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# Antecedents of viewers' watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous Muslim-majority country

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### Abstract

**Purpose** – This study aims to determine the impact of attitude toward content creators, subjective norm and perceived content quality in affecting people's intention and behavior to watch videos posted on YouTube in Indonesia.

**Design/methodology/approach** – Using questionnaire, data from the total of 112 individuals living in Indonesia were gathered in this study, and these respondents are individuals who have been watching YouTube contents at least 3 h a day for the past eight months. Moreover, all of these data were processed and analyzed using PLS method to determine the impact given by one variable toward the other.

**Findings** – Based on the results of the analysis, the authors concluded that both factors, namely, content credibility and perceived content quality, play significant and positive roles in determining people's intention to watch – and ultimately behavior to watch – contents or videos published on YouTube, with the former turned out to be the stronger predictor.

**Originality/value** – The current study attempts to modify and merge both the concept of theory of reasoned action and product quality theory to explain Indonesians' behavior toward watching contents published on YouTube, and to the best of the authors' knowledge, this type of studies is still in rarity.

Keywords Content credibility, Perceived content quality, Intention to watch, Watch behavior, Consumer behavior

Paper type Research paper



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# 1. Introduction

YouTube had been undoubtedly regarded as one of the most popular video-sharing websites across the globe, and such perception was supported by the fact that more and more people were watching videos (or other contents posted on the platform). According to the data posted by Statist, the number of YouTube viewers has risen or grown by 4.9% in 2021 alone compared to the number of YouTube viewers in the previous year (www. globalmediainsight.com, 2022). Moreover, according to the same source, it was reported that the number of global YouTube viewers or users had grown exponentially for the past four

years. Furthermore, the number of YouTube viewers all around the world had escalated, from a total of around 1.4 billion people in 2017 to a total of 2.43 billion people in 2022, and such numbers were predicted to further rise to around 2.85 billion viewers in 2025 (www. Statista.com, 2022). Such statistical data had shown the immense (and ever-growing) popularity that YouTube experience for the past few years compared with its competitors. Meanwhile, in a similar manner, more and more Indonesians are also actively watching various contents posted on YouTube, an argument supported by data published by Statista (www.Statista.com, 2022), which ranked Indonesia as the third country with the largest YouTube viewers as of April 2022, with a total of 139 million people, trailing only the USA and India while ahead of various other countries such as Brazil, Japan and Mexico. These data underlined that more than half of the population in Indonesia had accessed YouTube, which further serves as proof that YouTube had seemingly become a popular video-streaming platform that most Indonesians favor compared with other similar media platforms (such as TV channels, radio and other social media platforms) that tend to offer similar contents.

Furthermore, such a trend (regarding the high – and increasing – number of Indonesians accessing YouTube from time to time) tends to also be affected by the recent COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, which occurs all over the world – including Indonesia (Sofia, 2020) Supadiyanto and Murti, 2022). In this case, because people were strongly advised (and obligated at some point) to stay and do all of their activities at their respective homes, then it could be understandable that these people will certainly spend most of their time "locked" within their homes, which in turn could increase the risk of these people experiencing boredom throughout their daily life (Travis and Nix, 2020). Therefore, when boredom occurs, one way that most Indonesians will try to get rid of their boredom at that moment is by watching various contents or videos posted by various so-called "content creators" on the YouTube platform (Lukman, 2020; Ceci, 2021). Moreover, these data or trends were further supported based on the results of the preliminary study conducted by the authors before commencing this research. When being asked about "whether or not respondents' felt that the intensity of them watching YouTube videos tends to increase during the pandemic time compared with the pre-pandemic situation," out of 189 random respondents, around 185 answer "Yes" to this question, which indirectly implies that the amount of hours or time that most of these respondents spend watching YouTube did increase during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Furthermore, when asked a question about "the reason of watching YouTube videos during the pandemic" to this same group of respondents, most of them (117 out of 189 individuals) stated that they decided to watch YouTube to ensure that they won't get "bored" staying at home during the pandemic. The results of these preliminary studies had inadvertently proven that most people tend to access the YouTube platform in an intense manner, which in the end could explain why the number of YouTube viewers tends to escalate over time (especially during the pandemic). However, still, one big question remains regarding which factors affect or determine these people's willingness or decision (and ultimately behavior) to watch contents on YouTube as opposed to similar contents posted on other similar video-sharing websites available to the public? Therefore, this study was designed to answer this question by proposing three factors that the authors determined could affect people's willingness to watch contents on the YouTube platform, namely, attitude toward content creators, subjective norm and perceived content quality.

In regard to these three factors, attitude itself could be defined as people's subjective judgement on whether or not all of the information or contents made and posted by certain content creators were deemed valid and could be trusted (Savolainen, 2022; Bhattacherjee, 2022; Kumar *et al.*, 2022), while subjective norm refers to how people around the individuals

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influence the individuals' decision to perform certain behavior, which, in this research, refers to the behavior of watching YouTube videos (Sciarelli et al., 2021; Shurrab et al., 2019). In this case, there are so many contents posted on YouTube by various different creators each day, and, in many cases, some of these contents are actually similar to each other. Therefore, the viewers' judgement regarding whether or not certain creators could be trusted could significantly determine one's intention to watch the contents posted by these creators. Meanwhile, other than the credibility of the creators who created and published their contents, the quality of the content published on YouTube itself could also determine people's willingness to watch such contents. Quality itself could be understood as the differences between what people are expecting from certain products/services and the actual performances of such products/services themselves, in which this definition inadvertently implies that people's personal judgement toward how certain products/services are performing could determine whether or not the quality of such products/services could be regarded as satisfactory (Akoglu and Ozbek, 2021; Alsarraf et al., 2022). In regard to the contents posted on YouTube, there have been hundreds of thousands of videos with similar themes or concepts posted on YouTube every day, and, such facts have indirectly motivated and pushed many creators to create certain content with high standards to differentiate one's content from the other similar contents. Later on, when people perceive that the quality of the content or video published by one creator has fulfilled their expectations (while being regarded as better compared to the other similar videos at the same time), this kind of judgement could ultimately increase people's willingness to watch the video or content in the future (Miao et al., 2021).

Therefore, according to the arguments explained above, this study was designed to test whether or not both perceived content quality and attitude toward content creators play significant roles in determining Indonesians' intention to watch videos published on YouTube. While there have been many studies explaining or assessing the impact of both quality and credibility toward consumers' behavioral intention to perform certain behavior (Hemsworth et al., 2005: Mohd Suki, 2014: Saeed and G. Grunert, 2014: Hassan Fathelrahman Mansour and Mohammed Elzubier Diab, 2016; Fei et al., 2017; Rai et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2022; Owusu Kwateng et al., 2021); to the best of the authors' knowledge, many of these studies tend to focus on people's intention to buy certain goods or services other than videos posted on video-sharing sites. Furthermore, this study also attempted to merge and modify two different frameworks to explain people's behavior toward watching videos on YouTube, namely, the theory of reasoned action (TRA), which was formulated by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975), and the perceived quality theory, which was formulated by Gilmore (1974) and Steenkamp (1989). In terms of the TRA concept, it was hypothesized that people's attitude toward certain behavior, together with the others' subjective evaluation of such behavior, could significantly determine an individual's willingness to perform such behavior. In terms of the topic or variable proposed in this study, variable perceived attitude toward content creators closely mimics the concept of attitude, because whether or not certain content creators could be regarded as trustworthy was solely based on how the viewers judged or assessed the creators themselves, while people around the viewers (such as parents, colleagues, friends and coworkers) could also play important roles in affecting viewers' judgement or evaluation concerning the creator.

Meanwhile, according to the concept of quality proposed by Steenkamp (1989), it is argued that the quality of a product could be deemed "excellent" when people or users think or argue that how the product is performing has satisfied all of the expectations and requirements set by the users themselves. In this situation, the way content quality is perceived closely aligns with the notion of product quality. Videos or content that are uploaded on YouTube can be viewed as a product. As a result, the determination of whether specific content or videos are considered "high-quality" is entirely contingent upon how viewers assess or judge them. Furthermore, there have been several studies conducted with the purpose of assessing people's behavior or engagement toward YouTube contents. First of all, the study conducted by Muda and Hamzah (2021) attempted to understand how consumers' perceived source credibility of UGC (user-generated contents) in YouTube videos affects their attitudes and behavioral intentions to buy beauty and skincare products promoted through these videos. In this case, the focus of this research was mainly on "people's willingness to buy products promoted through YouTube videos," and not on their willingness to watch the videos themselves, as what the current study attempts to investigate. Furthermore, previous research by Muda and Hamzah (2021) attempted to merge both the social identity theory and the source homophily theory, while the current study attempts to assess people's willingness to watch YouTube videos from the perspectives of both TRA and Perceived Quality theory. Next, another study by Khan (2017) attempted to understand people's participation in or engagement toward YouTube videos. However, other than the fact that the uses and gratifications framework was used as the main theory of this study, a previous study by Khan (2017) also did not specifically focus on viewers' watch behavior, but also on their participation or other behavior toward the videos (such as giving likes, dislikes, comments or share YouTube videos), while the current study tries to specifically put the focus of the study toward understanding people's intention and behavior to watch YouTube videos. Similarly, another study by Munaro et al. (2021) also attempted to study factors affecting the number of views, likes, dislikes and comments received by YouTube videos, instead of factors determining why people want to watch videos on YouTube. Therefore, based on these gaps, by combining and modifying both TRA and perceived quality theory into one single conceptual framework, this research attempts to analyze factors determining Indonesians' willingness to watch various videos published on YouTube.

#### 2. Literature review and hypotheses formulation

#### 2.1 Theory of reasoned action

The TRA is a social psychology theory that was developed by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975). According to TRA, a person's behavior is determined by his/her intention to perform a behavior, which is influenced by his/her attitudes and subjective norms (Moon and Lee, 2014). Attitudes are the evaluations a person has of a behavior, while subjective norms refer to the social pressure to perform or not perform a behavior. If an individual has positive attitudes toward a behavior and perceives social pressure to perform that behavior, their intention to perform the behavior is strengthened, and the likelihood of the behavior being performed increases (Paek et al., 2011). One strength of TRA is its emphasis on the role of attitudes and subjective norms in determining behavior. By accounting for both cognitive and social factors that affect behavior, TRA provides a comprehensive understanding of why people behave the way they do. Additionally, TRA's focus on intention as the immediate predictor of behavior allows interventions to target changing intentions, which can then lead to changes in behavior. For instance, an intervention targeting an individual with negative attitudes toward exercise could aim to change those attitudes by providing information about the benefits of exercising. Similarly, an intervention targeting an individual perceiving social pressure from peers to engage in risky behaviors such as drug use could aim to change these subjective norms by promoting alternative norms that endorse healthier behaviors (Ashaduzzaman et al., 2022; Rahmafitria et al., 2021).

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However, TRA has some limitations. First, its reliance on self-reported measures of attitudes, subjective norms, and intentions may not always accurately reflect actual behavior. Second, TRA does not account for other factors that may affect behavior such as personality traits, past experiences, and environmental factors. Finally, TRA assumes that individuals have full control over their behavior, and that intentions always result in the expected behavior, which may not always be the case. In conclusion, the TRA is a valuable framework for understanding and predicting behavior. It highlights the importance of attitudes and subjective norms in shaping intentions and behavior, making it a useful starting point for designing interventions that target behavioral change. Despite its limitations, TRA provides a nuanced understanding of why people behave the way they do and provides a foundation for developing effective interventions to promote healthier behaviors (Pundir *et al.*, 2021).

#### 2.2 Perceived quality theory

Quality is a critical factor that influences consumers' purchase decisions. Developed by Gilmore (1974) and Steenkamp (1989), the perceived quality theory aims to explain how consumers evaluate product quality and how it impacts their purchase decisions. According to Steenkamp's theory, product quality is a multi-dimensional construct that consists of three components; functional, technical and psychological quality. Functional quality refers to the extent to which a product performs its intended function, whereas technical quality refers to the extent to which a product is well designed and manufactured. Psychological quality, on the other hand, refers to the perceptions and beliefs that consumers hold about a product. These components combine to create an overall perception of product quality. Steenkamp's theory suggests that consumers use a two-stage process to evaluate product quality. In the first stage, consumers assess the functional and technical quality of a product based on objective criteria such as product specifications and performance. In the second stage, consumers evaluate the psychological quality of a product, based on their perceptions and beliefs about the product. These perceptions may be influenced by factors such as brand reputation, packaging, and advertising (Koech et al., 2023; Oh et al., 2023). Furthermore, this theory also suggests that the importance of each component of product quality may vary depending on the product category. For example, functional quality may be more critical for products such as electronics and appliances, while psychological quality may be more important for luxury goods and fashion items. In the end, this theory provides a useful framework for understanding how consumers evaluate product quality. By considering the functional, technical, and psychological components of product quality, marketers and managers can develop effective strategies to influence consumers' perceptions and purchase decisions (Zheng et al., 2022). However, the theory is not without limitations, and future research should aim to address these gaps to provide a more comprehensive understanding of product quality evaluation.

