

## Sociology of Rumors as a Social Epidemic through Social Networking Sites

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### Abstract:

Rumors are considered one of the most dangerous means aimed at destroying societies. It began with the emergence of societies, but it developed as a result of the development of the means used in communication within society. Rumors are considered a form of psychological warfare that is used to affect morale and cause damage to societies. The greatest danger of rumors is due to the speed of their circulation and spread. And the danger of rumors to society has increased as a result of the great development in the media and means of communication, especially with the emergence of social media, which has become a great stage for releasing rumors, and it has become difficult to determine their source and determine who is behind them.

**Keywords:** Rumor, Facebook, Community, Social Networking Sites.

Rumors are considered one of the methods of psychological warfare in times of peace and times of war. They are characterized by their ability to spread or have a significant impact on the public. Rumors are not a modern phenomenon, but rather as old as societies. They have appeared in all ages as one of the methods of psychological warfare and influencing morale. Rumors aim to influence a person's thoughts and make him submit to what the opponents want, and it is one of the methods used by people or countries in order to weaken the morale of the targeted party. The danger of the rumor is due to the fact that the one who repeats it is not the enemy, but the society to which the rumor is directed, and thus he serves the opposing side without knowing it, and thus has negative effects on society. Rumor is a social phenomenon as old as man. It is a disease that threatens the entity - society - and it exists everywhere, and it will continue to exist until God inherits the earth and those on it.

Rumors play a dangerous role in various human environments and societies, ancient and modern, so they affect security and stability, especially in periods of crises and natural or humanitarian disasters. The greater the ambiguity, the greater the size of the rumors and the greater their spread. Rumors take different forms depending on the circles in which they spread, and they threaten hang in the society and its security, and it stimulates the emotions and passions of the masses.

Through our problem presented in this research, **we will try to clarify the role of social networking sites in spreading and promoting rumors within the social community?**

**1- Defining the concepts of the study:** Definition of rumor: Rumor in the Middle Dictionary is news that spreads without being proven, and in the contemporary Arabic language dictionary, rumor is defined as a source of rumors - which is false, unreliable, and unconfirmed news that spreads among people. The root of the word is...from rumour, to spread. Spread, rumour, it is rumored and the source is rumored. The Arabs say: spread the property, make it shared between more than one owner. They also say spread the news, meaning publish it, broadcast it, announce it, and divulge it. (mokhetar.2008) It is said in Lisan al-Arab: "Sha'aa" means that the news spreads among the people widely, commonly, commonly, commonly, commonly, and commonly, it is widespread, meaning it spread, dispersed, spread, and appeared, and rumor is widespread news (Arabes Tong2003.p57).

**2-For the sociological definition of rumour:** After these definitions, we will give two challenges, as presented to us by Muhammad Muhammad Aweidah. One of them relates to the American school of thought, followed by defining the French school, and then after that the Arab school.

**Identify the American school:**

- Definition of Allport and Postman: In my opinion, the rumor is linked to daily events, intended to be believed, and spreads from one person to another, usually from mouth to ear, without us being able to confirm its authenticity.

**Defining knappa** rumor is an announcement or statement intended to be believed, linked to events, and promoted without official confirmation.

**Chiobotani definition:** Rumor is impromptu news, resulting from a series of group discussions.

- Identifying the French School: The year 1969 is considered the year of the launch of the first study on the rumor in France by the French sociologist Edgar Morin, who studied the famous Orleon rumor.

**Edgar Morin:** According to him, the rumor is based on two criteria:

-The absence of any matter or situation that would require the spread and launch of a rumor.

- News is transmitted from mouth to ear outside any organized media framework, and therefore it is a psychological disease(**kamel.1996.p23**).

**Michele Louis Rouquette:** Rumor is not a mental or temporary disorder, a crisis, or a rift, but rather a way of expressing people's thinking.

**Definition of Jean-Noël KAPFERER:** Rumor is the emergence and transmission of news in society and this news is either publicly confirmed by an official body or denied by it.

