
A new phenomenon of cybercrime appears along with the development of technology and communication, the phenomenon of cybercrime is not only experienced by the global community but also in Indonesia. One of the cybercrime crimes that occur in Indonesia is love scams or fraudulent love relationships through the internet which are generally experienced by women, becoming a new problem in society. the world of internet crime, which is basically carried out with communication patterns by cybercrime actors through internet media, is more trusted by victims than direct communication from people who are known closely, the purpose of making this paper is to find out how the urgency of protecting victims of love relationship fraud cases through the internet. Victims of love scams, which are generally women, are easily deceived and when the perpetrator commits a crime through a message via the internet, the victim also provides feedback to the perpetrator, communication is carried out by the perpetrator continuously so that the victim believes and falls into the scam and generally loses money up to a fairly large nominal rupiah.

Keywords: *Love Scam; Fraud; Cybercrime; Romance Scam*

1. INTRODUCTION
Information and communication technology devices have changed patterns in modern society, this means that these developments will create opportunities and benefits if used wisely. On the other hand, it also poses challenges. Seeing

this, of course, the government and the general public pay more attention to technological developments. information and communication, all parties seem to take part in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the development of information and communication technology which of course will bring a new culture in society, in fact the emergence of a new phenomenon in cyberspace known as cybercrime is a serious problem that must be resolved by the government (Carr, 2017). Online communication does not present physical contact between the two parties but combined with textual communication on social networking sites can easily change a person to be more open to other parties who are not yet known, they have felt more familiar sharing their thoughts with other people they meet through the network. Internet social media, when interacting with virtual world media a person is more able to express himself freely to others (Judhita, 2015; Retnowati, 2015).

The abuse of cyberspace is not new in Indonesia, there are many crimes that have plagued the practice of the state and also in the international world. The mode used by cybercrime which takes many victims, especially women, is love scams. This mode is to find a mate in cyberspace without meeting face to face. But not a few of them suffered losses due to the fraud.

Victims usually ignore warnings about the risk of being scammed because fraudsters usually try to convince them that they can establish a relationship via the internet. After being deemed successful in convincing the victim, cybercrime fraudsters finally started asking the victim for money.

Fraud that befalls the Indonesian people must receive serious attention from the government considering that it has caused a lot of harm to victims, especially women, for that the making of regulations that focus on handling perpetrators who commit love scams must continue to be carried out, on the other hand awareness of using the internet wisely is needed to prevent fraud. reduce the risk of unwanted possibilities, considering that freedom in the internet is one of the causes or causes of fraud under the guise of dormitory relations in Indonesia, although the impact has not been so great, anticipation must continue to be made from both the community and the government to

overcome the problems mentioned above (Saad, Abdullah, & Murah, 2018; Whitty, 2018; Whitty & Buchanan, 2012).

Seeing the background above, it is interesting to study further about how the patterns carried out by scammers against their victims and how legal protection for the main victims in Indonesia.

2. METHOD

The method used in writing this paper is library research or secondary legal materials; the existing literature, as well as writings in the form of published articles also take from primary legal sources, namely the related laws:

a. Primary legal materials: in the form of applicable laws and regulations related to the issues discussed,

b. Secondary Legal Materials: in the form of legal materials that describe primary legal materials including literature books, expert works, related articles, and

c. Tertiary legal materials: in the form of legal materials as a complement to the two types of materials mentioned above in the form of the Legal Dictionary and the Big Indonesian Dictionary.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Love Scams, Cybercrime, and Its Motives

Humans are in fact natural as social beings who basically want to interact with other social beings in order to carry out their lives. In the concept of humanistic psychology, humans are defined as *homo luden* or active actors in formulating transactional strategies with social relations in their environment (Rakhmat, 2007).

Then the question is how then the relationship between scammers and their potential victims quickly became intimate, this is because they use CMC which is a way where communication through cyberspace seems more impersonal than direct communication, so people generally choose to use internet communication media. This is what also supports the perpetrators in committing fraud against their victims. Investigations must continue to be carried out by the police and the support and role of environmental observers in the social world must work hard and complete at the right time, it is good that understanding must also be given to the nation's next generation of children who will later inherit from the use of the internet or even developing

it and providing even better innovations in the future, education is early to solve this problem and parental supervision is also a problem that the parents' non-involvement in supervising their children can lead to mistakes and fall into the conspiracy of the internet world in Indonesia today.