#### 2.3 Attitude toward content creators

The rise of social media has given birth to a new breed of influencers known as content creators. These individuals have large online followings and create content in various forms, such as videos, photos and blogs. As a result, the concept of attitude toward content creators has emerged as an important area of research in the field of marketing (Silva *et al.*, 2014). Attitude toward content creators refers to the positive or negative feelings and beliefs that consumers hold toward these individuals (Nawi *et al.*, 2023). The attitude is formed based on various factors, including the quality and relevance of the content, the perceived expertise of the creator and the perceived authenticity of the creator's persona (Kaba *et al.*, 2023).

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A positive attitude toward a content creator can lead to increased engagement with their content, increased brand loyalty, and increased purchase intention. In this case, consumers' attitudes toward content creators are heavily influenced by the perceived authenticity of the creator. Consumers are more likely to have a positive attitude toward a creator who they perceive as being genuine and honest in their content. This perception of authenticity can be enhanced by the creator's transparency about their personal life, their struggles and their values (Meng and Xu, 2012; Pundir *et al.*, 2021). Moreover, another factor that influences consumers' attitudes toward content creators is the perceived expertise of the creator. Consumers are more likely to have a positive attitude toward a creator who they perceive as having a high level of knowledge and skill in the area they create content about. This perception of expertise can be enhanced by the creator's educational background, work experience and ability to provide informative and insightful content (Djafarova and Foots, 2022; Hosen *et al.*, 2022).

#### 2.4 Perceived content quality

Perceived content quality is the subjective evaluation of the overall quality of a piece of content, which includes audiovisual content, written content and other types of media. This evaluation is based on an individual's subjective perceptions and expectations of the content (Asante et al., 2023; Chuenyindee et al., 2022). Perceived content quality is a vital factor that influences people's decisions to consume, engage and share content. It is essential for content creators, marketers and advertisers to understand the importance of perceived content quality, as it directly impacts the audience's attitude and behavior toward the content (Filieri et al., 2023). Perceived content quality is determined by various factors such as visual appeal, audio quality, relevance and credibility. The visual appeal of a piece of content, such as video content, includes factors such as resolution, color, brightness and contrast, which can significantly influence the viewer's perception of the content's quality. Similarly, audio quality is an essential factor that can impact the viewer's perception of the content's quality. The audio quality includes factors such as background noise, clarity. volume and tone. The relevance of the content to the viewer's interests, needs and preferences is another critical factor that can influence the perceived content quality. Credibility, which refers to the trustworthiness and expertise of the content creator, is also an essential factor that can impact the perceived content quality (Muda and Hamzah, 2021). Perceived content quality has a significant impact on people's intention to consume, engage and share the content. When people perceive the content to be of high quality, they are more likely to consume it for a more extended period, engage with it by commenting, liking or sharing it, and recommend it to others. In contrast, when people perceive the content to be of low quality, they are more likely to abandon it quickly, disengage with it, and avoid sharing or recommending it to others. Therefore, content creators, marketers and advertisers need to focus on enhancing the perceived content quality to attract and retain their target audience and achieve their desired outcomes (Dabbous and Barakat, 2020; Wilson and Edelyn, 2022).

#### 2.5 Subjective norm

Subjective norm refers to the perceived social pressure or expectation to engage or not engage in a particular behavior (Sciarelli *et al.*, 2021; Shurrab *et al.*, 2019; Obrenovic *et al.*, 2022). It is a crucial component of the TRA, developed by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975). The subjective norm construct acknowledges the influence of social factors in shaping an individual's intention to engage in a particular behavior. According to TRA, a subjective norm is determined by the individual's perception of what significant others, such as family members, peers, and authority figures, think they should do. The subjective norm can be either positive or negative, Viewers' watch behavior toward YouTube

JIMA<br/>15,2and it is affected by the individual's beliefs about how much the significant others value the<br/>behavior and how much influence they have over the individual's behavior (Ture and Ganesh,<br/>2018). The subjective norm construct plays a crucial role in understanding human behavior in a<br/>social context. It helps to explain why individuals may behave differently in different social<br/>situations. For instance, an individual may be less likely to engage in an unhealthy behavior<br/>such as smoking if they perceive that their peers do not approve of it. Conversely, an individual<br/>may be more likely to engage in a healthy behavior such as exercising if they perceive that their<br/>significant others value it (Wilson, 2022; Kaba *et al.*, 2023).

#### 2.6 Intention and behavior

Intention and behavior are two concepts that are closely related to each other, especially when it comes to understanding human actions (Keni *et al.*, 2022a, 2022b; Sabbir *et al.*, 2023; Saleem *et al.*, 2023). Intention refers to a person's plan or purpose to engage in a certain behavior, while behavior refers to the actual actions that a person takes in a given situation. In other words, intention is the mental process that precedes behavior, while behavior is the observable outcome of that intention (de Mesquita *et al.*, 2023). The relationship between intention and behavior has been extensively studied in various fields, including psychology, marketing, and economics. One of the most influential theories on this topic is the theory of planned behavior, which proposes that intention is the primary determinant of behavior. However, despite the importance of intention in predicting behavior, it is worth noting that intention does not always lead to actual behavior. In some cases, people may intend to do something but fail to follow through because of various factors, such as external constraints, a lack of motivation or competing priorities. Moreover, people may engage in behaviors without consciously intending to do so, such as habitual behaviors or behaviors that are influenced by environmental cues (Nguyen *et al.*, 2023; Lee, 2023).

2.7 Effect of attitude toward content creators on people's intention to watch and watch behavior Over time, there has been a significant increase in the number of contents published or posted on YouTube, along with a similar trend of people creating their own personalized accounts and self-created videos (Törhönen et al., 2019; Byun et al., 2022). YouTube content creators have the freedom to create and post their videos on their respective channels at their own convenience, as long as they are deemed appropriate by YouTube systems. However, with the increasing number of creators and similar content themes, it has become crucial for creators to ensure that their videos match their expertise and experience (Przybyła and Soto, 2021; Forzani et al., 2022; Baudier et al., 2023). This is because viewers are more likely to trust and find credible content created by individuals with relevant professional experience or expertise. For instance, people are more likely to trust and find credible "pro-gamers" who create videos on how to play certain games than non-"pro-gamers" who create similar videos. Similarly, the credibility of football players creating and posting videos on how to play football properly would be higher compared to non-footballers. When viewers deem the information or contents conveyed by certain creators to be credible and trustworthy, they are more likely to watch their videos, which could enhance the probability of watching the same contents in the future. Based on these arguments, the authors formulated the following hypotheses:

- H1. Attitude toward content creators significantly affects people's intention to watch.
- H2. Attitude toward content creators significantly affects people's watch behavior.
- *H3.* Attitude toward content creators significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch.

2.8 Effect of perceived content quality on people's intention to watch and watch behavior The number of YouTube content creators and videos on the platform continues to grow, providing viewers with a vast selection of content. However, with so many videos available, viewers may struggle to choose which one to watch. Quality is a key factor that influences viewers' decision-making processes (Dabbous and Barakat, 2020). Exceptional perceived content and editing quality can increase a viewer's willingness to watch a video and make them more likely to watch the same video in the future (Onofrei *et al.*, 2022; Lee *et al.*, 2020). Personal judgement plays an important role in determining the quality of a video and can affect a viewer's experience. With millions of videos available on the platform, viewers' assessments of the video's quality can determine whether they choose to watch a particular video over others with similar themes (Dabbous and Barakat, 2020). Based on these arguments, the authors formulated the following hypotheses:

- H4. Perceived content quality significantly affects people's intention to watch.
- H5. Perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior.
- *H6.* Perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch.

#### 2.9 Effect of subjective norm on people's intention to watch and watch behavior

Subjective norm, defined as an individual's perception of social pressure to perform or not perform a behavior, has been shown to have a significant impact on people's intention to perform a particular behavior and their actual behavior (Tan et al., 2022; Osatuyi and Turel, 2019). This is particularly true when it comes to the behavior of watching videos on online platforms such as YouTube. Several studies have shown that people's subjective norms significantly influence their intention to watch certain videos and their actual behavior of watching. In the context of YouTube, subjective norm is influenced by various factors, including the opinions of others, social norms and cultural values. The opinions of others, especially those of people whom an individual values or respects, can significantly influence their subjective norms toward watching certain videos on YouTube (Kumari et al., 2022). For instance, if a celebrity that an individual admires shares a video on their social media page, that individual's subjective norms toward watching that video may increase because of the influence of the celebrity's opinion. Similarly, if a friend or family member recommends a video, an individual may be more likely to watch it because of the influence of their opinion. These opinions can also be shaped by social norms and cultural values. For example, in some cultures, it may be considered inappropriate to watch certain types of content, while in others, it may be encouraged.

Furthermore, research has shown that subjective norms can also influence people's actual behavior (Aksoy and Abdulfatai, 2019; Wu *et al.*, 2022; Sciarelli *et al.*, 2021). In regard to the context of video published on YouTube, when individuals perceive that their friends, family or social media connections approve of or engage in watching certain videos, their own behavior is likely to be influenced. This is because individuals tend to conform to the expectations of those around them to gain social acceptance and approval. On the other hand, if individuals perceive that those around them do not engage in watching certain videos or disapprove of them, they may be less likely to watch them. By understanding the impact of subjective norms, content creators can create content that appeals to their target audience and increases their likelihood of watching and sharing the video with their social connections (Mangafić *et al.*, 2017; Ryu and Ko, 2019). Based on these arguments, the authors formulated the following hypotheses:

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#### H7. Subjective norm significantly affects people's intention to watch.

- H8. Subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior.
- *H9.* Subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch.

#### 2.10 Effect of intention to watch on watch behavior

Numerous studies in the past few decades have emphasized the significance of intention in predicting whether or not a particular behavior will be performed because intention always precedes behavior (Urumsah, 2015; Japutra and Keni, 2020; Keni *et al.*, 2022a, 2022b). Thus, the strength of an individual's intention to engage in a certain behavior is critical in determining whether or not they will perform it. When people's intention to engage in a particular behavior is weak, the likelihood of them executing it will be low, and vice versa (Wilson *et al.*, 2021; Hoxha and Hoxha, 2022). As a result, it is unsurprising that intention is regarded as one of the most important and widely studied variables in marketing research because an actual behavior will not occur without an individual's intention to engage in such behavior (Upadhyay *et al.*, 2022). Based on these arguments, the authors formulated the following hypothesis:

H10. People's intention to watch significantly affects people's watch behavior.

#### 3. Methodology

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Using a quantitative-survey approach, this research uses questionnaires as a form of tool used to gather the entire data required for the completion of this study. Next, the purposive sampling method was adapted for this research with the purpose of ensuring that the entire group of individuals or respondents who participated in this research fully conformed with all of the criteria determined by the authors. In regard to these criteria, respondents should be individuals who have been watching YouTube contents at least 3 h a day for the past eight months. Furthermore, the videos that respondents watched were limited to videos posted by any of the following YouTube content creators: Ria Ricis, Atta Halilintar, Jess No Limit, RANS, Baim Paula, Miawaug, Gen Halilintar, Tanboy Kun and Nihonggo Mantappu. The reason why these creators were included is mainly because all of these creators had been ranked as some of the most subscribed YouTube content creators (or channels) in Indonesia as of 2023 (Taslaud, 2023; AJ Marketing, 2023). To ensure that these respondents conformed to these criteria, questionnaires distributed to these respondents were separated into three main sections, namely, screening questions, respondents' profile and questions regarding the measurement of all variables proposed in this study. In total, after gathering all data for around three months, a total of 156 data were successfully collected from all respondents, of which a total of 112 data were deemed usable to be further analyzed in this study. These amounts of data were deemed sufficient for this study, as they far exceeded the minimum number of sample sizes stated by Gorsuch (1983), Hatcher (1994) and Suhr (2006), who collaboratively argue that a minimum sample size in research should be five times the amount of indicators included in the study (sample-to-item ratio). In this case, the minimum sample size for this research is 100, because the number of indicators used in this study was 20.

