

論文 / 著書情報
Article / Book Information

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Title(English)	Echo-Politics: Political Fragmentation, Echo Chambers and Polarization in Online Turkish Society
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学位種別(和文)	博士論文
Category(English)	Doctoral Thesis
種別(和文)	論文要旨
Type(English)	Summary

(博士課程)
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論文要旨

THESIS SUMMARY

系・コース : Social and Human Sciences
Department of Graduate major in
系
コース

申請学位 (専攻分野) : 博士
Academic Degree Requested Doctor of Philosophy

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要旨 (英文 800 語程度)
Thesis Summary (approx.800 English Words)

This thesis examines political fragmentation, echo chamber and polarization on Twitter sphere and analyzes important cases which can be considered relatively unique to Turkish politics.

One of the major research questions in the online political communication is about fragmentation, echo chambers and polarization issues on social network sites. A commonly studied research question is whether people tend to interact mostly with like-minded people with same ideologies, or with different-minded people with diverse and even opposite ideologies. Additionally, the majority of research concentrate on the unique circumstances in each country. Aiming to contribute to this debate, researchers have been studying various political issues in several countries (Bakshy et al., 2015; Gruzdt & Roy 2015; Rauchfleisch & Metag 2015; Hahn et al., 2015).

Turkey is a bridge between east and west, and politics of Turkey is plausibly influenced up to a degree by the foreign politics of USA, European and Asian countries. However, research for the politics in Turkey in this field might be considered to be not at a sufficient level.

This thesis aims to provide a unique and data-driven contribution to the field. In order to analyze whether online political conversations in a society is driven to echo chambers or public sphere (Habermas 1989), there are basic methods of data collection and analyses. For example, asking to people directly by surveys is one of the methods. However, this method is criticized in two dimensions. First is that the ability to make surveys with many people is limited, which ends up in creating a “pool” of data too small to provide reliable information analysis.

Second, people might often tend to respond more positively to questions than they actually do, which could bias the results. An alternative method is to collect existing

interaction data from social networking sites (SNS). This method is free from the second disadvantage of the survey method. However, there may be problems in this method as well. A lot of research supporting each side (echo chamber or public sphere side) of the debate are criticized by some researchers (Dahlberg, 2007) that usually “small pool of data” is collected and analyzed.

Therefore, in order to create not a small but a sufficiently “big pool of data”, in each study of this thesis, sufficiently many tweets from Twitter is retrieved. Also, not asking people their opinions about their interactions but rather collecting the actual data of the interactions, the research method is aimed to be safe from the potential bias on the result.

Findings of the thesis suggest indicators on political fragmentation, echo chambers and polarization on Twitter in Turkey, which is conjectured to be negatively affecting democracy. Within this context, the new term, “Echo Politics” is suggested referring to specific political communications characterized by echo chambers and polarization in a fragmented society.

In addition, findings on improving the method for quantifying the significance of connections in social networks from the perspective of the field are briefly presented in the Appendix.

備考：論文要旨は、和文 2000 字と英文 300 語を 1 部ずつ提出するか、もしくは英文 800 語を 1 部提出してください。

Note : Thesis Summary should be submitted in either a copy of 2000 Japanese Characters and 300 Words (English) or 1 copy of 800 Words (English).

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