**- Identifying the Arab school:**

Mr. Abu El-Nil defines rumors as unconfirmed conversations that people transmit about their conditions and the conditions of their country through the social network as a result of the blackout of the news.

As for Zaidan "Abdul Baqi," he defines it in his book Means of Communication in the Social, Educational, and Media Fields as sayings, news, or hadiths that people fabricate in good faith without verifying their authenticity or verifying their authenticity.

Therefore, based on all of these definitions, we can provide a procedural definition of rumour, that is, news or conditions transmitted orally between two or more individuals carry an aspect of truthfulness and aspects of slander about topics or people in order of importance through social networking sites, especially Facebook as a popular social network.

**-The concept of society:**

Mead's concept of society is embedded in the mind and the self, and people, with their abilities, are the ones who interpret society and create it through their interaction(**Nassima, 2014, page 66**). Social processes are formed through the interaction processes, including harmony, adaptation, competition, conflict, cooperation, creativity, etc. The interaction processes result in social systems and structures that represent frameworks for patterns of interaction between individuals. Mead focused on analyzing these patterns, which are the result of social actions, and through them, human society is formed. Interaction It occurs through social relations between groups: such as families, organizations, unions(**Al-Kholy, 1998, p. 83**). Others express social formations that represent dynamic, changing processes whose continuity and development depend on the self and the mind. The basis for the formation and continuation of society depends on the extent of man's ability to construct significant symbols(**Othman, 2008, page 126**) Therefore, society is the outcome of the interactive relationships between the mind, the self, and others, through social actions and awareness, and it includes the ideas and symbols created by man in his social life(**Al-Bayati, DT, page 18**). It is known that society consists of a number of individuals who are linked by certain ties, and as the ties increase, group cohesion disappears. Among the various models of existing relationships between individuals, we find contact between two or three individuals. There are relationships that take the form of a chain, where an individual is linked to a number of individuals, and then there are relationships that take the form of a network. These network relationships are characterized by increased social cohesion among its members, and ideas and rumors can be transmitted between members of the group(**Hassan, 1986, p. 332**). Talking about rumor lacks a preliminary acknowledgment that it begins when there is no news. If people do not get the news or they get it distorted, it is not likely that they will try to obscure the picture any further by waiting for images that do not exist with the intention of justifying their concern, as we note: "Most rumors "It increases when there is a lot of news that aims to create

confusion, or when an accident or events of great importance occur that a person is not satisfied to stand idly by. (Al-Issawi, 2004, p. 29). Because it seeks to actually explain the phenomena that appear before a sample, and then imagines far-fetched or impossible results. As Allport says, "So we want to know why, how, and where in relation to the world that surrounds us. Our minds protest against chaos and mystery, so rumor, in this sense, moves in the middle." It continues to move according to the social, economic and societal conditions in general surrounding individuals. The reality of these conditions and their pressure, so to speak, is what contributes to the spread of rumors (Hassan, 1986, p. 331).

**Social networking sites:** It is a system of electronic networks that allow the subscriber to create his own account and then link it through an electronic social system with other members who have the same interests and identities or gather him with university or high school friends.

Bales also defines it as "a program used to build online communities where people can connect with each other for a variety of reasons." (Thomas, 2012, p. 44). Also, in their basic concept, they are platforms on the Internet or mobile phone that allow two-way interaction through contents produced by the users themselves, as well as communication between users and interaction with information and its source, or they are those modern technical means that people use among themselves to achieve common social communication via the Internet (Al-Sawafi, 2015, p. 05). Perhaps among the most famous social networking sites, we mention the Six-Dégréés website, which appeared in 1997 and provided the opportunity to place personal files for users on the site and the ability to comment on news and exchange messages with other subscribers. This site is considered the pioneer of social networking sites in the world, and then the site appeared.