In the internet world, parental supervision must be given when their parents are playing with their gadgets, this has an impact on the creation of a family atmosphere and at the same time parents can find out what their children are doing when they are socializing in the internet world, this will give more value to people. parents who have children but free them to use internet communication information media, Interpersonal communication applied by perpetrators of love scams is considered more effective than other methods such as face-to-face, in changing one's attitude, opinion or behaviour. This pattern works optimally in deceiving its victims, the feedback given by the potential victim is direct, the communicator knows the response from the potential victim at that time, when the communication takes place, the communicator knows for sure whether the communication is positive or negative, successful or not and can provide communicants for to ask as broadly as possible to potential victims or vice versa (Buchanan & Whitty, 2014).

In the case of love scam also apply interpersonal patterns. Where communication is carried out continuously, the communicant finally begins to be affected by what the perpetrators of love scams say. In addition to being influenced by their attitudes and feelings, in general, potential victims can be identified by their personalities by perpetrators, and potential victims slowly begin to follow what the perpetrators want, features on social media also give us the possibility to make our accounts private or arrange so that our accounts can only be seen by other people. Certain people seem to see it only for friends we trust, open our accounts in general and see them to the general public this is a source of its own problem that must be realized by the wider community (Saad, Abdullah, & Murah, 2018).

The increasing use of the internet is proof that computer-mediated communication through social networking media has become an option for society, especially teenagers today. Wahyudiono (2012) argues that

internet users in Indonesia are mostly young, namely the age group of fifteen to twenty-four years, therefore teenagers in using the internet should be done wisely. Effective communication is characterized by good interpersonal relationships. Interpersonal relationships are the most important, it is necessary to improve the quality of communication to grow and improve interpersonal relationships with the CMC is one source in improving the quality of communication, with the support of the internet and various facilities in it that allow users to relate directly will encourage interpersonal growing, for the case of love scams mainly women who become victims, not only promised impressive gifts such as money and other valuables.

A person's personality can be measured by seeing how real behaviour behaves towards us, so that we get friends or partners as we want in-depth personal introduction needs to be done intensively face to face is the best solution for knowing how a person's character really is so we can conclude whether people we know spread according to what we need and whether so far we have been friends with good people or not this understanding will support the formation of good friendships too, CMC will form an individual's first impression when meeting other people is actually more positive than if meet in person, so then open up encourages faster relationship progress between the two and is certainly more successful than direct communication communicating with hyper-personal media while sites that provide dating seem very possible, although The perspective of someone who initially encouraged the relationship may have unexpected consequences when the two decide to meet, what happens in the CMC system will form a new pattern of communication. Although this pattern is new, the author thinks that this communication is not suitable if applied to Indonesian culture, which generally prefers to meet face-to-face because in addition to giving a distinct impression, it also maintains a culture of friendship between our brothers and sisters, presumably a good culture needs support from the younger generation to preserve it even though developments such as the CMC system exist but it would be better to maintain a culture that we think has an impact on the good of survival (Rakhmat, 2007; Tubbs & Moss, 2001).

B. *Love Scam in the Context of Crime Analysis*

In the cyber world, cyber awareness, the use of communication and information media needs to be carried out properly and urges the public to stay against abuse by foreigners and involve various parties in our country, for example involvement and Indonesian citizens who support these activities should actually be given a good understanding and given understanding The good thing is also about how to show and be creative in the internet world, wise use of the internet the benefits can be felt in life, such as how easy it is for us to visit grandparents and related relatives who are far away, background checks on the entry of groups of foreigners in Indonesia should be carried out with attention to detail, and the need for the implementation of policies to block the passports of foreign nationals committing this cybercrime will reduce the impact of causing losses to citizens, especially children who do not understand how to use the internet properly. Well, the blocking of passports is also a sign that in handling this case in Indonesia, this threat is no joke, this threat certainly creates fear and fear to commit crimes in Indonesia, and data from foreign countries is also needed to find out the background of various individuals from different countries. various parts of the world whether they were immigrants or individuals who came to our country with good intentions or had other intentions such as committing crimes (Prajarto, Ambardi, & Yuliarso, 1998).

The pattern of communication according to Djamarah (2004) is defined as a pattern of relationships between two or more people in the process of sending and receiving the right way so that the message in question can be understood by both parties. Furthermore, if this relationship gets a response and starts to get close between the two, the scammers start promising goods or other valuables accompanied by proof of the transfer, then the scammers work together with their syndicate to commit fraud against the victim. Generally, the victim is told to pay for the goods tax so that it reaches him as soon as possible, this is where because of ignorance the victims are deceived by scammers of up to hundreds of millions of rupiah, the money that has been paid while the goods have not arrived.