Furthermore, regarding the measurement of all variables in this study (as presented in Figure 1), there are a total of 20 indicators or items explaining all five variables adopted in this research (as shown in Table 1). Indicators explaining attitude toward content creators

were adapted from Kok Wei and Li (2013) and Munir *et al.* (2019), while indicators V representing perceived content quality were adapted from Liu *et al.* (2017). Furthermore, indicators representing subjective norms were adopted and modified from Olga *et al.* (2019). Moreover, indicators representing both intention to watch and watch behavior were adopted from Laparojkit and Suttipun (2022) and Olga *et al.* (2019). All of these indicators were modified to ensure that the wording of all indicators matches or conforms with the topic or study setting discussed in this study. Next, to measure all variables, a seven-point Likert scale was adopted, in which respondents' responses toward every single indicator provided within the questionnaire will vary from "1" (strongly disagree) to "7" (strongly agree).

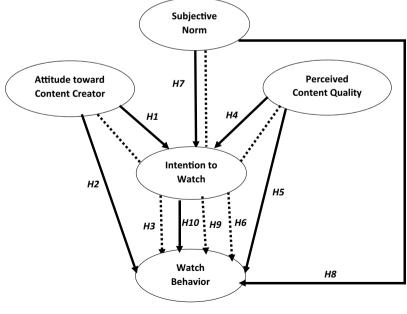
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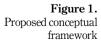
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#### 4. Results and discussions

#### 4.1 Respondents' descriptive analysis

All 112 data were assessed using the partial least squares - structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) method using SmartPLS 4 software, in which four important sequential steps needed to be performed one after another before analyses regarding the effect given by one variable toward the others could be performed. These four steps were the respondents' descriptive analyses, common method bias test, the outer model analyses and the inner model analyses. The respondent profile analysis that was conducted was aimed at obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study. This was accomplished by analyzing the demographic data of the respondents, including their age, gender, educational background, and psychographic behavior regarding the research topic. The findings of this analysis revealed that the majority of the respondents were female, constituting 58.03% of the total sample. Furthermore, it was observed that a large number of respondents had obtained a bachelor's degree as their





Source: Authors' own work

JIMA 15,2	Variable	Coding	Indicator
10,2	Attitude toward content creators	CC1	Creator "X" is dependable
450		CC2 CC3 CC4	All of the information conveyed by creator "X" is trustworthy Creator "X" is reliable Creator "X" is sincere
456	Perceived content quality	CQ1 CQ2 CQ3 CQ4 CQ5	I think the video that I watch is of high quality I perceive this video is well made I think the video that I watch is pleasing I think the video that I watch is informative I think the editing quality of this video is great
	Intention to watch	IW1 IW2 IW3	I will encourage my friends to watch this video I will say positive things about this video to the others I won't switch to the other similar videos created by the other creators
	Watch behavior	RW1 RW2 RW3	I plan to watch this video in this future It is highly likely for me to watch this video in this future I intend to watch this video continually
Table 1. Indicators/ measurements used to measure all variables in this	Subjective norm	SN1 SN2 SN3 SN4 SN5	My parents think that watching videos posted by "X" is a good idea My colleagues think that watching videos posted by "X" is a good idea My parents often watching videos posted by "X" is a good idea My colleagues often watching videos posted by "X" is a good idea My parents support my decision to watch videos posted by "X"
study	Source: Authors' own wo	ork	

highest educational qualification, accounting for 87.5% of the sample. Additionally, it was found that most of the participants accessed YouTube for a significant amount of time, ranging from 4 to 8 h per day for the past eight months. These results are indicative of the fact that the study has been conducted on a sample that is representative of the general population, given that the majority of the respondents are well-educated females who have a significant amount of exposure to YouTube. The findings also suggest that these respondents are likely to have a deep understanding and appreciation of the research topic, thereby providing insightful and valuable data for the study.

#### 4.2 Common method bias analysis

Common method bias might occur when both the independent and dependent variables were measured using the same instrument at the same time by the same respondent. Therefore, because all of the variables (independent, mediating and dependent variables) were measured at the same time using the same questionnaire, a common method bias analysis in the form of a multicollinearity test was conducted to ensure that multicollinearity did not exist in this study. Using variance inflation factor (VIF) as the main indicators, multicollinearity did not exist when the VIF value of all variables was well below 10 (VIF  $\leq$  10). Based on the multicollinearity assessment performed in this study (as presented in Table 2), the VIF values of all variables were well below 10, thus confirming that this study is free from multicollinearity.

#### 4.3 Outer model analysis

Next, the outer model assessment was performed with the purpose of detecting the validity of the data and ensuring that all of the data gathered from the respondents were reliable. In

performing this assessment, several criteria, as shown in Table 3, need to be satisfied in Viewers' watch order for all of the data to be deemed reliable and valid (Wilson *et al.*, 2019). Meanwhile, the results of the outer model assessment performed in this study are shown in Tables 4 and 5. respectively.

#### 4.4 Inner model analysis

The last step of this PLS-SEM assessment, namely, the inner model assessment, was specifically performed with the purpose of analyzing the impact of the effect provided by one variable on the others. In this study, this means that the results of the inner model assessment will be used to determine how both perceived content quality and attitude toward content creators play their respective roles in both directly and indirectly affecting viewers' intention to watch – and watch behavior – toward videos or contents posted on YouTube. Using a 90% level of significance, relationships or impacts given by one variable toward the others were deemed significant if the *p*-value of such relationships was lower than 0.10, while, on the contrary, relationships or impacts given by one variable toward the others were deemed not significant if the *p*-value of such relationships was greater than 0.10. The results of the inner model assessment were presented on Table 6, while the results of the mediating effect tested in this research are presented in Table 7.

Based on the results of the path coefficient and the mediation assessment presented in Tables 5 and 6, respectively, it could be seen that the *p*-value of all relationships had been below the cut-off points of 0.10, thus confirming that all relationships in this study were significant. Moreover, all hypotheses posited in this study were also supported, which imply that both variables – attitude toward content creators and perceived content quality – play significant roles in affecting both people's watch and watch behavior toward various contents published on YouTube. The first hypothesis posited that attitude toward content creators

	SN	ATT	INT	WBH	PCQ
SN ATT INT WBH PCQ			1,120 1,747		1,104 1,453
			1,807		1,461

Notes: SN = Subjective Norm; ATT = Attitude toward Content Creator; INT = Intention to Watch; WBH = Watch Behavior; PCQ = Perceived Content Quality Source: Authors' own work

Table 2. Multicollinearity

model analysis

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Criteria	Validity/reliability	Requirement need to be satisfied	
Factor loading Average variance extracted (AVE)	Convergent validity Convergent validity	The loading of every indicator needs to exceed 0.60 The AVE of every variable needs to exceed 0.50	
Composite reliability Cronbach's alpha HTMT	Reliability Reliability Discriminant validity	The composite reliability of every variable needs to exceed 0.70 The composite reliability of every variable needs to exceed 0.70 The HTMT value of all variable needs to be lower than 0.90	Table 3.Criteria needed to be
Note: HTMT = Heter	fCorrelations	satisfied at the outer	

Source: Authors' own work

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JIMA 15,2	Variable	Coding	Loading	AVE	Composite reliability	Cronbach's alpha
10,2	Attitude toward content creators	CC1	0.790	0.745	0.921	0.885
		CC2	0.876			
		CC3	0.866			
		CC4	0.917			
150	Perceived content quality	CQ1	0.878	0.777	0.946	0.929
458		CQ2	0.893			
	•	CQ3	0.866			
		CQ4	0.903			
		CQ5	0.865			
	Intention to watch	IW1	0.826	0.667	0.857	0.753
		IW2	0.805			
		IW3	0.820	0.000	0.055	0.005
	Subjective norm	SN1	0.845	0.693	0.877	0.835
		SN2	0.852			
		SN3	0.740			
		SN4 SN5	0.882			
Table 4.	Watch behavior	WB1	$0.836 \\ 0.915$	0.865	0.951	0.922
Outer model	Watch benavior	WB1 WB2	0.915	0.005	0.951	0.922
assessment		WB2 WB3	0.940			
(convergent validity		11 D3	0.300			
and reliability)	Source: Authors' own work					

	Variable	Attitude toward content creators	Perceived content quality	Intention to watch	Watch behavior	Subjective norm
<b>Table 5.</b> Outer model assessment (HTMT value)	Attitude toward content creators Perceived content quality Intention to watch Watch behavior Subjective norm Source: Authors' own wor	0.476 0.362 0.270 0.292 k	0.592 0.579 0.697	0.724 0.660	0.587	

	Relationship	Original sample (O)	<i>p</i> -value	Result
<b>Table 6.</b> Inner model assessment – path coefficient	Attitude toward content creators $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch Attitude toward content creators $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior Perceived content quality $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch Perceived content quality $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior Intention to watch $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior Subjective norm $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch Subjective norm $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior <b>Source:</b> Authors' own work	0.605 0.353 0.229 0.269 0.369 0.332 0.276	$\begin{array}{c} 0.000\\ 0.034\\ 0.006\\ 0.003\\ 0.014\\ 0.011\\ 0.049 \end{array}$	Significant Significant Significant Significant Significant Significant

Relationship	Original sample (O)	<i>p</i> -value	Result	Mediating status	Viewers' watch behavior toward
Attitude toward content creators $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior	0.223	0.015	Significant	Partial mediation	YouTube
Attitude toward content creators $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior	0.353	0.034	Significant		
Perceived content quality $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior	0.084	0.075	Significant	Partial mediation	459
Perceived content quality $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior Subjective norm $\rightarrow$ Intention to watch $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior	0.269 0.471	$0.003 \\ 0.001$	Significant Significant	Partial mediation	Table 7.     Inner model
Subjective norm $\rightarrow$ Watch behavior Source: Authors' own work	0.276	0.049	Significant		assessment – mediating effect assessment

significantly affect people's intention to watch. With a *p*-value of 0.000, which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), it can be concluded that *H1* was supported. Next, the second hypothesis posited that attitude toward content creators significantly affects people's watch behavior toward the same contents. With a *p*-value of 0.034, which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), it can be concluded that *H2* was also supported.

Moreover, the third hypothesis posited that attitude toward content creators significantly affect people's Watch behavior toward the same contents in an indirect manner. With a *p*-value of 0.015, which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), it can be concluded that H3 was supported. Next, both the H4 and H5 posited that perceived content quality significantly affects people's intention to watch and that perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior toward the same contents, respectively. With a p-value of 0.006 (for H4) and 0.003 (for H5), which are lower than 0.10, it can be concluded that both H4 and H5 were also supported. Moreover, H6, H7 and H8 propose that perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch, subjective norm significantly affects people's intention to watch, and subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior respectively. With a p-value of 0.075 (for H6), 0.011 (for H7) and 0.049 (for H8) which are lower than 0.10, then it can also be concluded that H6, H7 and H8 were supported. Last, both the ninth and tenth hypothesis posited that subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior through their intention to watch, and people's intention to watch significantly affects their watch behavior. With a p-value of 0.001 (for H9) and 0.014 (for H10), which are lower than 0.10, it can be concluded that both H9 and H10 were also supported.

#### 4.5 Discussions

This study attempts to integrate (and adopt) both the TRA and perceived quality theories to explain factors that were hypothesized could affect or influence one's intention – and ultimately watch behavior – to watch videos or contents on YouTube. Based on the results of the data analyses presented in the previous section, it can be concluded that three factors –attitude toward content creators, subjective norms and perceived content quality – play important and significant roles in determining or affecting one's intention to watch – and actual watch behavior – video contents posted on YouTube. As what has been discussed before, attitude toward content creators refers to whether or not all of the information or contents published/posted by certain individuals (also known as the creator) are trustworthy and valid. Similarly, the concept of attitude toward content creators could also

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refer to viewers' personal judgement regarding whether or not there's a conformity between the creators' expertise and the content or information that these creators want to show within the contents that they make. In regard to such a concept, more and more new creators were actively creating their own YouTube channel on the platform, while actively posting or publishing their own contents in a regular manner. These trends had inadvertently increased the competition among these creators themselves, considering that there have been many cases where a content creator was creating contents with certain themes or concepts that had actually been used or published by another creator, which in turn created a condition where more than one creator was creating and posting similar – albeit different – videos on the same platform. In this case, people's judgement or assessment toward the credibility of the creator could play a defining role in affecting viewers' decision or intention to watch one content relative to the other similar contents available on YouTube. When viewers argue that all of the information conveyed by certain creators was deemed trustworthy and matched the creators' field of expertise, such judgement will enhance people's willingness or intention toward watching such content, which ultimately will lead to the same group of viewers watching the same contents in the future. Problems might occur when certain creators decide to create certain contents that actually do not match their field of expertise, in which such a step could lead people to believe that all of the information provided within the video is questionable, which, other than lowering people's assessment of the credibility of the creator, can also lead viewers to find another similar video that was created by a more trustworthy (and credible) individual. Moreover, this result also matched the results obtained by previous studies which also found the significance of attitude in determining people's intention and actual behavior (Venciute et al., 2023; Doung, 2023; Garcia et al., 2022; Keshavarz et al., 2021; Mukherjee and Chandra, 2022; Park et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, in a similar manner, another factor that has been proven to be significant in affecting both people's watch and watch behavior toward contents published on YouTube is the quality of the contents themselves. Because there have been numerous contents of similar themes being published on YouTube from time to time, it was understandable that other than the credibility of those who actually created the video, the judgement or perception made by the viewers regarding whether or not the quality of the video was satisfactory could affect people's judgement toward choosing to watch one video over the other videos. The indicators that people normally use to measure or judge the quality of the video that they watch tend to be different among people, and, while some people argue that the quality of a video should be judged based on the editing skills and quality applied to the video itself, some also argue that the quality of the content within the video itself is important to entice and retain viewers. In this case, when viewers argue or believe that the overall quality of the video that they watch was deemed satisfactory, exceeded expectations or good, then there's a high chance that these same viewers will watch the same video in the future, and vice versa. This finding also matched the results obtained by previous studies that also found the significance of perceived quality in determining people's intention and actual behavior (Dokcen et al., 2021: Khare and Pandey, 2017: Rosillo-Díaz et al., 2020: Sharif et al., 2023; Soh et al., 2017; Kaswengi and Lambey-Checchin, 2020; Bei and Chiao, 2006; Espejel et al., 2009).