SpaceMy) in 2003, which opened wide horizons for this type of social sites. It has been a tremendous success since its inception (Sorour, 2021, p. 13), and the emergence of social sites continued, but the distinguishing mark was the emergence of the Face Book site. The idea of creating the Facebook site goes back to the owner of the idea, Mark. Zakriej, who launched this site in 2004, designed a site on the Internet to bring together his friends at Harvard University in America and enable them to exchange opinions, ideas, and pictures, and help communicate between them. Facebook launched the Arabic version in March 2009, and this site ranked second in the world in terms of Entry rates until February 2010.

**The concept of Facebook:** It is a social networking website. Wikipedia has defined the social website as "the expression used to describe any website that allows its users to create personal files and publish them publicly through that website and form relationships with other subscribers on the same website who can access their files." Personal". It is a personal blog on the Internet through which you communicate with your friends. It is a youth community on the Internet. The site consists of a group of networks consisting of members, and the group is classified on the basis of region and location.

-Facebook is a social network that is a product of social media. It was founded in 2004 by a twenty-year-old American man named Zeke Berg, in cooperation with two of his friends (Thomas, 2012, p. 30).

**Operational definition:** It is a system of websites that allows users to create and organize personal files for themselves and also allows them to communicate with others, including rumors and the ease of promoting them very quickly.

**Procedural definition:** It is a social network on the Internet that allows its users to enter their personal data and exchange information between various members of groups.

**Operational definition:** It is a website that helps form relationships between users and enables them to exchange information, files, personal photos, lessons, and comments. All of this is done in a virtual world that cuts across the barriers of time and space.

- As for electronic rumors, which are a destructive communication pattern whose purposes are doubtful and are promoted and spread through modern technological means of communication, they either contain part of the truth, exaggerating it or diminishing its importance, or they are false, which makes them a subject of deliberation, dialogue, and chat in the virtual community of Internet users. .

It is also defined as "content that is spread without verification, through technical means, and processed electronically, via an information network or an information program, to influence users" (Mohamed Sabry Al-Saadawi, p. 08).

Operational definition: It is the promotion of inaccurate news, issues, or information using social media sites to achieve personal goals and interests.

## **-2. Sociology of the emergence of rumor:**

Human life is almost devoid of needs and problems that arouse their interests and preoccupations. Rumor had to be a dimension of human life. When mystery shrouds the skies of individuals and their daily lives, all that concerns them is the matters of their social life, such as searching for a job position, interest in obtaining an academic position, and preoccupation with winning a deal. Comfortable commercialism. Meanwhile, the seeds of rumors grow, giving way to creativity or emotional fantasies that explain the human soul's needs for information and its needs to achieve existence and social belonging. Among the reasons that Moataz Sayed Abdullah and his colleague briefly mention are as follows:

- Speaking for the sake of knowledge: Through rumors, communication occurs between the group to which you belong, so that we know what we should think about specific rumors. All discussions that take place express the opinion of the group to which we belong, meaning that talking about rumors is a formation of the meeting of individuals by adding details. Assumptions and personal judgments.

- Talking to reduce emotional tensions: Rumors contribute to reducing their anxiety and resolving their personal conflicts. People get psychological satisfaction from spreading rumors and their anxiety decreases as a result of feeling some dangers and crises. Talking about a specific event that an individual or several individuals is aware of leads to reducing the psychological tension that the person feels convincingly. "Everyone faces danger and I am not alone.

Talking for entertainment: Many rumors spread around us not because they are based on solid truth, but because they are based on solid truth

Because it entertains and astonishes its spreaders by arousing their curiosity, the person spreading the rumor is certain that he has rare, emotional, and valuable information that he transmits or exchanges with others, and during this process we find that he reaps pleasure and happiness by entertaining others and making them attentive and passionate about what they are listening to.