The presence of someone in physical communication makes individuals, especially those with introverted personalities, sometimes feel afraid of being rejected by other parties when expressing their opinions. Through this CMC, the physical absence and limited direct contact of both parties make them feel safe from social sanctions. This is the reason why someone who is shy in public immediately becomes open to his interlocutor and tells anything to friends he knows through social media in cyberspace or online friendship sites (Harahap, 2015).

The business climate that exists in Indonesia can also be threatened with sustainability and make business entrepreneurs who will invest in Indonesia doubt about the security made by the Indonesian government, it is unlikely that this will affect state revenue revenues which will decrease due to the lack of business actors carrying out activities. commercial activities in Indonesia in order to restore the image of the Indonesian people in the international sphere and restore the image of the economy in Indonesia, there is only one solution, namely: to stop the crime.

C. *Love Scam in Cyberspace and the Protection for the Victims*

Computer network technology or the internet has given rise to a new world called cyberspace, a world of communication that uses computer facilities and offers a new reality, namely virtual reality, along with the emergence of cyberspace which has implications for the emergence of chat rooms, emails, mailing lists, and discussion groups via electronic means to communicate with each other (Azad, Mazid, & Sharmin, 2017). People from all over the world who have the same interests can gather to talk about the things they want in cyberspace, coupled with various other features that increasingly pamper internet communication users in connecting with other chat rooms that allow us to chat with whoever we want. all these conveniences and facilities which are often known as hyper reality, of course all the conveniences and facilities that we now feel must be balanced with the wise use of communication media through the internet (Dewi & Savira, 2017; Choi, Lee, & Louderback, 2020).

It is necessary for community groups who are experts in dealing with cybercrimes to assist the government in efforts to eradicate these crimes by providing accurate data regarding information related to the existence of networks that have harmed the middle-class population, who generally use the internet carelessly and without trend. considering the pros and cons of using the internet freely, and/or cyber experts providing other needed information to support the police in capturing this network and protecting Indonesian citizens from being abused (Holt, 2021; Choi & Kruis, 2020).

D. *Impersonal Love Scam*

It is our duty as good citizens to participate in efforts to improve the system and support programs carried out by the government in capturing crime networks of love operations through cyberspace. They also invite several women from Indonesia to smooth out their actions of deceiving victims. The crime of love scams, this pattern also occurs when potential victims are influenced to reply to messages sent by scammers, after the relationship that leads to influencing the victim is deemed successful, the next step is to establish a quality relationship, where the communicator begins to put words that can affect the victim well, the messages discussed between the two began to lead to personal things such as full names, domestic life and the like aimed at weakening the victim

It is at this stage when the potential victim has begun to open up to the perpetrator, coupled with supporting evidence in influencing the victim. This is as stated by Walther where CMC is able to manipulate messages and information that will be conveyed by the potential victim, as well as give greater control over what cues are sent. sent, this can be seen from the ingenuity of the scammers in influencing the perpetrators and being able to control the situation with all messages manipulating the victim so that they are caught in a trap prepared by the spammers, in short, potential victims are affected and often ignore information that they should suspect is a mere fraud.

The communication pattern that has been established continues and becomes a bond of intensification which can occur in which positive messages from a communicant will generate positive messages from communication partners,

even though this is actually a trap prepared by fraudsters. The statement is reasonable considering that the perpetrators of the crime easily commit the crime because the access they reach can reach a person even in a very far place and this freedom provides sufficient access to determine which victim he wants without being hindered by territorial boundaries between countries. regulations that regulate not only reach the local community but can also reach the international community.

Seeing this, students can certainly solve these problems in order to conduct research on eradicating and also helping related parties. This can be pursued by students by making writings that focus on handling and how to form breakthroughs in the internet world and this is very possible for students to form an event or organization of activities. to other students to take part in the realization of the mission of the liberation of Indonesian society in cyberspace, of course this mission is very important considering the urgency to take firm action against cybercriminals, in the city community itself generally people know better how to use internet media effectively. wise and good for that what is needed for urban communities is awareness of the environment, it is not impossible that our slightest negligence will create gaps and the entry of crime, then it could happen to us it is important to remain aware of others without losing the sense of belonging to openness with others.

From the field of security in remote areas of Indonesia which have just been touched by the use of the internet, it is necessary to form a community that focuses on empowering remote communities in utilizing internet media, this can be done by providing an understanding that can be through youth organizations that were previously formed and contain youth members, of course, this will minimize the use of excessive costs, because by empowering the youth groups, socialization activities will be carried out intensively without our presence, however good supervision is to involve experts in their fields, namely to continue to provide regular supervision so that the positive effect of the internet will really be felt by various parties.