Lastly, the findings of this study demonstrate the importance of subjective norms in shaping the intention to watch and actual watch behavior of Indonesian YouTube viewers. Subjective norm refers to an individual's perception of social pressure or expectations from others, such as family, friends, or peers, in a given situation. The impact of subjective norms is particularly significant in predicting an individual's likelihood to watch a specific video. If an individual perceives a strong subjective norm to watch a video, it can influence their

intention to watch it, as they may feel motivated by the social expectations from their network. For instance, if a group of friends strongly recommends a video, an individual may be more inclined to watch it to avoid social disapproval or disappointment. Conversely, if there is no perceived social pressure or norm to watch a particular video, an individual may be less likely to watch it. This finding also matched the results obtained by previous studies that also found the significance of subjective norms in determining people's intention and actual behavior (Nguyen *et al.*, 2023; Abd-Mutalib *et al.*, 2023; Shou *et al.*, 2022; Balikcioglu *et al.*, 2022; Nair, 2021; Ashraf *et al.*, 2019; Wong *et al.*, 2020; Agbetunde *et al.*, 2022).

#### 5. Conclusions and suggestions

#### 5.1 Conclusions and managerial implications

Based on the results obtained and discussed in the previous sections of this study, the authors concluded that both attitude toward content creators and perceived content quality had proven to be two significant and positive antecedents – both directly and indirectly – of people's intention to watch and watch behavior toward contents or videos published on YouTube. Based on these findings, the authors suggest that content creators all around the globe (especially from Indonesia) always pay strict and foremost attention toward what kind of contents that they are creating, together with the editing quality of the contents themselves, to ensure that people's interest and excitement toward watching the content will always be high. Furthermore, each creator should also ensure that all of the contents that they try to create (and post on YouTube) should match or conform with the expertise, skills or experience that they have relative to the video that they are trying to make to boost their credibility. For example, the credibility of a former football coach making a video about football-related content will surely be higher than that of an ordinary individual (with no prior experience in football) who tries to make the same video. Moreover, the credibility of a statistic teacher making a video about statistics-related contents will surely be higher than that of a tennis player who tries to make a similar video. In this case, the higher the credibility of a content creator, the higher the number of people watching their video will be. considering that the high credibility level that a creator possesses implies that such a creator is more trustworthy compared with others. Moreover, considering that more than half of the population living in Indonesia practices Islam, content creators should ensure that their YouTube content aligns with the values, rules and norms of Islam. Failure to do so could result in negative consequences for both the quality of the content and the creator's reputation. If a video is perceived as inappropriate or offensive to Islam, viewers may develop a negative attitude toward the creator and be discouraged from watching any future videos. As such, it is essential for content creators to exercise caution and sensitivity when creating content for this audience.

#### 5.2 Theoretical implication

This research contributes to the development of marketing literature by assessing factors affecting people's willingness – and actual behavior – to watch YouTube videos in Indonesia from the perspectives of both the TRA and perceived quality theory, from which the conceptual framework of this study was derived. While most studies tend to implement both TRA and perceived quality to predict people's buying intention toward tangible products (goods), this study proved and showed that both theories and concepts could also be used to predict people's behavior toward intangible products. Furthermore, while most studies tend to only assess individual's behavior using a single theory, this study had proven that both TRA and perceived quality theory could be integrated or merged together to explain people's or consumers' behavior. Moreover, this is also one of a few studies that

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JIMA 15,2 attempt to understand people's behavior toward watching YouTube videos from the perspective of both TRA and perceived quality theory, because other previous studies that attempt to study people's engagement or behavior toward videos posted on YouTube tend to use other concepts, frameworks or theories other than these two frameworks.

#### 5.3 Directions for future research

Despite the rigorous nature of this study, some limitations still exist. First, this study was solely performed in Indonesia. Considering the differences in behavior between people in Indonesia and other people living in other countries, further study was recommended to be performed to boost the generalizability of this concept. Second, this study was also solely focused on the content published on YouTube, which might render the results obtained in this study difficult to be applied on different types of contents published or posted on the other media platforms. Therefore, further studies were suggested for future authors to re-test the conceptual framework proposed in this study on different video-sharing or social media platforms. Lastly, because this study was performed during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, this study might yield different results if this research was performed to replicate this study to further assess the relationships between factors posited in this research during the post-pandemic era.

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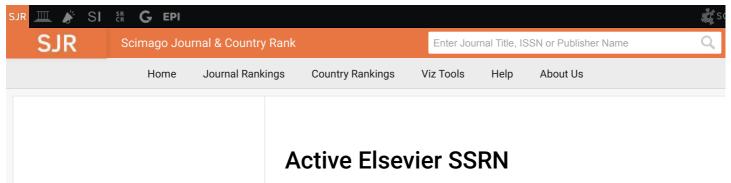
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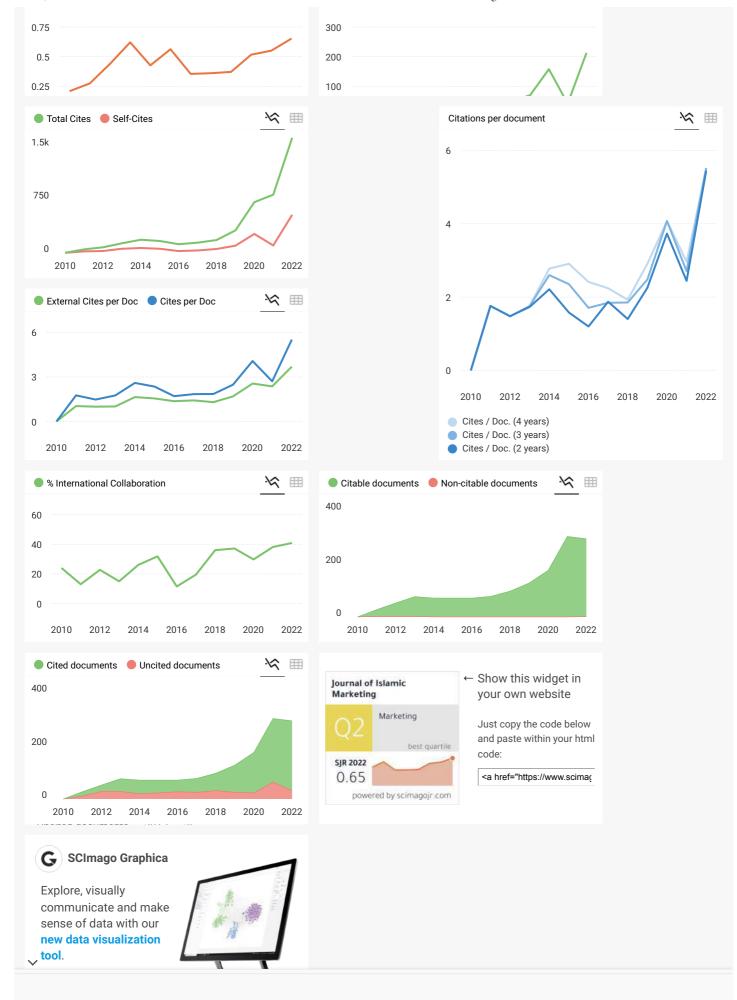
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# Antecedents of viewers' Watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous muslim-majority country

# Abstract

**Purpose** - This study attempted to determine the impact of Attitude toward Content Creator, Subjective Norm and Perceived Content Quality in affecting people's intention and behavior to watch videos posted on YouTube in Indonesia

**Design/methodology/approach** - Using questionnaire, data from the total of 112 individuals living in Indonesia gathered in this study, in which, these respondents are individuals who'verheen watching YouTube contents at least 3 (three) hours a day for the past 8 months. Moreover, all of these data were processed and analyzed using PLS method in order to determine the impact given by one variable toward the other.

**Findings** - Based on the results of the analysis, authors concluded that both factors, namely content credibility and perceived content quality play significant and positive roles in determining people's intention to watch – and ultimately behavior to Watch - contents or videos published on YouTube, with the former turned out to be the stronger predictor.

**Originality/value** – Current study attempts to modify and merge both the concept of theory of reasoned action (TRA) and product quality theory in order to explain Indonesians' behavior toward watching contents published on YouTube, which, to authors' knowledge, was still in rarity.

**57 ywords** - Content Credibility, Perceived content quality, Intention to Watch, Watch Behavior, Consumer Behavior

Paper type - Research paper

#### 1. Introduction

YouTube had been undoubtedly regarded as one of the most popular video-sharing website across the globe, in which, such perception was supported by the fact that more and more people are watching videos (or contents posted on the platform. According to the data posted by Statista, the number of YouTube viewers has risen or grown by 4.9% in 2021 alone compared to the number of YouTube viewers on the previous year (www.glabalmediainsight.com, 2022). Moreover, according from the same source, it was reported that the number of global YouTube viewers or users had grown exponentially for the past 4 years. Furthermore, the number of YouTube viewers all around the world had escalated, from a total of around 1,4 billion people in 2017, to a total of 2.43 billion people in 2022, and that such numbers were predicted to further rise to around 2.85 billion viewers in 2025 (www.Statista.com, 2022). Such statistical data had shown the immense (and ever-growing) popularity that YouTube experience for the past years compared to its competitors. Meanwhile, in a similar manner, more and more Indonesians are also actively

watching various contents posted in YouTube, in which, such argument was supported by data published by Statista (<u>www.Statista.com</u>, 2022), which ranked Indonesia as the 3<sup>rd</sup> country with the largest YouTube viewers as of April 2022 with a total viewers of 139 million people, trailing only United States and India, while ahead of various other countries such as Brazil, Japan, and Mexico. These data underlined that more than half of the population in Indonesia had accessed YouTube, which further serve as a proof that YouTube had seemingly become a popular video-streaming platform which most Indonesians favor compared to the other similar media platform (such as TV channels, Radio, other Social Media platforms, etc) which tend to offer similar contents.

Furthermore, such trend (regarding the high – and increasing - number of Indonesians accessing YouTube from time to time) tend to also be affected by the recent COVID-19 pandemic outbreak which occur all over the world – including Indonesia (Sofian, 2020; Supadiyanto and Murti, 2022). In this case, since people were strongly advised (and obligated at some point) to stay and do all of their activities at their respective home, then it could be understandable that these people will certainly spend most of their time "locked" within their home, which in turns could increase the risk of these people experiences boredom throughout their daily life (Travis and Nix, 2020). Therefore, when boredom occur, then one way that most Indonesians will try to do to get rid of their boredom at that moment was by watching various contents or videos posted by various so-called "content creators" on You ube platform (Lukman, 2020; Ceci, 2023). Moreover, these data or trend was further supported based on the results of the preliminary study conducted by the authors before commencing this research. When being asked about "whether or not respondents' felt that the intensity of them watching YouTube videos tend to increase during the pandemic time compare to the pre-pandemic situation", out of 189 random respondents, around 185 answer "Yes" to this question, which indirectly imply that the arts unt of hours or time that most of these respondents spend to watch YouTube did increase during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Furthermore, when being asked a question about "the reason of watching YouTube videos during the pandemic" to these same group of repondents, most of them (117 out of 189 individuals) stated that they decide to watch YouTube in order to ensure that they won't get "bored" staying at their home during the pandemic. The results of these preliminary study had inadvertently proven that most people tend to access YouTube platform in an intense manner, which in the end could explain why the number of YouTube viewers tend to escalate over time (especially during the pandemic). However, still one big question remains regarding which factors affect or determine these people's willingness or decision (and ultimately behavior) to watch contents on YouTube as opposed to watch similar contents posted on the other similar video-sharing website available to the public? Therefore, this study was designed to answer this question by proposing three factors which authors determine could affect people's willingness to watch contents on YouTube platform, namely Attitude toward Content Creator, Subjective Norm and perceived content quality.

