Original Paper

Interpreting the Pseudo-formal Text Types and Identifiable

Features of Online Rumors

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Abstract

Rumors, an ancient form of mass communication, have taken on new dimensions with the rise of digital media, posing significant societal challenges. In the "post-truth era", where fact and rumor often blur, the credibility of online rumors is often enhanced by their pseudo-formal presentation, which can incite public panic with consequences ranging from individual to global levels. Understanding the style related features is essential for enhancing public discernment and fostering a robust digital communication environment. This paper examines the stylistic commonalities and modes of expression of online rumors in China, using confirmed cases to provide insights into their effective identification and mitigation. The article focuses on the types of "news reports", "announcements", "notices" and "urgent notices", analyzing how they mimic formal communication to increase their misleading nature. Strategies for identifying these rumors through stylistic attributes are proposed to bolster public media literacy and encourage rational thinking amidst information overload.

Keywords

online rumors, styles, identifiable characteristics, China

1. Introduction

In today's digital era characterized by an overload of information, online rumors have emerged as a critical societal issue due to their swift spread and potent influence. These rumors permeate all facets of

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social life, and, given their unverified status among the public, they have the potential to incite widespread panic and disorder, thereby jeopardizing the safety and stability of individuals, communities, and even the nation as a whole (Tang & Lai, 2021; Ge, 2023). In what is now termed the "post-truth era" (Wang & Zhang, 2018), the public is confronted with the unprecedented challenge of discerning credible information, as the line between fact and falsehood becomes increasingly indistinct. Consequently, the importance of recognizing and combating online rumors has never been greater.

This article seeks to provide an in-depth examination of the pseudo-formal text types of online rumors and their identifiable features, with a focus on cases within China that have been officially verified as false. By conducting a thorough analysis of the stylistic elements and discursive methods of these instances, the article aspires to uncover the commonalities among online rumors and to discuss strategies for their effective identification and mitigation. It is our conviction that grasping the stylistic nuances of online rumors is pivotal for enhancing the public's information discernment and for fostering a healthy and harmonious digital sphere. In this exploration, we begin by categorizing the prevalent text types of online rumors, such as "news reports", "announcements", "notices" and "urgent notices", and examine the tactics they employ to mimic formal communication, thereby increasing their misleading nature. Following this, we delve into the identification of online rumors through their stylistic attributes and propose strategies for recognition. It is our aim to offer the public a fresh perspective on detecting online rumors, to bolster their media literacy, and to encourage clear and rational thinking amidst the deluge of information.

2. Common Pseudo-formal Text Styles of Online Rumors

The landscape of online rumors is diverse, with a wide array of pseudo-formal text styles employed to deceive and mislead. From mimicking the structure of news reports to appropriating the authority of official announcements, these rumors exploit the public's trust in established communication formats. This section explores the various pseudo-formal text styles commonly used in online rumors, shedding light on their characteristics and the tactics they employ to spread misinformation.

2.1 "News Report" Category

A review showed that false news report has become a hot topic in rumor studies (Lu & Huang, 2024). Online rumors of this nature often exhibit the fundamental structure consisting a title, lead paragraph, body, background information, and conclusion, closely mimicking the layout of legitimate news stories and consequently exhibiting a high level of deceptiveness. A case in point is a headline article posted by the Weibo user, titled "Ministry of Foreign Affairs Introduces Frequent Traveler Passport: 141 Nations in Europe, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand to Waive Visas for Blank Passports". The title concisely encapsulated the core message, capturing the readers' attention; the lead paragraph alleged that the information came from a joint press conference convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing, and purportedly

"reported" significant statements from authoritative source (Note 1).

外交部领事司司长琼仟振在发布会上介绍在发布会上介绍,根据外交部向各个国家征得 入境政策意向整理出的清单,持常旅护照的中国公民在海外旅行时可以在多达 141 个国家 获得免签或落地签等入境优惠政策,其中不乏韩国、加拿大、新加坡、澳大利亚、新西兰与 欧洲申根地区等发达国家。同时,常旅护照的持有者会根据目的地国家的出入境政策获得较