In relation to the cases that occurred in Indonesia, only the community, especially women, became victims of the crime of love scams, this cannot be separated from their

good and positive communication patterns with the scammers. The development of technological progress and all its conveniences has given birth to new patterns of communication, including communication via the internet. I hope people are not easily fooled by fake accounts managed by a group of fraudsters and will do bad things, they can anticipate it by following directions from the government to avoid misuse of accounts and avoid fraud on the basis of love with foreign partners, but it must be admitted that the community's need for a life partner does exist, it is not wrong if someone gets someone not from their hometown but also they have the right to get a partner from abroad though, but it would be nice if we wanted a foreign partner by looking at the origin of his personality and looking at the overall character so that someone can judge whether the potential partner from abroad is worthy to be a life partner, and it is better for us as the general public to see the potential partner from abroad by meeting face to face and only then can have a more serious relationship. gi and open up to other partners is possible.

Through this system and pattern, it is very possible to form an online personality that is different from the original. Because there is no face to face, they can display other personalities and identities and express as they wish. , everyone has a way of presenting himself to others with a specific purpose and purpose. Likewise, what happens in social media, the availability of features for each social media provides space for each individual to be creative in presenting himself. When a user actor organizes an account on social media, he is actually presenting his appearance in cyberspace.

Many cases were found showing that the real nature of social media network users in the real world is different from the reality of their nature when in cyberspace, a person can be cheerful and friendly on social media and expresses according to his will even though in the real world he is a closed person. The fact that everyone is free to present themselves on social media networks makes public awareness must increase that not everything on the internet is good and right, being vigilant and staying careful is the key to avoiding this. The freedom to be whoever they want on social media is sometimes misinterpreted by some parties by creating fake accounts with a specific purpose because

with social media, they allow them to become people who are not in accordance with the real world.

With the internet, it will provide information to fraudsters on personal data from the identity database of potential victims and obtain complete information from potential victims who will be targeted by love scams victims. or legal entities to manipulate victims to gain the trust of others, which is done with the motive of seeking profit, so after getting what they need, irresponsible perpetrators run away (Rismawati, 2018).

Perpetrators are usually from African countries, especially Nigeria, they fake identity from European countries or the United States and the mode is pretending to be foreigners who are working in Nigeria, not only by claiming to be citizens of Europe but also Canada and Australia (Harahap, 2015).

Seeing this, it seems that news reports in the mass media need to be intensified by journalists considering this incident is a new mode in the world of crime in the online world, and this mode is relatively new to the Indonesian people and has only happened in recent years.

Cyber observers also have an obligation to continue to provide socialization to the environment, especially to mothers who are easily trapped in fraud crimes committed by irresponsible groups, this collaboration can be carried out in collaboration with the main government which is responsible for crimes in the world. virtual or they can also collaborate with academics and conduct seminars on campuses to spread any impact when someone communicates in the internet world.

4. CONCLUSION

Internet users need to be vigilant in using internet technology to avoid abuse by cybercrime criminals who are trying to make money, once we put a personal identity on our social media accounts, there is an opportunity for certain parties to take advantage of this advantage, cybercrime can stalk us anytime we use media. Wise communication needs to be done by everyone to avoid these threats.

Finally, it is necessary to have information literacy for every internet user against cybercrime, whether carried out by local or international communities, it would be necessary to regulate the protection of victims as a result of the crime

of love scams. Another thing that can be done to prevent it is by implementing restrictions on cell phone numbers by the government need to be implemented, given the ease and obtaining a cell phone number to be one of the triggers of crime in cyberspace continues to grow.

The government can cooperate with companies related to security system providers for the Indonesian population by making this crime detection application that allows it to track the existence of networks that have disturbed the citizens of the community, especially Indonesian women who have become victims of these crimes. It is important to make it harder for the perpetrators not to repeat their actions of deceiving the Indonesian people, especially women and another solution that can be applied to prevent this act is to provide understanding to the public in general or through mass media such as television in conveying the message, because with mass media that widely watched by the public becomes a better solution to convey the message effectively.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS
The Author declares that there is no potential conflict of interest in the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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Quote

A scam is a scam. A fraud is a fraud. Different rules don't apply in the City than they do for you and me.

Emily Thornberry

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Aji Rahma Wijyanto is graduated from Faculty of Law Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia. Now, he is serving as researcher and volunteer at Law and Technology Studies Center.