In regard to these three factors, attitude itself could be defined as people's subjective judgement on whether or not all of the information or contents made and posted by certain content creator were deemed valid and could be trusted (Savolainen, 2022; Bhattacherjee, 2022; Kumar *et al.*, 2022), while subjective norm referes to how people around the individuals influence the individuals' decision to perform certain behavior, which, in this research, referes to behavior to

watch YouTube videos (Sciarelli et al., 2021; Shurrab et al., 2019). In this case, there are so many contents posted on YouTube by various different creators each day, in which, in many cases, some of these contents were actually similar to each other. Therefore, the viewers' judgement regarding whether or not certain creators could be trusted could significantly determine one's intention to watch the contents posted by these creators. Meanwhile, other than the credibility of the creators who created and published their contents, the quality of the content published on YouTube itself could also determine people's willingness to watch such contents. Quality itself could be understood as the differences between what people are expecting from certain products/services and the actual performances of such products/services themselves, in which, this definition inadvertently imply that personal judgement toward how certain products/services are performing could determine whether or not the quality of such products/services could be regarded as satisfactory (Akoglu & Özbek, 2022; Alsarraf et al., 2022). In regard to the contents posted on YouTube, there have been hundreds of thousands of videos with similar themes or concepts posted on YouTube every day, in which, such facts had indirectly motivated and pushed many creators to create certain content with high standards in order to differentiate one 's content with the other similar contents. Later on, when people perceive that the quality of the content or video published by one creator had fulfilled their expectations (while being regarded as better compared to the other similar videos at the same time), then this kind of judgement could ultimately increase people's willingness to watch – and finally Watch – the video or content in the future (Miao et al., 2022).

Therefore, according to the arguments explained above, this study was designed to test whether or not both perceived content quality and Attitude toward Content Creator play significant roles in determining Indonesians' intention to watch (and Watch 75) ideos published on YouTube. While there have been many studies explaining m assessing the impact of both quality and credibility toward consumers' behavioral intention to perform certain behagipr (Hemsworth et al., 2005; Suki, 2014; Saeed & Grunert, 2014; Mansour & Diab, 2016; Fei et al., 2017; Rai et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2022; Kwateng et al., 2021), however, to authors' knowledge, many of these studies tend to focus on people's intention to buy certain goods or services other than videos posted on video-sharing sites. Furthermore, this study also attempted to merge and modify twentifferent frameworks to explain people's behavior toward watching videos on YouTube, namely the theory of reasoned action (TRA), which was formulated by Fishbein & Ajzen (1975), and the perceived quality theory which was formulated by Gilmore (1974) and Steenkamp (1989). In terms of the TRA concept, it was hypothesized that people's attitude toward certain behavior, together with the phers' subjective evaluation toward such behavior, could significantly determine an individual's willingness to perform such behavior. In terms of the topic or variable proposed in this study, variable perceived Attitude toward Content Creator closely mimics the concept of attitude, since whether or not certain content creators could be regarded as trustable was solely based on how the viewers judge or assess the creators themselves, while people around the viewers (such as parents, colleagues, friends, coworkers, and so on and so forth) could also play important roles in affecting viewers' judgement or evaluation concerning the creator.

Meanwhile, according to the concept of quality proposed by Steenkamp (1989), it is argued that the quality of a product could be deemed "excellent" when people or users think or argue that how the product was performing had satisfied all of the expectations and requirements set by the users themselves. In this case, variable perceived content quality closely resembles or mimics the concept of product quality, since videos or contents posted on YouTube is a form of service, and that service itself could also be categorized as a product, then whether or not certain contents or videos were regarded as a "good-quality videos" was solely determined by how the viewers assess or judge such videos. Furthermore, there have been several studies which had been conducted with the purpose of assessing people's behavior or engagement toward YouTub montents. First of all, study conducted by Muda and Hamzah (2021) attempt to understand how consumers' perceived source credibility of UGC (upg -generated contents) in YouTube videos affect their attitudes and behavioral intentions to buy beauty and skincare products promoted through these videos. In this case, the focus of this research was mainly on "people's willingness to buy products promoted through YouTube videos", and not on their willingness to watch the videos themselves as what the current study attempt to previous research by Muda and Hamzah (2021) attempt to merge both the social identity theory (SIT) and the source homophily theory, while current study attempt to assess people's willingness to watch YouTube videos from the perspectives of both TRA and Perceived Quality theory. Next, another study by Khan (2017) did attempt to understand prople's participation or engagement toward YouTube videos. However, other than the fact that Uses and Gratifications (U&G) framework was used as the main theory of this study, previous study by Khan (2017) also didn't specifically focus on viewers' watch behavior, but also on their participation or other behavior toward the videos (such as giving like, dislike, comment, or share YouTuberideos), while current study try to specifically put the focus of the study toward understanding people's intention and behavior to watch YouT the videos. Similarly, another study by Munaro et al. (2020) also attempt to study factors affecting the number of views, likes, dislikes and comments received by YouTube videos, instead of factors determining why people want to watch videos on YouTube. Therefore, based on these gaps, by combining and modifying both TRA and Perceived Quality theory into one single conceptual framework, this research attempt to analyze factors determining Indonesians' willingness to watch various videos published on YouTube.

#### 2. Literature review & hypotheses formulation

#### 8

# $\overline{2.1}$ Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)

The Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) is a social psychology theory that was Eveloped by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975). According to TRA, a person's behavior is determined by their intention to perform a behavior, which is influenced by the attitudes and subjective norms (Moon and Lee, 2014). Attitudes are the evaluations a person has of a begivior, while subjective norms refer to the social pressure to perform or not perform a behavior. If an individual has p46 tive attitudes towards a behavior and perceives social pressure to perform that behavior, their intention to perform the behavior is strengthened, and the likelihood of the behavior being performed increases (Paek *et al.*, 2011). One strength of TRA is its emphasis on the role of attitudes and subjective norms in determining behavior. By accounting for both cognitive and social factors that affect behavior, TRA provides a comprehensive understanding of why people behave the way they do. Additionally, TRA's focus on intention as the immediate predictor of behavior. For instance, an

intervention targeting an individual with negative attitudes towards exercise could aim to change those attitudes by providing information about the benefits of exercising. Similarly, an intervention targeting an individual perceiving social pressure from peers to engage in risky behaviors such as drug use could aim to change these subjective norms by promoting alternative norms that endorse healthier behaviors (Ashaduzzaman *et al.*, 2022; Rahmafitria *et al.*, 2021).

However, TRA has some limitations. First, its reliance on self-reported measures of attitudes, subjective norms, and intention may not always reflect actual behavior accurately. Second, TRA does not account for other factors that may affect havior such as personality traits, past experiences, and environmental factors. Finally, TRA assumes that individuals have full control over their behavior, and that intentions always result in the expected behavior, which may not always be the case. In conclusion, the Theory of Retained Action is a valuable framework for understanding and predicting behavior. It highlights the importance of attitudes and subjective norms in shaping intentions and behavior, making it a useful starting point for designing interventions that target behavioral change. Despite its limitations, TRA provides a nuanced understanding of why people behave the way they do and provides a foundation for developing effective interventions to promote healthier behaviors (Pundir *et al.*, 2021).

#### 2.2 Perceived Quality Theory

Quality is a critical factor that influences consumers' purchase decisions. Developed by Gilmore (1974) and Steenkamp (1989), the perceived quality theory aims to explain how consumers evaluate product quality and how it impacts their purchase decisions. According to Steenkamp's theory, product quality is a multi-dimensional construct that construct that construct the components: functional, technical, and psychological quality. Functional quality generates to the extent to which a product performs its intended function, whereas technical quality refers to the extention which a product is well designed and manufactured. Psychological quality, on the other hand, refers to the perceptions and beliefs that consumers hold about a product. These components combine to create an overall perception of product quality. Steenkamp's theory suggests that consumers use a twostage process to evaluate product quality. In the first stage, consumers assess the functional and technical quality of a product based on objective criteria such as product specifications and performance. In the second stage, consumers evaluate the psychological quality of a product, based on their perceptions and beliefs about the product. These perceptions may be influenced by factors such as brand reputation, packaging, and advertising (Koech et al., 2023; Oh et al., 2023). Furtherm<sup>60</sup>, this theory also suggests that the importance of each component of product quality may vary depending on the product category. For example, functional quality may be more critical for products such as electronics and appliances, while psychological quality may be more important for luxury goods and fashion items. In the end, this theory provides a useful framework for understanding how consumers evaluate product quality. By considering the functional, technical, and psychological components of product quality, marketers and managers can develop effective strategies to influence consumers' perceptions and purchase decisions (Zheng et al., 2022). However, the theory is not without limitations, and future research should aim to address these gaps to provide a more comprehensive understanding of product quality evaluation.

#### Attitude toward Content Creator

The rise of social media has given birth to a new breed of influencers, known as content creators. These individuals have large online followings and create content in various for such as videos, photos, and blogs. As a result, the concept of attitude toward content creators has emerged as an important area of research in the field of marketing (Silva et al., 2014). Attitude toward content creators refers to the positive or negative feelings and beliefs that consumate hold toward these individuals (Nawi et al., 2023). The attitude is formed based on various factors, including the quality and relevance of the content, the perceived expertise of the creator, and the perceived authenticity of the creator's persona (Kaba et al., 2023). A positive attitude toward a content creator can lead to increased engagement with their content, increased brand loyalty, and increased purchase intention. In this case, consumers' attitudes tow 13 content creators are heavily influenced by the perceived authenticity of the creator. Consumers are more likely to have a positive attitude toward a creator who they perceive as being genuine and honest in their content. This perception of authenticity can be enhanced by the creator's transparency about their personal life, their struggles, and their values (Meng and Xu, 2012; Pundir et al., 2021). Moreover, another factor that influences **masumers**' attitudes toward content creators is the perceived expertise of the creator. Consumers are more likely to have a positive attitude toward a creator who they perceive as having a high level of knowledge and skill in the area they create content about. This perception of expertise can be enhanced by the creator's educational background, work experience, and their ability to provide informative and insightful content (Djafarova and Foots, 2022; Hosen et al., 2022).

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#### 2.4 Perceived content quality

Perceived content quality is the subjective evaluation of the overall quality of a piece of content, which in the audiovisual content, written content, and other types of media. This erest ution is based on an individual's subjective perceptions and expectations of the content (Asante et al., 2023; Chuenyindee et al., 2022). Perceived content cality is a vital factor that influences people's decision to consume, engage, and share content. It is essential for content creators, marketers, and advertisers to understand the importance of perceived content quality, as it directly impacts the audience's attiggte and behavior towards the content (Filieri et al., 2023). Perceived content quality is determined by various factors such as visual appeal, audio quality, relevance, and credibility. The visual appeal of a piece of content, such as video content, includes factors such as resolution, color, brightness, and contrast, which can significantly influence the viewer's perception of the content's quality. Similarly, audio quality is an essential factor that can impact the viewer's perception of the content's quality. The audio quality includes factors such as background noise, clarity, volume, and tone. The relevance of the content to the viewer's interests, needs, and preferences is another critical factor that can influence the perceived content quality. Credibility, which refers to the trustworthiness and expertise of the content creator, is also an essential factor that can impact the perceived notent quality (Muda and Hamzah, 2021). Perceived content quality has a significant impact on people's intention to consume, engage, and share the content. When people perceive the content to be of high quality, they are more likely to consume it for a more extended period, engage with it by commenting, liking, or sharing it, and recommend it to others. In contrast, when people perceive the content to be of low quality, they are more likely to abandon it quickly, disengage with it, and avoid sharing or recommending it to others. Therefore, content creators, marketers, and advertisers need to focus on enhancing the perceived content quality to attract and retain their target audience and achieve their desired outcomes (Dabbous & Barakat, 2020; Wilson and Edelyn, 2022).