- Talking to fill the gap: The person spreading the rumor has a specific thing that he wants to talk to one of his friends

Or his relatives or neighbours, there is a constant and long void in his life that he wants to fill by talking to others. Through our conversations with these friends, relatives or others, rumors come to fill the empty or empty spaces in the conversation. In other words, when silence prevails between these friends and colleagues in a moment. Certainly, this means that the time has come to exchange some gossip and rumors (Khalifa, 2001, p.p 614-617)

### **The social function of rumor within the social milieu:**

Jean Noël summarizes for us the function of rumors in his saying: "Rumours are fresh for people who want the unjust and disruptive legalization of the social system other than those who want it to be necessary and just. Considering that they are dissatisfied with the laws makes them call for every objective argument for their emotions, and at the same time, Rumor allows them to express their feelings and concerns loudly, and by this we understand that they can attack the subject or opponent they are criticizing with full legitimacy (KAPFERER, 1995, p. 107).

It can be said that the primary function of the rumor is to convey an explanation or justification for a situation, issue, or personality regarding which public opinion expresses a media need for which it has not found an explanation in the regular media.

The rumor then satisfies the media needs that appear among public opinion through social networking sites. The second function is to influence public opinion in a way that creates psychological states characterized by a tendency to take emotional positions that may cause situations of social and political instability, and it is possible to choose a specific problem and a special structure. The promoted discourse can push public opinion, or at least some of its groups, to adopt social positions and economic and consumption patterns that serve certain personal or common interests or goods rather than others (Hussein, 1988, p. 43).

In addition, the psychological and social function of rumors "enables the emotional pressure exerted on public opinion or on some of its groups during critical circumstances and times of crisis. To clarify this, we refer to what happened in the United States of America during World War II, where American

public opinion found the spread of rumors About Americans of Jewish origin abandoning their national duty, or an alliance between blacks and Jewish Americans to assume power, is a means of alleviating the emotional pressure resulting from the conditions of war (Hussein, 1988, p. 4), and rumors may lead to self-recreation and the satisfaction of some urgent desires on the part of In some aspects, this is accompanied by processes of projection, distortion, and compromise. The most prominent function that rumors perform is to practice psychological warfare on opponents, “as they poison the atmosphere around them with fabricated news, slander, or a fog that obscures the correct vision of reality... and the truth is lost in such an atmosphere amidst that huge pile of information.” News, especially if people believe that there is no smoke without fire, then any news in their view should contain at least some degree of truth and reality (Nofal, 1983, p. 101), and the effect of rumor within the social context of individuals is particularly evident in the role it plays within groups. “The primary function of rumors is not to convey information, but rather they reflect a social situation. Through rumors, a double movement occurs that brings some people closer while distancing them from others. Rumors divide people or revive them and distribute their roles to everyone (Michel, 1984, p. 122).

#### **Rumor mechanics:**

There are different bases for classifying rumors. They may be classified on the basis of time or the subject they revolve around, or they may be classified on the basis of the mental state and motives behind their spread...etc. We will confine ourselves to mentioning some of them below:

- **The popular rumour:** Such a rumor falls within the scope of the temporal basis used by the Russian sociologist Bysow in 1928. This type of rumor grows and spreads slowly and in a non-public way, so everyone exposes it and hears about it.

**Impulsive rumours:** These are rumors that spread among people like flames in a short time, and their content is often related to disasters, wars, and acts of violence. This type is launched in a charged atmosphere and is based on strong emotions such as panic, anger, and joy.

-**Submerged rumours:** or the mysterious rumor, which is spread and may sink until the appropriate time comes for it to float again. The rumor, “The enemy forces have poisoned the water of the wells,” reappears in every war, and people even repeat it again when they find themselves in situations similar to those first environmental situations. Which they had previously heard, and these three rumors are based in their entirety on the time criterion.

**Rumors of dreams and wishes:** These are the rumors that spread among people and find expression or satisfaction for them, and thus they give vent to these needs, hopes and desires.

**Rumors of fear:** In a state of stress and anxiety, a person is ready to imagine many things that are baseless. Fear rumors include a warning of danger. They also reduce the individual’s self-confidence, meaning they lead to a defeatist outlook.

- **Hate rumours:** The topics of hate rumours are concerned with failure, betrayal of the covenant, treachery, and disloyalty. The people targeted by these rumors are men in the army, navy, and administration. Such rumors are issued to express the motives of aggression that exist in the hearts of some people. This type of rumor is considered the most widespread (Al-Nile, 1986, Pages 12-16).