在场发言人贾兆仕指出,为达到发达国家普遍认可的免签门槛,常旅护照将考量申请人的教育水平和信誉记录才决定予以申领。公安部出入境管理局在试点启用前将公布具体

Figure 1. Screenshot of the Online Rumor

The "report" in question invoked the authority of individuals it identified as "Director of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" and "Spokesperson at the Scene", lending an air of credibility to its content. It went so far as to fabricate a Q & A session with journalists, complemented with maps and detailed tables outlining the visa-exempt countries, which added a layer of authenticity to the fabricated narrative. This tactic is particularly appealing to the demographic of netizens who harbor a desire for spontaneous travel, as the prospect of visa-free access to 141 countries across Europe, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand is enticing. The allure of such a development is evident in the engagement metrics, with the Weibo post garnering an impressive 1.77 million views quickly. This significant traction underscores the effectiveness of the rumor's strategy in mimicking legitimate news and the need for critical media literacy among the public to discern fact from fiction in the digital age. The incident serves as a stark reminder of how rumors can exploit the public's desires and trust in official-sounding sources to spread misinformation rapidly.

2.2 "Announcement" Category

Announcements serve as formal documents for proclaiming significant or regulatory matters to audiences, typically associated with issues of public interest, such as the enactment of constitutional laws, the introduction of inflation-adjusted savings schemes, or the deployment of military and space technologies like missiles, rockets, and satellites, and other widely followed events. The entities authorized to issue such announcements are generally national authorities and administrative bodies at the provincial level or higher, with ordinary agencies and grassroots units not having the prerogative to issue them lightly. The gravity of announcements is what often lends them a high level of credibility among netizens. However, this credibility also makes them a prime target for online rumor makers, who seek to exploit the format's authority to spread misinformation.

A case in point is the notorious counterfeit "Announcement No. 47" (Note 2) relating to tax policies, which exemplifies the nature of online rumors. It began when the specialized accounting website China Accounting Vision published what it claimed to be the "State Administration of Taxation on the

Revision of Several Issues Concerning the Collection of Individual Income Tax Announcement" (Announcement No. 47), offering an interpretation of the supposed changes. Given its relevance to the highly scrutinized calculation of year-end bonus taxes, this announcement quickly gained traction online, leading to widespread circulation and debate after being reposted by several official media. The announcement garnered over ten thousand clicks in a very short period. However, it was later uncovered by public security authorities that this was an entirely fabricated message, using the State Administration of Taxation's name to deceive taxpayers. The individual responsible for the forgery, was subsequently apprehended and detained according to legal procedures.

2.3 "Notice" Category

Notices are among the most frequently utilized and diverse forms of official documentation. They are employed by administrative bodies at all levels, covering a wide array of subjects, from significant national events and pivotal policy initiatives to intricate work-related details. The versatility of notices extends to their functions, which include directing operations, enacting regulations, and disseminating or relaying documents from higher authorities or external organizations. This broad applicability, while useful, can also be exploited by purveyors of online rumors, leading to the circulation of false information on the internet.

Example 1: "The 'Belt and Road' International Cooperation Forum will be held in Beijing in May. With the approval of the State Council, except for necessary positions to ensure the forum and state events, urban operations etc., central and state organs, institutions, social organizations in Beijing, and Beijing municipal organs, institutions, and social organizations, will have a holiday from May 11th to May 16th. May 15th (Monday) and 16th (Tuesday) will be adjusted for rest, and May 7th (Sunday) and 20th (Saturday) will be working days. Enterprises and other social organizations within the administrative region of the city may arrange their own holidays according to the actual situation."

To illustrate, consider the case in example 1, an online rumor titled "Notice on Holiday Arrangements for the 'Belt and Road' International Cooperation Forum in Beijing". This fictitious notice capitalized on the public's trust in official communications to spread misinformation. It detailed a fabricated schedule of holidays for a high-profile international event, claiming that various sectors would be exempt from work during the forum. The rumor was crafted with specific dates, job roles that would continue to operate, and a comprehensive list of government bodies involved, lending an air of legitimacy to the falsehood. These elements converge to construct a seemingly authentic "holiday notice", which, on the surface, appears credible due to its alignment with the format and content one