# 2.5 Subjective Norm

Subjective norm refers to the perceived social pressure or expectation to engage or not engage in a particular behavior (Sciarelli *et al.*, 2021; Shurrab *et al.*, 2019; Obrenovic *et al.*, 2022). It is a crucial component of the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), developed by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975). The subjective approximation construct acknowledges the influence of social factors in shaping an individual's intention of engage in a particular behavior. According to TRA, subjective norm is determined by the individual's perception of what significant others, such as family members, peers, and authority figure 55 hink they should do. The subjective norm can be either positive or negative, and it is affected by the individual's beliefs about how much the significant others value the behavior and how much influence they have over the individual's behavior (Ture and Ganesh, 2018). The subjective norm construct plays a crucial role in understanding human behavior in a social context. It helps to explain why individuals may behave differently in different social situations. For instance, an individual may be less likely to engage in an unhealthy behavior such as smoking if they perceive that their peers do not approve of it. Conversely, an individual may be more likely to engage in a healthy behavior such as exercising if they perceive that their significant others value it (Wilson, 2022; Kaba *et al.*, 2023).

#### 2.6 Intention and Behavior

Intention and behavior are two concepts that the closely related to each other, especially when it comes to the comparison of the second secon

# 2.7 The effect of attitude toward Content Creator on people's intention to watch and watch behavior 17

Over time, there has been a significant increase in the number of contents published or posted on YouTube, along with a singur trend of people creating their own personalized accounts and selfcreated videos (Törhönen et al., 2020; Byun et al., 2022). YouTube content creators have the freedom to create and post their videos on their respective channels at their own convenience, as long as they are deemed appropriate by YouTube systems. However, with the increasing number of creators and similar content themes, it has become crucial for creators to ensure that their videos match their expertise and experience (Przybyła & Soto, 2021; Forzani et al., 2022; Baudier et al., 2023). This is because viewers are more likely to trust and find credible content created by individuals with relevant professional experience or expertise. For instance, people are more likely to trust and find credible "pro-gamers" who create videos on how to play certain games than non-"pro-gamers" creating similar videos. Similarly, the credibility of football players creating and posting videos on how to play football properly would be higher compared to nor postablers. When viewers deem the information or contents conveyed by certain creators to be credible and trustworthy, they are more likely to watch their videos, which could enhance the probability of Watching the same contents in the future. Based on these arguments, authors formulated the following hypotheses:

*H1*. Attitude toward Content Creator significantly affect people's intention to watch

H2. Attitude toward Content Creator significantly affect people's watch behavior H3. Attitude toward Content Creator significantly affect people's watch behavior through intention to watch

2.8 The effect of Perceived content quality on people's intention to watch and watch behavior The number of YouTube content creators and videos on the platform continue to grow, providing viewers with a vast selection of content. However, with so many videos available, viewers may struggle to choose which one to watch. Quality is a key factor that influences viewers' decisionmaking process (Dabbous & Barakat, 2020). Exceptional perceived content and editing quality can increase a viewer's willingness to watch a video and make them more likely 55 Watch the same video in the future (Onofrei et al., 2022; Lee et al., 2020). Personal judgement plays an important role in determining the quality of a video and can affect a viewer's experience. With millions of videos available on the platform, viewers' assessments of the video's quality can determine whether they choose to watch a particular video over others with similar themes (Dabbous & Barakat, 2020). Based on these arguments, authors formulated the following hypotheses:

H4. Perceived content quality significantly affects people's intention to watch

H5. Perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behaviorH6. Perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch

The effect of Subjective Norm on people's intention to watch and watch behavior Subjective norm, de to ed as an individual's perception of social pressure to perform or not to perform a behavior, has been shown to have a significant impact on people's intention to perform a particular behavior and their actual behavior (Tan et al., 2022; Osatuyi and Turel, 2019). This is particularly true when it comes to the behavior of watching videos on online platforms like YouTube. Several studies have shown that people's subjective norm significantly influences their intention to watch certain videos and their actual behavior of watching. In the context of YouTube, subjective norm is influenced by various factors, including the opinions of others, social norms, and cultural values. The opinions of others, especially those of people whom an individual values or respects, can significantly influence their subjective norm towards watching certain videos on YouTube (Kumari et al., 2022). For instance, if a celebrity that an individual admires shares a video on their social media page, that individual's subjective norm towards watching that video may increase due to the influence of the celebrity's opinion. Similarly, if a friend or family member recommends a video, an individual may be more likely to watch it due to the influence of their opinion. These opinions can also be shaped by social norms and cultural values. For example, in some cultures, it may be considered inappropriate to watch certain types of content, while in others, it may be encouraged.

Furthermore, research has shown that 20 bjective norm can also influence people's actual behavior (Aksoy and Abdulfani, 2019; Wu *et al.*, 2022; Sciarelli *et al.*, 2021). In regard to the context of Video published on YouTube, when individuals perceive that their friends, family, or social media connections approve of or engage in watching certain videos, their own behavior is likely to be influenced. This is because individuals tend to conform to the expectations of those around them in order to gain social acceptance and approval. On the other hand, if individuals perceive that those around them do not engage in watching certain videos or disapprove of them, they may be less likely to watch them. By understanding the impact of subjective norm, content creators can create content that appeals to their target audience and increases their likelihood of watching and sharing the video with their social connections (Mangafic *et al.*, 2017; Ryu and Ko, 2019). Based on these arguments, authors formulated the following hypotheses:

*H7*. Subjective norm significantly affects people's intention to watch

H8. Subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior

H9. Subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch

#### 2.10 The effect of Intention to Watch on Watch Behavior

Numerous studies in the past few decades have emphasized the significance of intention in predicting whether or not a particular behavior will be performed since intention always preceded behavior (Urumsah, 2015; Japutra & Keni, 2020; Keni et al., 2022). Thus, the strength of an individual's intention to engage i a certain behavior is critical in determining whether or not they will perform it. When people's intention to engage in a particular behavior is weak, the likelihood of them executing it will be low, and vice versa (V56 son et al., 2021; Hoxha & Hoxha, 2022). As a result, it is unsurprising that intention is regarded as one of the most important and 59 dely studied variables in marketing research since an actual behavior will not occur without an individual's intention to engage in such behavior (Upadhyay et al., 2022). Based on these arguments, authors formulated the following hypothesis:

H10. People's intention to watch significantly affect people's watch behavior

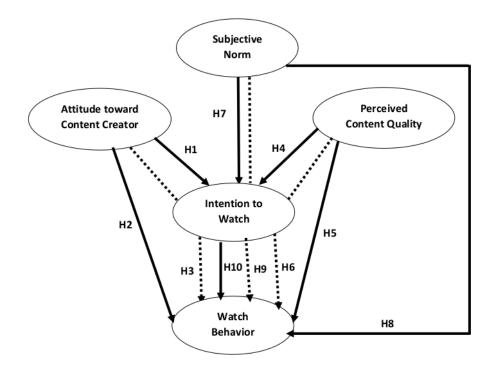


Figure 1. Proposed conceptual framework

Source: Authors' own work

#### 3 Methodology

Using a quantitative-survey approach, this research utilizes questionnaires as form of tools used to gather the entire data required for the completion of this study. Next, purposive sampling method gas adapted into this research with the purpose of ensuring that the entire individuals or respondents when participate in this research had fully conformed with all of the criteria determined by the authors. In regard to this criteria, respondents should be individuals who've been watching YouTube contents at least 3 (three) hours a day for the past 8 months. Furthermore, the videos that respondents watched were limited only to Videos posted by any of these YouTube content creators: Ria Ricis, Atta Halilintar, Jess No Limit, RANS, Baim Paula, Miawaug, Gen Halilintar, Tanboy Kun, and Nihonggo Mantappu. The reason as of why these creators were included is mainly because all of these creators had been ranked as some of the most subscribed YouTube content creators (or channels) in Indonesia as of 2023 (Taslaud, 2023; AJ Marketing, 2023) In order to ensure that these respondents conformed to this criteria, questionnaires distributed to these respondents were separated into three main sections, namely screening questions, respondents' profile and questions regarding the measurement of all variables proposed in this study. In total, after gathering all data for around 3 months, a total of 156 data were successfully collected from all respondents, in which a total of 112 data were deemed usable to be further analyzed in this study. These amount of data were deemed sufficient for this study, as these amount of data had far exceeded the minimum number of sample size stated by Gorsuch (1983), Hatcher (1994), and Suhr

(2006) who collaboratively argue that a minimum sample size in a restort should be 5 times the amount of indicators included in the study (sample-to-item ratio). In this case, the minimum sample size of this research is 100, since the amount of indicators used in this study were 20.

Furthermete, regarding the measurement of all variables in this study (as presented in figure 1), there are a total of 20 indicators or items explaining all five variables adopted in this research (as shown in table 1). Indicators explaining Attitude toward Content Creator were adapted from Wei & Li (2013) and Munir *et al.*, (2019), while indicators representing Perceived Content Quality were adapted from Liu *et al.*, (2017). Furthermore, indicators representing subjective norm were adopted and modified from Olga *et al.*, (2019). Moreover, Indicators representing both intention to watch and watch behavior were adopted from Laparojkit & Suttipun (2022) and Olga *et al.*, (2019). All of these indicators were modified in order to ensure that the wording of all indicators match or conform with the topic or study setting discussed in this study. Next, in order to measure all variables, a 7-point likert scales were adopted, in which, responders 'responses toward every single indicator provided within the questionnaire will vary between "1" (strongly disagree) to "7" (strongly agree).

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#### 4 Results and discussions

#### 4.1 Respondents' descriptive analysis

All 112 data were assessed using PLS-SEM method using SmartPLS 4 software, in which, four important sequential steps need to be performed one after another before analyses regarding the effect given by 1 variable toward the others could be performed. These four steps were the respondents' descriptive analyses, common method bias test, the outer model analyses, and the inner model analyses. The respondent's profile analym was conducted was aimed at obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study. This was accomplished by analyzing the demographic data of the respondents, including their app gender, educational background, and psychographic behavior regarding the research topic. The findings of this analysis revealed that the majority of the respondents were femalage constituting 58.03% of the total sample. Furthermore, it was observed that a large number of respondents had obtained a bachelor's degree as their highest educational qualification, accounting for 87.5% of the sample. Additionally, it was found that most of the participants accessed YouTube for a significant amount of time, ranging from 4 to 8 hours per day for the past 8 months. These results are indicative of the fact that the study has been conducted on a sample that is representative of the general population, given that the majority of the respondents are well-educated females who have a significant amount of exposure to YouTube. The findings also suggest that these respondents are likely to have a deep understanding and appreciation of the research topic, thereby providing insightful and valuable data for the study.

# 4.2 Common method bias analysis 43

Common method bias might occur when both the independent and dependent variables were measured using the same instrument at the same time by the same respondent. Therefore, since all of the variables (both the independent, mediating and dependent variables) were measured at the same time using the same questionnaire, a common method bias analysis in a form of a multicollinearity test was conducted in order to ensure that multicollinearity didn't exist in this study. Using VIF as the main indicators, multicollinearity didn't exist when the VIF value of all variables were well below 10 (VIF  $\leq$  10). Based on the multicollinearity assessment perform in this study (as presented in table 2), the VIF value of all variables were well below 10, thus confirming that this study is free from multicollinearity.

#### 4.3 Outer model analysis

Next, the outer model assessment was erformed with the purpose of detecting the validity of the data, together with ensuring that all of the data gathered from the respondents were reliable. In performing this assessment, several criteria as shown in table 3 need to be satisfied in order for all of the data to be deemed as reliable and valid (Wilson et al., 2019). Meanwhile, the results of the outer model assessment performed in this study were shown on table 4 and 5 respectively.

#### 4.4 Inner model analysis

The last step of this PLS-SEM assessment, namely the inner model assessment, was specifically performed with the purpose of analyzing the impact of effect provided by one variable toward the others. In this study, this means that the results of the inner model assessment will be used to determine how both perceived content quality and Attitude toward Content Creator play their respective roles in both directly and indirectly affecting viewers' intention to watch – and Watch behavior – toward videos or contents posted on YouTube. Using a 90% legel of significance, relationship or impact given by one variable toward the others was deemed significant if the p-value of such relationship is lower than 0.10, was deemed not significant if the p-value of such relationship is greater than 0.10. The results of the inner model assessment were presented on table 6, while the results of the mediating effect tested in this research were presented on table 7.

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Based on the results of the path coefficient and the mediation assessment presented on table 5 and 6 respectively, it could be seen that the p-value of all relationships had been below the cut off points of 0.10, thus confirming that all relationships in this study were significant. Moreover, all hypotheses posited in this study were also supported, which imply that both variable – Attitude toward Content Creator and perceived content quality – play significant roles in affecting both people's watch and Watch behavior toward various contents published on YouTube. The first hypothesis protect that Attitude toward Content Creator significantly affect people's intention to watch. With a p-value of 0.000 which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), then it can be concluded that the first hypothesis (H1) was supported. Next, the second hypothesis posited that Attitude toward Content Creator significantly affect people's Watch behavior toward the same contents. With a p-value of 0.034 which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), then it can be concluded that the second hypothesis (H2) was also supported.