- **Bogey Rumors:** “Bogey” These rumors spread due to anxious thoughts and disturbed thinking among individuals because they are afraid of an explanation; Therefore, they are prepared to believe the rumors that circulate about him, such as the rumor that circulates about soldiers during the aggression, so parents fear for their children. In this case, they do not try to verify its authenticity for fear of finding out the correct truth. Such a rumor is called the bogeyman rumor.

-**Racist rumours:** These are the ones for which Negroes are a special subject, based on the research conducted by H.W.ODUM, through which he determined the rumor that Negroes were called up for armed service in small groups to prevent them from owning firearms.

**Behind-the-scenes rumours:** They are private rumors and spread within a limited framework in the palaces of rulers, leaders and ancient houses, or they are unintentional rumors called gossip or chat, and everyone who says them and hears them finds pleasure and enjoyment in telling them without knowing that they are helping to spread false rumors and narratives. Various and misleading news that serve people, confuse their thoughts, raise doubts and doubts in them, destroy their morale, make them lose confidence in themselves and their leaders, spread strife and hatred, and stir up divisions between

sects and classes (Al-Qadir, 1957, p. 35). These rumors are usually a means of entertainment and self-recreation, and he has dealt with serious matters such as people's belongings, their family lives, and their homes.

#### **Characteristics of rumors:**

There are many characteristics that characterize the common, as follows:

1. Easy to move and spread, as rumors travel very quickly, especially with the development of means of communication and the capabilities they have come to offer to the user.
2. Most of the time, rumors are vague and unclear, leaving individuals somewhat confused.
- 3 It thrives at a time when there is no news or information, taking advantage of the ambiguity about a topic and people publishing incorrect news to try to decipher and clarify this ambiguity.
4. The individual feels temporary psychological relief by spreading the news, as the rumor vents pent-up feelings.
5. It expresses a small part of the truth, and this makes some people accept it because of their knowledge of this simple part that the rumor expresses.
6. It should be believable and not doubtful, especially as long as it is far from criticism and defamation.
7. Rumors of a pessimistic nature take paths that give them a speed of transmission that far exceeds the speed of spread of rumors of an optimistic nature.
8. Rumors are subject to distortion during their circulation (inflation, addition).
9. The rumor takes many forms, such as propaganda and sarcastic jokes (Al-Kayed, 2009, p. 67).

#### **The effects of spreading rumors in society:**

The effects of spreading rumors in society are many and varied, depending on the society and the degree of its cohesion or disintegration, as well as the degree of education and awareness among its members, the level of communication of decision-making bodies with individuals, and their ability to uncover the ambiguity caused by the lack of information and thus the spread of the rumor. The profound impact of spreading rumors on individuals is not hidden from anyone. In society, even as a joke, we will present in the following lines some of these effects:

1. An individual who lives in a society where rumors spread widely is vulnerable to psychological and social diseases that control him due to the spread of these rumors, especially targeted rumors, as they focus on a person's inclinations, needs and desires and may control his mental, psychological and social orientations.
2. The spread of rumors leads to the spread of psychological illnesses in society and generates resentment, malice and hatred among some, and thus leads to the weakening of social and family ties and makes society more susceptible to new rumors.
3. The spread of rumors in society leads to the disintegration of society and the feeling of danger among individuals in it, especially if the rumor affects faith, values, and societal structure, which leads to the collapse or destabilization of the individual's values and his integration with other individuals within society in the event that the rumor continues without it being denied by an official source.
4. Rumors, especially directed by external parties, lead to the destruction of the value system in society (honesty, honesty, altruism, solidarity, sense of citizenship, etc.), which leads to a significant impact on society and a weakening of the ability to withstand in the face of these rumors.
5. The rumor leads to the generalization of feelings of frustration within society, especially when it spreads and continues without the appearance of an official source that denies or corrects the information and takes concrete measures to stop these rumors. Thus, it may result in a desire to harm oneself, isolation within society, and depression, and may lead to taking aggressive measures against society by the individual, such as vandalizing public property and others.
6. The spread of rumors in society is considered a means of spreading low morale, and therefore it may lead to raising a kind of doubt in society. In the long run, a person may not trust any information circulating in society, even if it is true, due to low morale and the failure to clarify the facts about previous rumors (Fayez, 2010, p.p 145-174).
7. The rumor has a major impact on security because it leaves individuals living in a spiral of anxiety and affects the course of their lives, especially the economic, social and security situation, in the absence of the necessary awareness and awareness (Hosan, 2005).