Regulations to be Implemented on December 1—Attention to Drivers!" (Note 3) This post quickly

would expect from an official communication. What's more, such details are designed to resonate with the public's expectations of official notices, making the rumor more convincing and harder to discredit. In areas such as traffic management and legal driving practices, it's not uncommon to encounter online rumors dressed up as official notices. A notable example is a widely circulated post titled "New Traffic

spread across platforms like Weibo and WeChat Moments. It announced the impending introduction of new traffic rules, which supposedly included higher demerit points and additional regulations. As a result, many internet users, particularly those with licenses, took the information at face value, sharing it with friends and family as a word of caution. Reactions varied among the public. Some endorsed the supposed changes, expressing approval with comments like, "Not wearing a seatbelt as a front-seat passenger will now incur demerits too, which shows a tougher stance on traffic laws". Others began to reassess their own behavior on the road, voicing concerns such as "I usually let my child sit in the front, but I guess that's not allowed anymore" and "I'm in the habit of smoking while driving; looks like that's going to be a problem". Skeptical minds, however, questioned the credibility of these new rules, highlighting potential flaws such as "So everyone will be driving at 180 km/h on the highway from now on, since it's just a 6-point deduction" and "All speeding offenses are equally treated with 6-point deduction? That means a 10% overrun and a 200% overrun are treated the same?" Eventually, the authorities stepped in to dispel these so-called "new regulations" as nothing more than rumors. They clarified that no fresh measures had been introduced during that period and that the existing traffic laws continued to follow the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Public Security.

2.4 "Urgent Notice" Category

Public emergencies are characterized by their suddenness and crisis nature, serving as a trigger and catalyst for the spread of rumors (Shi & Duan, 2021). This type of rumor differ from news reports, announcements and notices in that they address critical situations requiring immediate attention and action (Chen, 2024; Zhang & Fan, 2022). These alerts are designed to capture the urgency of the matter at hand, often related to imminent threats or time-sensitive events that demand swift public response, serving as a critical communication tool, delivering vital information that can range from natural disaster warnings to public health advisories or security threats, where the element of time is of the essence in preventing harm or mitigating consequences.

Example 2. Urgent Notice: According to a notice from higher authorities, based on intelligence from Interpol, international terrorism may launch a series of terrorist attacks on the Chinese mainland during the Christmas period (key areas: Guangzhou, Shenzhen). Please ask all faculty and family members to pay attention to their own safety during the Western Christmas and New Year's Day periods, try not to go to crowded places such as stations, shopping malls, squares, and other places where people gather. At the same time, educate students of all grades to take corresponding precautions, especially when encountering individual ethnic minority personnel, be extra careful. If any abnormalities are found around the school, it is imperative to report to the school or 110 in a timely manner. Thank you.

(Online rumor "Terrorists to Launch Air Strikes on the Mainland during Christmas") (Note 4) Example 3. Urgent Notice: Public Security Network Supervision: From tomorrow until the Mid-Autumn Festival, emergency notice, if you receive an image with a "WeChat Red Envelope" cover that says "15th Moon 16th Round", do not open it under any circumstances and delete it immediately. If you open it, all the information on your phone will be stolen. This is a new type of virus that has been confirmed to be dangerous and cannot be cleared by antivirus software...

(Online rumor "WeChat Red Envelope Hides Virus") (Note 5)

Both Example 2 and Example 3 began with the attention-grabbing title "Urgent Notice", which is designed to immediately capture the readers' attention and convey a sense of urgency. These notices alleged potential threats to public safety: the first being a series of terrorist attacks and the second being a dangerous computer virus. In both examples, the language used is authoritative and alarmist. The first notice referenced "higher authorities" and "intelligence from Interpol", which were meant to lend credibility to the warning. It also specified key areas (Guangzhou, Shenzhen) and time frames (the Christmas period), which served to make the threat seem more tangible and imminent. The second notice invoked the authority of "Public Security Network Supervision" and provided a specific instruction to avoid a particular type of WeChat message, which was also intended to create a sense of urgency and legitimacy. The audience for these warnings was clearly defined: in the first example, it was "all faculty and family members", while in the second, it was a general "you", addressing the reader directly. This direct address is a common tactic in online rumors to make the recipient feel personally involved and to prompt immediate action. The notices also outlined specific precautionary measures. In the first example, the advice was to avoid crowded places and to educate students on precautions, with an emphasis on being "extra careful" around ethnic minority personnel, which introduces a discriminatory element. In the second example, the instruction was absolute: do not open a specific type of WeChat message and delete it immediately, emphasizing the severity of the threat.

These examples highlight the typical structure of this type of online rumors, which often include the following elements: A dramatic and urgent title to provoke immediate concern; Reference to authoritative sources to enhance credibility; Detailed information about the threat, including location and time, to make it seem more real; Clear instructions on what actions the audience should take; An appeal to the audience's sense of self-preservation and community responsibility. The effectiveness of such rumors relies on their ability to tap into existing fears and to prompt immediate, unquestioning compliance. They exploit the public's trust in official notices and their desire to stay safe. By analyzing these styles and identifiable characteristics, we can better understand how to recognize and counteract the spread of misinformation online.