Moreover, Next, the third hypothesis posited that Attitude toward Content Creator stapificantly affect people's Watch behavior toward the same contents in an indirect mannee With a p-value of 0.015 which is lower than 0.10 (0.000 < 0.10), then it can be concluded that the third hypothesis (H3) was supported. Next, both the fourth and fifth hypothesis posited that perceived content quality significantly affect people's intention to watch, and received content quality significantly affect people's Watch behavior toward the same contents respectively. With a p-value of 0.006 (for H4) and 0.003 (for H5) which are lower than 0.10, then it can be concluded that both the fourth (H4) and the fifth (H5) hypothesis were also supported. Moreover, the sixth, seventh, and eighth hypothesis propose that perceived content quality significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch, subjective norm significantly affects people's intention to watch, and subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior respectively. With a p-value of 0,075 (for H6), 0.011 (for H7), and 0.049 (for H8) which are lower than 0.10, then it can also be concluded that H6, H7 and H8 were supported. Last, both the ninth and tenth hypothesis posited that Subjective norm significantly affects people's watch behavior through intention to watch, and people's intention to watch significantly affect people's Watch behavior. With a p-value of 0.001 (for H9) and 0.014 (for H10) which are lower than 0.10, then it can be concluded that both H9 and H10 were also supported.

#### 4.5 Discussions

This study attempt to integrate (and adopt) both the TRA and perceived quality theory to explain factors which were hypothesized could affect or influence one's intention – and ultimately Watch behavior - to watch videos or contents on YouTube. Based on the results of the data palyses presented on the previous section, it can be concluded that three factors – which are Attitude

ward Content Creator, Subjective Norms and perceived content quality – play important and significant roles in determining or affecting one's intention to watch – and actual watch behavior– video contents posted on YouTube. As what have been discussed before, Attitude toward Content Creator refers to whether or not all of the information or contents published/posted by certain individuals (also known as the creator) were trustable and valid. Similarly, the concept of Attitude toward Content Creator could also refer to viewers' personal judgement regarding whether or not there's a conformity between the creators' expertise and the content or information that these creators want to show within the contents that they made. In regard to such concept, more and more new creators were actively creating their own YouTube channel on the platform, while actively posting or publishing their own contents in a regular manner. These trends had inadvertently increase the competition among these creators themselves, considering that there have been many cases where a content creator was creating contents with certain themes or concept which actually have been used or published by another creator, which in turns create a condition where more than one creator were creating and posting similar – albeit different – videos on the same platform. In this case, people's judgement or assessment toward the credibility of the creator could play a defining role in affecting viewers' decision or intention to watch one content relatives to the other similar contents available on YouTube. When viewers argue that all of the information conveyed by certain creators were deemed trustworthy and match the creators' field of expertise, then such judgement will enhance people's willingness or intention toward watching such content, which ultimately will lead to the same group of viewers Watching the same contents in the future. Problems might occur when certain creators decided to create certain contents which actually didn't match their field of expertise, in which, such step could lead people to believe that all of the information provided within the video were questionable, which, other than lowering people's assessment toward the credibility of the creator, it can also lead viewers to find another similar video which was created by a more trustable (and credible) individual. Moreover, this result also matched the results obtained by previous other studies which also found the significance of attitude a determining people's intention and actual behavior (Venciute *et al.*, 2023; Doung, 2023; Garcia et al., 2022; Keshavarz et al., 2021; Mukherjee and Chandra, 2022; Park et al., 2022)

Meanwhile, in a similar manner, another factor which had been proven to be significant in affecting both of people's watch and Watch behavior toward contents published on YouTube is the quality of the contents themselves. Since there have been numerous contents of similar themes being published in YouTube from time to time, then it was understandable then other than the credibility of those who actually created the video, the judgement or perception made by the viewers regarding whether or not the quality of the video was satisfactory could affect people's judgement toward choosing to watch one video over the other videos. The indicator that people normally used to measure or judge the quality of the video that they watch tend to be different among people, in which, while some people argue that the quality of a video should be judged based on the editing skills and quality applied to the video itself, some also argue that the quality of the content within the video itself was important to entice and retain viewers. In this case, when viewers argue or believe that the overal quality of the video that they watch was deemed satisfactory, exceeded expectations or good, then there's a high chance that these same viewers will Watch the same video in the future, and vice versa. This finding also matched the results obtained by previ<sub>775</sub> other studies which also found the significance of perceived quality in determining people's intention and actual behavior (Dokcen *et al.*, 2021; Khare and Pandey, 2017; Rosillo-Diaz *et al.*, 2020; Sharif *et al.*, 2023; Soh *et al.*, 2017; Kaswengi and Lambey-Chechhin, 2020; Bei and Chai, 2006; Espejel *et al.*, 2009).

Lastly, the findings of this study demonstrate the importance of subjective norm in shaping the integion to watch and actual watch behavior of Indonesian YouTube viewers. Subjective norm refers to an individual's perception of social pressure or expectations from others, such as famil<sup>9</sup> friends, or peers, in a given situation. The impact of subjective norm is particularly significant in predicting an individual's likelihood to watch a specific video. If an individual perceives a strong subjective norm to watch a video, it can influence their intention to watch it, as they may feel motivated by the social expectations from their network. For instance, if a group of friends strongly recommends a video, an individual may be more inclined to watch it to avoid social disapproval or disappointment. Conversely, if there is no perceived social pressure or norm to watch a particular video, an individual may be less likely to watch it. This finding also matched the results obtained by previous other studies which also found the 24 jgnificance of subjective norm in determining people's intention and actual behavior (Nguyen *et al.*, 2023; Abd-Mutalib *et al.*, 2023; Shou *et al.*, 2022; Balikcioglu *et al.*, 2022; Nair, 2021; Ashraf *et al.*, 2019; Wong *et al.*, 2020; Agbetunde *et al.*, 2022).

#### 5

## 5 Conclusions and suggestions

#### 5.1 Conclusions and managerial implications

Based on the results obtained and discussed in the previous sections of this study, authors concluded that both Attitude toward Content Creator and perceived content quality had proven to be two significant and positive antecedents - both directly and indirectly - of people's intention to watch and Watch behavior toward contents or videos published on YouTube. Based on these findings, authors suggest that content creators all around the globe (especially from Indonesia) to always pay a strict and foremost attention toward what kind of contents that they're creating, together with the editing quality of the contents themselves in order to ensure that people's interest and excitement toward watching the content will always be high. Furthermore, each creator should also ensure that all of the contents that they try to create (and post on YouTube) should match or conform with the expertise, skills or experience that they had relative to the video that they're trying to make in order to boost their credibility. For example, the credibility of a former football coach making a video about football-related contents will surely be higher than an ordinary individual (with no prior experience in football) who try to make the same video. Moreover, the credibility of a statistic teacher making a video about statistics-related contents will surely be higher than a tennis player who try to make a similar video. In this case, the higher the credibility of a content creator, the higher the number of people watching their video will be, considering that high credibility level that a creator possess imply that such creator is more trustworthy compare to the others. Moreover, considering that more than half of the population living in Indonesia are practicing Islam content creators should ensure that their YouTube content aligns with the values, rules, and norms of Islam. Failure to do so could result in negative consequences for both the quality of the content and the creator's reputation. If a video is perceived as inappropriate or

offensive to Islam, viewers may develop a negative attitude towards the creator and be discouraged from watching any future videos. As such, it is essential for content creators to exercise caution and sensitivity when creating content for this audience.

#### 5.2 Theoretical implication

This research contributes to the development of marketing literatures by assessing factors affecting people's willingness – and actual behavior – to watch YouTube videos in Indonesia from the perspectives of both the theory of reasoned action (TRA) and perceived quality theory from which the conceptual framework of this study was derived. While most studies tend to implement both theory of reasoned action (TRA) and perceived quality to predict people's buying intention toward tangible products (goods), this study had proven and showed that both theories or concepts could also be used to predict people's behavior toward intangible product. Furthermore, while most studies tend to only assess individual's behavior using a single theory, this study had proven that both TRA and perceived quality theory could be integrated or merged together to explain people or consumers' behavior. Moreover, this is also one of a few studies which attempt to understand people's behavior toward watching YouTube videos from the perspective of both theory of reasoned action (TRA) and perceived quality theory, since other previous studies which attempt to study people's engagement or behavior toward videos posted on YouTube tend to use another concepts, frameworks or theories other than these two framework.

#### 5.3 Directions for future research

Despite the rigorous nature of this study, some limitations still exist. First, this study was solely performed in Indonesia. Considering the differences of behavior between people in Indonesia and the other people living in the other country, further study was recommended to be performed in order to boost the generalizability of this concept. Second, this study was also solely discussed about the content published on YouTube, in which, such fact might render the results obtained in this study difficult to be applied on different types of contents published or posted on the other media platforms. Therefore, further studies were suggested for future authors to re-test the conceptual frame of this study was performed during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, this study might yield different results if this research was performed before or after the pandemic condition. Therefore, future authors were also recommended to replicate this study to further assess the relationships between factors posited in this research during the post-pandemic era.

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Table 1 Indicators/measurements used to measure all variables in this study

Variable	C <sub>65</sub> ing	Indicator
Attitude toward	CC1	Creator "X" is dependable
Content Creator		
	CC2	All of the information conveyed by creator "X" is trustworthy
	CC3	Creator "X" is reliable
	CC4	Creator "X" is sincere
Perceived	CQ1	I think the video that I watch is of high quality
content quality		
	CQ2	I perceive this video is well made
	CQ3	I think the video that I watch is pleasing
	CQ4	I think the video that I watch is informative
	CQ5	think the editing quality of this video is great
Intention to	IW1	I will encourage my friends to watch this video
Watch		
	IW2	I will say positive things about this video to the others
	IW3	I won't switch to the other similar videos created by the other
		creators
Watch behavior	RW1	I plan to Watch this video in this future
	RW2	It is highly likely for me to Watch this video in this future
	RW3	I intend to watch this video continually
Subjective	SN1	My parents think that watching Videos posted by "X" is a good
Norm		idea
	SN2	My colleagues think that watching Videos posted by "X" is a
		good idea
	SN3	My parents often watch Videos posted by "X" is a good idea
	SN4	My colleagues often watch Videos posted by "X" is a good idea
	SN5	My parents support my decision to watch Videos posted by "X"

Source: Authors' own work

Table 2 Multicollinearity Analysis

	SN	ATT	INT	WBH	PCQ
SN			1,120		1,104
ATT			1,747		1,453
INT					
WBH					1,461
PCQ			1,807		,

Source: Authors' own work

### Table 3 Criteria need to be satisfied at the outer model analysis

	-	
Criteria	Validity/Reliability	Requirement need to be satisfied
Factor	Convergent validity	The loading of every indicator need to exceed 0,60
loading		42
Average	Convergent validity	The AVE of every variable need to exceed 0,50
variance		
extracted		
(AVE)		
Composite	Reliability	The composite reliability of every variable need to
reliability		57 exceed 0,70
Cronbach's	Reliability	The composite reliability of every variable need to
alpha		exceed 0,70 7
HTMT	Discriminant	The HTMT value of all variable need to be lower than
	validity	0,90
Correct Artho		

Source: Authors' own work

53ble 4 Outer model assessment (convergent validity & reliability)

		, ,		66	
Variable	Coding	Loading	AVE	Composite	Cronbach's
	_			Reliability	Alpha
Attitude toward	CC1	0.790	0.745	0.921	0.885
Content Creator	CC2	0.876			
	CC3	0.866			
	CC4	0.917			
Perceived	CQ1	0.878	0.777	0.946	0.929
content quality	CQ2	0.893			
1 2	CQ3	0.866			
	CQ4	0.903			
	CQ5	0.865			
Intention to	IW1	0.826	0.667	0.857	0.753
Watch	IW2	0.805			
	IW3	0.820			
Supjective	SN1	0.845	0.693	<mark>0</mark> .877	0.835
Norm	SN2	0.852			
	SN3	0.740			
	SN4	0.882			
	SN5	0.836			
Watch behavior	WB1	0.915	0.865	0.951	0.922
	WB2	0.940			
	WB3	0.935			

Source: Authors' own work

# Table 5Outer model assessment (HTMT value)

Variable	Attitude toward Content	Perceived content quality	Intention to Watch	Watch behavior	Subjective Norm
	Creator				
Attitude toward					
Content Creator					
Perceived content	0.476				
quality					
Intention to Watch	0.362	0.592			
Watch behavior	0.270	0.579	0.724		
Subjective Norm	0.292	0.697	0.660	0.587	

Source: Authors' own work

## Table 6

Inner model assessment - path coefficient

		Significant Significant
).353 (	0.034	Significant
).353 (	0.034	Significant
).229 (	0.006	Significant
0.269 0	0.003	Significant
).369 (	0.014	Significant
0.332 0	0.011	Significant
) 276 (	0.049	Significant
	).369 ( ).332 (	0.369 0.014 9 0.332 0.011 9

Source: Authors' own work

## Table 7

 ${\it Inner\ model\ assessment-mediating\ effect\ assessment}$ 

Relationship	Original Sample (O)	p-Value	Result	Mediating Status
Attitude toward Content Creator → Intention to watch → Watch behavior	0.223	<mark>0</mark> .015	Significant	Partial mediation
Attitude toward Content Creator → Watsi Behavior	0.353	0.034	Significant	
Perceived content quality → Intention to watch → Watch behavior	0.084	0.075	Significant	Partial mediation

Perceived content quality → Watch Behavior	0.269	0.003	Significant	
Subjective Norm $\rightarrow$ Intention to	0.471	0.001	Significant	Partial
watch $\rightarrow$ Watch Behavior				mediation
Subjective Norm $\rightarrow$ Watch	0.276	0.049	Significant	
Behavior			_	
Source: Authors' own work				

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Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the Journal of Islamic Marketing and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely, Prof. Jonathan Wilson Editor, Journal of Islamic Marketing jw@islamicmarketing.co.uk

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Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author: Reviewer: 1

Recommendation: Reject

Comments: It does not have an adequate sample.