### **7-The effect of social media on spreading rumors**

With the development in the world of the field of communications, what is called new media has emerged and is defined as: “the types of digital media that are presented in a digital and interactive form, and rely on the fusion of text, image, video and sound, as well as the use of the computer as its main mechanism in the production and display process, but interactivity represents the difference.” The main thing that distinguishes it is its most important characteristic (**Sari, 2012, p. 9**). Social networks began to emerge as influential revolutionary tools and latent capabilities, of which only a few have emerged until now. These social networks have not only sparked, as we have seen, the spark of revolutions, but they have sparked a revolution of inspiring thinking. In the entire world, social networking sites can activate the energies available to humans and direct them to construction and creativity, increase areas of knowledge for the public, and increase their ability to and acceptance of change. Thus, communication has an important role, not in broadcasting information, but in presenting the form of reality, and absorbing The social and political context in which events are placed (**Mee, 2005, p. 21**).

- Their negative effects on the individual and society: It has become clear from the above that these modern means of communication have many fruits and benefits that they bring to the individual and society in every aspect of life, provided that these means are used rationally, but if our use of them is contrary to what they are for. For example, such as spreading rumors in a negative and indiscriminate manner, which results in a disaster and death for the individual and society as a whole. Below are some aspects that are exposed to destructive risks:

**The doctrinal, religious and moral aspect:** We are not aware of the suspicions about the tolerant doctrine and the deviant and misguided intellectual illusions published in these media by some Moroccans, liberals, secularists and Orientalists, especially in the current era. To mislead Muslim youth from their correct faith and straight approach, and the impact of this on many Muslim youth has been observed in their boasting of atheism in their writings and tweets, cursing scholars, rebelling against those in charge, and infiltrating places of strife and wars (**May, 2005, p. 34**). Their annexation of ISIS in Syria is the closest and most prominent example of this.

It has also become a vast arena for spreading rumors, false news, and fierce attacks to distort the reputation of Islam under bright slogans in the name of freedom and stolen rights, especially women's rights, and equality. Also, these means have torn the masks of the communication barrier between young men and women. This led to harassment and rape in the name of love and adoration, and the spread of adultery and immorality.

**-The family and social aspect:** Just as it helps to consolidate relationships, it may sometimes be a cause of problems that lead to the severing of relationships between friends, and the destruction of the legal relationship between spouses. This happens a lot on Facebook pages, on WhatsApp groups, and on Instagram, and perhaps These two applications are among the most dangerous social media programs for the family and society, and the results of studies revealed that one-third of the divorces that occurred in Britain in 2011 were due to communication with foreign women via Facebook (**Shakra, 2014, p. 70**, and its impact is also seen on family disruption). Where each family member sits cut off from others, preoccupied with his smart device, chatting and browsing websites, it is as if these means have shifted from the function of communication to separation.

**-Health aspect:** (including mental health and physical health); These methods have created an incubating environment for mental illness and self-absorption, or among certain individuals, despite the vastness of this world and this technology. The user feels anxious, disturbed, upset, and depressed, says Dr. Kimberly Young, who is addicted to it. The excessive use of these various types of means has caused various physical diseases in young people and children. But children are more susceptible to it. Among the diseases caused by its misuse are: poor eyesight, diabetes and obesity due to lack of body movements, and it causes fatigue and insomnia that lead to intellectual failure (**Sorour, 2021**).