3. Identifying Online Rumors from Stylistic Features

These meticulously crafted "news reports", "announcements", and "urgent notices" etc., possess a deceptive veneer that can lead to confusion and misinformation among the online community. Their facade of authenticity can be quite persuasive, potentially steering netizens away from the truth. However, despite their seemingly impervious nature, these deceptive messages are not beyond

detection. Among many other strategies, the following could be especially helpful for netizens to identify online rumors.

3.1 Verification against Official Sources

To effectively identify such deceptive content, one can employ several strategies. Always check the credibility of the source, as official announcements typically originate from verified government or organizational channels, and their authenticity can be cross-checked against these entities' official websites or social media platforms. Compare the information in the notice with existing laws, regulations, or previously announced policies; inconsistencies or contradictions can be a red flag. Be wary of notices that use a sense of urgency or emotional manipulation to elicit a quick response, as scams often exploit this to bypass critical thinking. Legitimate notices often provide clear, actionable steps or contact information for further inquiries, while vague directives or the absence of official contact points can be a sign of a scam.

A messege, "Tencent Official Announcement" about the inability to change avatars and profiles on QQ, WeChat, and other Tencent software has been widely circulated on the internet. A detailed analysis involves comparing the suspect document to the official Tencent website's aesthetic and content standards. Notably, the characters "Attentive Service", which should be aligned neatly beside the "Tencent Customer Service" logo in the upper left corner, are observed to be slightly skewed upwards in the counterfeit image. This deviation from the precise branding found on Tencent's official pages is a critical giveaway, highlighting the discrepancy in design standards between the legitimate and the fake.



Figure 2. Comparison of Fake Tencent Official Announcement and Real Website LOGO (Note 6)

Official documents always feature a standardized verbal format too. To identify rumors, one can compare the style of suspected content with the known format of official documents. Compared with example 1 mentioned before, a genuine notice about holiday is always characterized by a few distinct features. Typically emerging from a verified government source, authentic notices are disseminated through official channels, and are consistent with pre-established protocols for public announcements. They also tend to be accompanied by a clear rationale that aligns with broader public policy or commemorative significance, such as honoring a national holiday or marking an event of national importance.

安阳市人民政府办公室关于2023年中秋节国庆节放假安排的通知

各县 (市、区) 人民政府、市人民政府各部门及有关单位:

根据《河南省人民政府办公厅关于2023年中秋节国庆节放假安排的通知》精神,为便于各县(市、区)、各单位及早合理安排工作,现将2023年中秋 节、国庆节放假日期安排通知如下:

2023年9月29日至10月6日放假调休, 共8天。10月7日 (星期六) 、10月8日 (星期日) 上班。

节假日期间,各县(市、区)、各单位要妥善安排好值班和安全、保卫等工作。遇有重大突发事件,要按规定及时报告并妥善处置,确保人民群众祥 和平安度过节日假期。

2023年9月13日

Figure 3. Notice from the General Office of the Anyang Municipal People's Government on the Mid Autumn Festival Holiday in 2023 (Note 7)

Upon comparison, it becomes evident that the "holiday notices" featured in online rumors typically cite extraordinary reasons for the holidays, which fall outside the regular holiday calendar established by the State Council and are associated with special approval scenarios. These notices often encompass a broader range of departments or units that are affected by the holiday arrangements. In contrast, authentic holiday notices typically articulate that the holidays are in line with the guiding principles of higher authorities, provide explanations regarding duty and security measures during the holiday period, and are issued with transparency, complete with a clear identification of the issuing authority. A legitimate notice might bear the name of the "General Office of the Anyang Municipal People's Government", as in figure 3, or specify particular functional departments within an educational institution, such as the "Library" or "Management College", along with the date of issuance. This level of detail and formal attribution is often absent in the fraudulent notices circulated online.

3.2 Critical Fact-checking of Content

In the realm of online rumors, fact-checking emerges as a critical defense against the spread of misinformation. This process involves rigorously scrutinizing the details within a piece of information to determine its authenticity. A robust fact-checking approach can reveal the discrepancies between what is claimed and what is supported by evidence or official records.

Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that the "new regulations" mentioned in the online rumors are deceptive. Some entries in the rumor, articles 4, 6, and 9 in particular, as compared to the current regulations, were fabricated. Traffic regulations do not impose hard penalties for co-drivers not wearing seatbelts, driving while smoking, or children under 14 sitting in the co-driver's seat; these are not considered penalty items. Traffic management departments may criticize and correct drivers who smoke but do not have penalty measures in place for this behavior. The assertion that children under 14 sitting in the co-driver's seat will be penalized with 6 points and a fine of 300 yuan is baseless, as there are no such hard regulations or penalty provisions in the current traffic regulations. For safety reasons, however, traffic police recommend that children sit in the back seat when riding in a car. The "new regulations" mentioned in the online rumors involve common improper behaviors in daily driving, with detailed penalty and point clauses that partially mirror the content of the current traffic regulations,

making this misinformation particularly convincing and deceptive.

3.3 Dissection of Linguistic and Logical Consistency

Upon closer examination, the linguistic nuances and punctuation within the so-called "Tencent Announcement" reveal inconsistencies that cast doubt on its authenticity. Observant netizens have pointed out the inferior quality of language and logic in that "document", suggesting that the individual behind the rumor lacks the ability to craft a coherent official document. The document's presentation is similarly unpolished, with the image appearing to be a rudimentary capture of a computer screen using a mobile phone, lacking the professional finesse one would expect from an official Tencent communication.



Figure 4. Screenshot of the rumor "Tencent Official Announcement" (Note 8)

There are also some clumsy "pseudo notices" that only use the words "urgent notice" and their writing and thought do not follow the format of a formal style. For example, in the rumor "Mushrooms should not be eaten with eggplants", the words "urgent notice" were only used at the beginning.

Example 4. [Urgent Notice]! DEggplants and mushrooms are on the market in season! @Mushrooms should not be eaten with eggplants, 3Have you all noticed? This year's mushrooms are particularly cheap. 4This is forwarded by a doctor classmate, please be aware! 5Forward "Urgent Notice: 17 people have died in the hospital, friendly reminder: recently there are more patients in the emergency department, mostly mushroom poisoning, this year's mushrooms are abundant, mushrooms can be stir-fried with Chinese cabbage, but should not be eaten with eggplants, they will poison, when boiling mushrooms in water, put garlic, if the garlic changes color, it is toxic and should not be consumed. 6 And mushrooms and millet, sorghum should never be eaten together, it will produce a toxin, the hospital can't cure, the consequences are very serious. Thope everyone will pass it on! Don't like, spread it out 8 For the safety of relatives, friends, and all known and unknown people, please use your fingers, don't care about the traffic. Saving a life is better than building a seven-story pagoda!

It's also a virtue, a great merit! (11)From a friend!"

(Online rumor "Mushrooms and eggplants should not be eaten together") (Note 9) The rumor commenced with the phrase "urgent notice", yet it failed to align with the conventional standards of an authentic urgent notice, both linguistically and semantically. Regarding language, the document's composition and punctuation, along with its use of symbols, exhibit informal characteristics. The title is emphasized with parentheses and exclamation marks in a manner that is overly emphatic and out of place for an official communication. Semantically, the content of the rumor was also questionable. Sentences ① and ③ described common market conditions that do not warrant the gravity of an urgent notice. Sentence 2, even if factually correct, was out of context for such a notice. Typically, in response to urgent situations or significant events, responsible authorities would implement emergency measures and issue urgent notices to alert relevant parties. In sentences (4) and (11), "forwarded by a doctor classmate" and "from a friend", suggested a reliance on hearsay rather than authoritative sources, thereby undermining the credibility of the notice. The so-called "doctor classmate" could merely be a friend, casting doubt on the stability of the information source and, consequently, the reliability of the urgent notice. Furthermore, sentences (5) and (6), which form the core of the message, were verbose and disjointed, discussing illnesses and dietary practices, and inexplicably interjecting comments about an abundant mushroom harvest, leading to a disjointed narrative, sentences 7 to 10 repeatedly implored readers to disseminate the message, citing various justifications, which was more indicative of a viral marketing tactic than a genuine call to action from a credible source. It is evident that while online rumors may be highly deceptive, discerning netizens can effectively uncover their true nature through careful analysis. By scrutinizing the language, semantics, and the overall structure of such messages, one can often discern the fabricated from the factual, protecting themselves from the spread of misinformation.