Additional Questions:

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1. Originality: Does the paper contain new and significant information adequate to justify publication?: Not so much.

2. Relationship to Literature: Does the paper demonstrate an adequate understanding of the relevant literature in the field and cite an appropriate range of literature sources? Is any significant work ignored?: Yes.

3. Methodology: Is the paper's argument built on an appropriate base of theory, concepts, or other ideas? Has the research or equivalent intellectual work on which the paper is based been well designed? Are the methods employed appropriate?: Yes.

4. Results: Are results presented clearly and analysed appropriately? Do the conclusions adequately tie together the other elements of the paper?: its ok.

5. Implications for research, practice and/or society: Does the paper identify clearly any implications for research, practice and/or society? Does the paper bridge the gap between theory and practice? How can the research be used in practice (economic and commercial impact), in teaching, to influence public policy, in research (contributing to the body of knowledge)? What is the impact upon society (influencing public attitudes, affecting quality of life)? Are these implications consistent with the findings and conclusions of the paper?: Not so much

6. Quality of Communication: Does the paper clearly express its case, measured against the technical language of the field and the expected knowledge of the journal's readership? Has attention been paid to the clarity of expression and readability, such as sentence structure, jargon use, acronyms, etc.: ok

Reviewer: 2

Recommendation: Major Revision

Comments:

I feel that Figure 1 and 2 are not providing any value addition to the manuscript. Further, Figure 2 could be included in the manuscript with a single sentence.

There are many sections, were references need to be included. For instance, page 3 has a large paragraph, with not even a single reference.

Additional Questions:

1. Originality: Does the paper contain new and significant information adequate to justify publication?: Yes. The manuscript does

2. Relationship to Literature: Does the paper demonstrate an adequate understanding of the relevant literature in the field and cite an appropriate range of literature sources? Is any significant work ignored?: It would be ideal to have a separate section for theory in the Literature review section.

I dont see a strong link between the literature and the hypotheses, which needs to be addressed.

3. Methodology: Is the paper's argument built on an appropriate base of theory, concepts, or other ideas? Has the research or equivalent intellectual work on which the paper is based been well designed? Are the methods employed appropriate?: Please do explain how you identified the respondents.

The authors could do well to present the demographics of the sample.

How about Common method bias (CMV)?

4. Results: Are results presented clearly and analysed appropriately? Do the conclusions adequately tie together the other elements of the paper?: The results are presented clearly and analysed appropriately.

5. Implications for research, practice and/or society: Does the paper identify clearly any implications for research, practice and/or society? Does the paper bridge the gap between theory and practice? How can the research be used in practice (economic and commercial impact), in teaching, to influence public policy, in research (contributing to the body of knowledge)? What is the impact upon society (influencing public attitudes, affecting quality of life)? Are these implications consistent with the findings and conclusions of the paper?: In the discussion section, the authors need to compare the results with existing research, which is not seen attempted.

#### Why not theoretical implications?

6. Quality of Communication: Does the paper clearly express its case, measured against the technical language of the field and the expected knowledge of the journal's readership? Has attention been paid to the clarity of expression and readability, such as sentence structure, jargon use, acronyms, etc.: Please do redraft the abstract, particularly purpose. A professional copy editing would be advised.

Reviewer: 3

#### **Recommendation: Major Revision**

#### Comments:

The paper "Antecedents of viewers' re-watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous Muslim-majority country" deals with a potentially interesting topic for managers and researchers. Yet, I have some major concerns regarding the contribution of this particular paper that I will discuss in the following.

The authors need to position the paper much clearer and derive a much clearer research gap. Whereas I understand what they are doing, I understand much less what the main reference literature is and what we need to understand better relative to what we already know based on this literature. What do we already know about engagement with YouTube content? The authors need to do an even better job in contrasting what we already know with what we need to know in this regard. Another issue that requires clearer communication is the role of different factors as drivers for consumer engagement with YouTube content. There is a lot of research on drivers of consumer engagement, so the authors need to justify even better, why proposed factors, i.e., content quality and creator credibility matter above and beyond the existing drivers. Finally, we need to understand much better the role of content quality and creator credibility. To what extent do these factors matter and inform or influence the results? Thus, overall, the authors need to derive a much clearer research gap and based on this also clear research questions.

You need to find a theoretical framework that supports your study's hypotheses and research objectives. Furthermore, you need to re-write the manuscript in a way that it becomes relevant to the readership of the Journal of Islamic Marketing. Don't make generalised statements without a reference supporting such statements, e.g., "Next, the fact that the number of content creators post or publish their videos on YouTube platform rises from time to time, has also significantly increase the number of videos or contents that people could access on YouTube within the same timeframe. In this case, people or viewers all around the world are given an ultimate freedom in determining which videos that people want to watch from millions of videos available on the platform".

Your hypotheses H2, H3, and H6 are not informed by relevant literature. I shall suggest you find theoretical support for these hypotheses. Similarly, H7 does not make any sense as why to people's intention to watch content will lead to rewatch behaviour. You need to develop hypotheses that should make sense theoretically.

In the discussion section, you must relate the findings of your study to existing research. You need to explain if your results are supporting or contradicting existing research and give the reasons for such results.

#### Additional Questions:

1. Originality: Does the paper contain new and significant information adequate to justify publication?: There are a number of studies published on the topic. For instance, Khan (2017), Munaro et al. (2020), and Muda and Hamzah (2021) have investigated the factors that can enhance engagement with YouTube content or attitude towards YouTube content. The authors need to position the paper by highlighting the inadequacy of existing research on the topic.

• Muda, M., & Hamzah, M. I. (2021). Should I suggest this YouTube clip? The impact of UGC source credibility on eWOM and purchase intention. Journal of Research in Interactive Marketing, 15(3), 441-459.

• Khan, M. L. (2017). Social media engagement: What motivates user participation and consumption on YouTube?. Computers in human behavior, 66, 236-247.

• Munaro, A. C., Hübner Barcelos, R., Francisco Maffezzolli, E. C., Santos Rodrigues, J. P., & Cabrera Paraiso, E. (2021). To engage or not engage? The features of video content on YouTube affecting digital consumer engagement. Journal of consumer behaviour, 20(5), 1336-1352.

2. Relationship to Literature: Does the paper demonstrate an adequate understanding of the relevant literature in the field and cite an appropriate range of literature sources? Is any significant work ignored?: In my analysis of the study, I was unable to locate the theoretical framework that informed the research question or hypotheses. Although the author(s) mentioned that the study modifies and merges the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) and product quality theory, it was not clear how this objective was achieved. Additionally, the limited number of citations - only two research papers from the Journal of Islamic Marketing - raises questions about the relevance of the paper to the scope of the Journal of Islamic Marketing.

3. Methodology: Is the paper's argument built on an appropriate base of theory, concepts, or other ideas? Has the research or equivalent intellectual work on which the paper is based been well designed? Are the methods employed appropriate?: An overarching theory is missing. A sample of 112 respondents is not large enough. You need to justify that the sample size is adequate. You need to show how did you adopt/adapt the indicator variables. I could not find content quality and watch/re-watch measures in Wang et al.'s (2020) study. You need to explain why conducting this research in a Muslim-majority country matters to theory and application.

4. Results: Are results presented clearly and analysed appropriately? Do the conclusions adequately tie together the other elements of the paper?: A commonly adopted significance level in research is 0.05, which means that there is a 5% chance of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is actually true. By adopting a significance level of 0.1 you are making a Type-1 error where you are rejecting the null hypothesis when it is true. Following this reasoning, your H6 should not be supported.

5. Implications for research, practice and/or society: Does the paper identify clearly any implications for research, practice and/or society? Does the paper bridge the gap between theory and practice? How can the research be used

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in practice (economic and commercial impact), in teaching, to influence public policy, in research (contributing to the body of knowledge)? What is the impact upon society (influencing public attitudes, affecting quality of life)? Are these implications consistent with the findings and conclusions of the paper?: Implications for theory are missing. Practical implications are adequate.

6. Quality of Communication: Does the paper clearly express its case, measured against the technical language of the field and the expected knowledge of the journal's readership? Has attention been paid to the clarity of expression and readability, such as sentence structure, jargon use, acronyms, etc.: Yes



## Journal of Islamic Marketing - JIMA-01-2023-0008.R1

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27-Apr-2023

Dear Dr. Keni:

Your revised manuscript entitled "Antecedents of viewers' watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous muslim-majority country" has been successfully submitted online and is presently being given full consideration for publication in the Journal of Islamic Marketing.

Your manuscript ID is JIMA-01-2023-0008.R1.

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#### 30-May-2023

Dear Keni, Keni; Wilson, Nicholas; Teoh, Ai Ping

It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript JIMA-01-2023-0008.R1, entitled "Antecedents of viewers' watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous muslim-majority country" in its current form for publication in Journal of Islamic Marketing. Please note, no further changes can be made to your manuscript.

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Thank you for your contribution. On behalf of the Editors of Journal of Islamic Marketing, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.

Sincerely, Prof. Noha El-Bassiouny Editor, Journal of Islamic Marketing noha.elbassiouny@guc.edu.eg, elbassiouny.noha@gmail.com

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Dear Keni, Keni; Wilson, Nicholas; Teoh, Ai Ping,

"Antecedents of viewers' watch behavior toward YouTube videos: evidence from the most populous muslim-majority country" - JIMA-01-2023-0008.R1

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Include the article abstract (see below):

This study attempted to determine the impact of Attitude toward Content Creator, Subjective Norm and Perceived Content Quality in affecting people's intention and behavior to watch videos posted on YouTube in Indonesia. Using questionnaire, data from the total of 112 individuals living in Indonesia gathered in this study, in which, these respondents are individuals who've been watching YouTube contents at least 3 (three) hours a day for the past 8 months. Moreover, all of these data were processed and analyzed using PLS method in order to determine the impact given by one variable toward the other.

Based on the results of the analysis, authors concluded that both factors, namely content credibility and perceived content quality play significant and positive roles in determining people's intention to watch – and ultimately behavior to Watch - contents or videos published on YouTube, with the former turned out to be the stronger predictor. Current study attempts to modify and merge both the concept of theory of reasoned action (TRA) and product quality theory in order to explain Indonesians' behavior toward watching contents published on YouTube, which, to authors' knowledge, was still in rarity.

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31-May-2023

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Once you have included credit lines and in-text citations, please can you then send me the updated version of your manuscript clearly highlighting these changes.

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1) First of all, I've added all credit lines to all tables and figures presented on this manuscript

2) Next, in regard to your note concerning the absence of in-text citations for figure 1, table 1 and table 2, I would like to confirm that I've added the in-text citations for all of these aforementioned sections within the manuscript

I've highlighted all of these changes within the manuscript in Yellow

Moreover, I've attached the revised version of the manuscript within the attachment section of this email

Thank you very much, Dr. Padhy

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Keni

All is well,

Keni Fakultas Ekonomi & Bisnis Universitas Tarumanagara

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Best Regards, PC

#### Purnachandra Padhy (He/Him)

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JIMA - Journal of Islamic Marketing

Emerald Insight Date: 13-Jun-2023

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O.Ganji

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