**-The cultural and educational aspect:** The random and non-serious use of these means may result in the collapse of the user's culture, as he is influenced by many Western imported customs and traditions that are contrary to Islamic culture that are published on the pages of these means, and change many aspects of his life, as well as weakening the language of the user who chats with him. His friends who use abbreviations, methods and expressions completely different from the rules of the

(Arabic) language, and nothing is more important than language in human culture; If it disappears, everything that is celebrated in terms of culture and knowledge will disappear, because it is the receptacle of these ideas and knowledge.

In addition to this, what we see today is the increasing phenomenon of being late for study and test dates due to the indiscriminate use of them, which leads to dismissal from study and failure in tests, and thus the average declines.

-The economic and professional aspect: It is no secret to us that money is wasted on these online means and on subscribing to them on various communication devices, and in electronic shopping, through deceptive marketing sites with false, inflated advertisements. Its harm to the user is not limited to wasting money only, but also extends to his future life. When he searches for a job or work, he does not find what satisfies him. Because he shared all of his privacy, including those that should be hidden from people, such as his habits and nature. Studies also showed that 54% of the posts show users' linguistic weaknesses, and 61% of them show inappropriate words for them, in addition to other content that is considered inappropriate and rejected by employers. This is what it relates to the user himself, but in terms of society and the work environment, it is more severe than this. Therefore, the incorrect use of them may lead to a great loss to business owners, companies, and profit-making financial organizations due to their employees and workers wasting their time using these methods during work and work hours, as statistics have shown that American companies lose 175 million dollars daily in exchange for the working hours that their employees waste (**Sorour, 2021**).

-**Security aspect:** Social media may be a danger to its owner and others. It is noted that many people have been killed by following WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram while driving cars in the streets. How many children have become orphans and how many women have become widows because these people were too busy with the device to drive.

These means may threaten the security and safety of their owner. Because he lost his privacy when he shared his personal files to display all his data, including his residential address, university, job, and marital status, and it is possible that some fraudsters will exploit this information for their own exploitation and gain, because these sites and electronic means are not absolutely safe and confidential, and some social sites indicate this when Commenting and sharing, such as Facebook's statement about the official confidentiality policy when sharing and commenting: that the site is not completely safe from hacking (**Oki, 2009, p. 65**). It may be a cause of the collapse of the security of society and even states and all government policies. The accounts of some governments and political parties fall victim to enemies. The Financial Times also published that more than a hundred countries use these sites to spy and find out the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents. The websites of the US Department of Defense were subject to sniping, and government computer systems in Australia and New Zealand were also hacked. India by hackers.

### **8-The role of social media in spreading rumour**

With the emergence of modern means of communication, with their interactive tools, the future has the ability to participate actively and more effectively in the communication process, so that the public seeks to obtain information, choose the appropriate one, and exchange messages with the sender, after its previous role was merely a recipient of information (**Al-Labban, 2007, Page 67**), and social media in its many forms, both public and private, are essential tools for the spread of rumours. While communication processes in the past were based on direct communication and oral speech, they have now become more complex. With the development of the Internet, a large number of individuals and political parties have become able to Social forces, countries, and various organizations spread any information very quickly without the possibility of knowing the primary source of this information, especially with the possibility of concealing the identity of the sender, or using pseudonyms, and using news groups and discussion groups in which a large group of individuals participate, which leads to the bankruptcy of a company or the collapse of a person if Whether false or correct information was used on a site and spread (**Mousa, 2001, p. 47**). Researchers in the field of information crisis workers have identified multiple uses of social media in times of crisis, including sharing information, participating in forming public opinion coalitions, responding to volunteer work efforts to provide service to those affected in an emergency, and spreading rumors about the crisis (**Starbird, 2014, p. 22**). Rumors are considered a form of social communication and spread, and they play an important



role in influencing people and shaping public opinion in the country. It also has a major impact on financial markets, and rumors cause terror in society during wars and periods of epidemics and diseases. The information contained in rumors can range from gossip to propaganda and the spreading of lies (Galim, 2003, p. 571). The abundance of rumors and their danger through the social network has prompted many researchers to conduct studies on this subject. A number of researchers have studied the dynamics of rumors on social media networks by proposing a new model for the spread of rumors and comparing the results it achieves with previous models in studying the phenomenon. The study revealed the speed of spread. And the effect of rumors on social networks (Nekovee, 2007)