3.4 Ethical Media Reporting in the Digital Age

It should be noted that responsible reporting is an ethical responsibility of internet media. When reporting news that may cause public panic or confusion, media should exercise caution to avoid unwarranted speculation and sensationalism, so as not to inadvertently contribute to the spread of rumors.

As highlighted by case of the fabricated "Announcement No. 47" on tax policies mentioned before, we observe the pivotal role that media plays in the dissemination of online rumors. First and foremost, verifying the authenticity of information is a primary responsibility of internet media. In the case of "Announcement No. 47", it was first posted by a Professional Accounting Website, and then reposted by more media which enjoy high popularity and trust among Chinese netizens. If these media had fact-checked the information before republication, the spread of the rumor could have been mitigated. Media has the resources and channels to access official sources and verify the truth of information. They should conduct rigorous fact-checking before reporting on any news that may attract widespread

public attention. Secondly, promptly correcting misinformation is also a crucial duty of mainstream media. Once it is realized that they have published false or unverified information, the media should immediately take action to issue corrections and clarify the facts to the public. This helps to minimize the damage caused by incorrect information to social order and public trust.

Furthermore, improving public media literacy is a long-term responsibility of internet media. By educating the public on how to identify rumors, these media can help the public develop critical thinking skills and improve their ability to discern information. This includes teaching the public to recognize the characteristics of official documents, check the sources of information, and how to verify information using official channels. Additionally, mainstream media can obtain official statements and responses more quickly by collaborating with official institutions, thereby providing accurate information to the public in a timely manner. Such collaboration helps to build a more transparent and reliable information environment. In summary, mainstream media bears an inescapable responsibility in the spread of online rumors. They are not only disseminators of information but also guardians of social stability. By fulfilling their duties to verify information, correct misinformation promptly, improve public media literacy, collaborate with official institutions, and report responsibly, mainstream media can play a significant role in building a healthy and orderly online environment.

To summarize, by employing these strategies, as mentioned above and many other effective ways, netizens can arm themselves with the tools necessary to navigate the treacherous waters of online information, discerning fact from fiction and maintaining a clear line of sight in the fog of digital misinformation. In practice, we can combine these strategies for a systematic analysis of suspected online rumors. For instance, when encountering a seemingly official "announcement", we first check whether the issuing unit has the corresponding authority, then compare information from official channels, analyze the consistency of language and logic, and may also resort to technical means for verification. Through such a process, we can more confidently judge the authenticity of information. In summary, identifying online rumors requires sensitivity to different stylistic features and critical thinking skills. By continuously learning and practicing, we can improve our ability to recognize online rumors, protect ourselves from the influence of false information, and contribute to maintaining a healthy and authentic online environment.

4. Conclusive Words

In the digital age, online rumors spread like viruses, and the false information they convey not only disrupts social order but also poses a threat to the safety of individuals, groups, and even national security. This article conducts an in-depth analysis of the stylistic features of online rumors, revealing how rumor makers cleverly imitate formal styles to increase the deceptiveness and credibility of their messages. From "news reports" to "announcements", and from "notices" to "urgent notices", these styles are misused by online rumor makers to conceal the fraudulent nature of their content. Rumor

makers often employ highly realistic techniques, mimicking the structure and language of news reporting, or leveraging the formality of announcements and notices to add an air of authority to their rumors. They meticulously construct rumors that typically include the 5Ws of journalism (Who, What, When, Where, Why), accompanied by seemingly authentic images or data, to confuse the public and make it difficult to discern truth from falsehood.

However, despite the great deceptiveness of online rumors, we can still identify flaws through careful analysis and rational thinking. For instance, logical fallacies, non-standard language use, and inconsistencies with official information are all key clues in identifying rumors. Additionally, verification through official channels and refutation by authoritative institutions are also important means of discerning online rumors. To build a harmonious and healthy cyberspace, it is crucial to improve the public's ability to recognize online rumors. This requires not only increased law enforcement and regulatory efforts by governments and relevant departments but also stronger information literacy education by media and educational institutions to enhance the public's critical thinking skills. At the same time, every netizen should take responsibility, not to believe or spread unverified information, and jointly maintain a clear cyberspace environment.

In summary, the identification and resistance to online rumors is a process that involves the whole society. By improving the public's ability to recognize information, strengthening the construction of laws and regulations, and perfecting the supervision mechanism of information dissemination, we can effectively curb the spread of online rumors and protect the security and order of cyberspace. Let us work together to create a real, healthy, and orderly cyberspace environment.

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Notes

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