#### **9-The impact of using social media in spreading and promoting electronic rumors:**

In fact, determining the impact of social media networks on our societies, negatively or positively, in general, depends on the way we use them. The issue is the actor, not the action, and the lesson is on the user (<https://law.tanta.edu.eg>)

Therefore, despite the fundamental role that social media networks play in community life through their forums and blogs, the development they witnessed contributed to the emergence of a new type of media called alternative media, which is witnessing a dynamic movement of development and spread, after it was initially a virtual community on a large scale. Narrow and limited, then it quickly increased over time to transform from a written textual media tool into an audio-visual media tool, which became often exploited in spreading and promoting false news, the danger of which reaches the point of sowing discord and causing coups, as happened in the Arab Spring revolutions. Where did social media contribute, including some false news and rumors, to the spread of chaos and unrest and to destabilizing the internal security of countries? (Rida Ibrahim, Abdallah Al-Bayoumi, p. 14

#### **10. Activating social networks to confront rumours:**

To benefit from the use of social media networks in raising awareness against the dangers of rumors, the matter needs to be developed in academic curricula and include warnings about the dangers of rumors and the negative consequences that destabilize the security and stability of those who live in them, with the necessity of using technology to monitor and track the sources of spreading rumors to identify their sites, close them, and cast Arrest them while ensuring that scholars and specialists are hosted to enlighten network users about the religious, social and economic dangers of spreading rumors, even if they are just a joke. Religious institutions can also be used to combat the spread of destructive rumors and clarify the sin of these rumors from a legal perspective, while not neglecting the educational role of community institutions in order to contribute effectively to instilling values against spreading rumours.

#### **11-Methods of confronting rumors according to psychologists**

The media plays a role in making individuals aware of the dangers that threaten the interests of the nation and expose it to danger due to rumours, by helping society understand the rumour, its methods, methods of promoting it, the nature of those responsible for it and the means used, knowing the circumstances that cause its spread, and tracking its movement in social circles. Scientists concerned with the subject of rumours, especially psychologists, agree on Methods of confronting rumors are according to (Al-Haqbani, 2006, p. 05).

**\*Rumor clinic:** This method depends on allocating a reasonable space in a daily newspaper, or a radio or television program to analyze the rumors in an integrated psychological, social, and logical manner and refute them in a scientific manner with strong arguments.

**\*Falsification:** This is done through the media and does not use the same words that were mentioned in the rumor, and a prominent figure denies it.

**\*Spreading counter-rumors:** This requires mental ability, high effort, and people who can influence public opinion.

**\*Hindering the means used by the competitor:** such as cutting off communications with the outside world, but this could lead to a loss of confidence in the national media outlet (Al-Fantouk, 2003, p. 175).

What we can come up with as a theoretical result of this research is that rumor as a social phenomenon, during its circulation within social groups in the first degree and the total sweep of society in the second degree, unless factors and reasons coincide that push it to grow and emerge again in the event of obliteration and during this slow movement at times. Sometimes the hasty person takes

on a prominent history within societies, which is explained by specialists with theories and tools that follow this phenomenon.

#### **- Conclusion**

Whatever the roles that the media play in society, and whatever functions they perform, the most important function is to preserve the social fabric from fragmentation, whether through sectarian or ethnic calls, in addition to preserving societal peace or disturbing public security. . In order for the media to be able to play its role in social control and unify societal efforts, it must eliminate the dangers that threaten this social unity and eliminate them in the bud, including rumors, which spread through societies like wildfire and are transmitted by individuals without them realizing that they are victims of it.

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