The Role of Digital Loyalty Program towards Customer Loyalty through a Measure of Satisfaction

Roymon Panjaitan*

Department of Business, Faculty of Computer and Business, Universitas Sains dan Teknologi Komputer
Jl. Majapahit No.605, Pedurungan Kidul, Semarang, Central Java 50192, Indonesia
roymon_panjaitan@yahoo.com

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Abstract - The research aimed to explore the importance of loyalty programs to customer satisfaction and loyalty in digital business in Indonesia. The concept of theoretical development of the resource-advantage theory of competition and service-dominant logic was used for the development of research findings. Lazada, one of the e-commerce platforms, offered digital loyalty programs such as points store, loyalty store, e-coupon, e-newsletter, and flash sale. Thus data collection was distributed through an online questionnaire to Lazada customers, with a sample size of 384 respondents. Data testing with linear regression analysis was conducted to test the variables of the Lazada digital loyalty program on customer loyalty mediated customer satisfaction. The results show that in digital loyalty program variables, the program features contribute positively directly and have the success of mediated customer satisfaction in the digital loyalty program. More products that offer customer-oriented technology feature innovation will increase customer loyalty amidst dynamic marketing capabilities in digital business innovation change, which gives impact to managers.

Keywords: digital loyalty program, customer satisfaction, customer loyalty

I. INTRODUCTION

The growth of digital innovation in Indonesia is coherently diffused by innovation. Dissemination of information technology provides convenience from aspects of digital business, such as marketplaces and e-commerce. The emergence of this industry also encourages the growth of the creative economy in Indonesia. Competition for technical aspects and delivery of services such as website design and responsiveness is part of efforts to increase satisfaction and loyalty. To promote customer retention and discourage the customer from turning to rivals, digital-based loyalty schemes are intensively introduced by e-commerce.

Raising customer loyalty and loyal customer is a top priority and as one of the vital characteristics in developing and sustaining a key business environment (Iglesias et al., 2020; Mainardes, Rosa, Nossa, 2020; Vildová et al., 2015). Customer satisfaction is considered the main determinant in building and maintaining the main business environment. Good services allow customers to return to the sector or area where orders are often made. Advanced access to new goods, extra discounts, or indeed free items can be included in several bonuses. Usually, clients register their personal details with the organization and obtain a unique ID, such as a numeric ID or ID card as the identifier when making the payment.

Lazada is one of the e-commerce platforms of the latest developments in the digital business, with an average of 135 million visitors by 2020. The urgency of the problem of the research is whether Lazada has the potential to compete comparatively with digital-based to maintain customer loyalty. Moreover, the research aims to find out the logical perspective that can be built into new or added value in the Lazada platform since there have been many competitors that dominate in this business. It is considered important to discuss since the growing platform of other digital businesses are oriented to the consumer perspective in e-commerce business competition in particular. Through the concept offered from the digital loyalty relationship on the loyalty customer, the importance of the concept of customer satisfaction can bridge the relationship. Watson et al., (2015) point out that loyalty consists of buying attitudes and behaviors that benefit one seller over a competitor.

Bijmolt et al. (2017), Breugelmans and Liu-Thompkins (2017), Bruneau, Swaen, and Zidda
The effect of customer satisfaction on loyalty is fully correlated to be an important key part of customer relationship management products to increase customer loyalty. Other researchers have focused on a digital loyalty program as a bridge to achieve increased customer loyalty. The behavior of internet users can differ considerable from the population in general. This also applies to e-commerce players and their effect on a digital loyalty program. Loyalty programs for a digital business are also usually digital-based where companies can simultaneously build a digital database for e-mail marketing, track customer birthdays, and other special events (Tahal, 2014). Some types of conventional and digital loyalty programs have been summarized in Table 1.

Some research on digital loyalty program has mixed results on customer satisfaction and loyalty. Digital loyalty programs are proven to increase sales but not to generate true loyalty to the company (Nobre & Rodrigues, 2018). Tahal (2014) shows that 73% of e-commerce users claim to be happy with loyalty programs, but in reality, only 31% of users admit to the loyalty program. It raises the question of whether the digital loyalty program has a positive effect on customer satisfaction and customer loyalty. The same research also shows that there is a mismatch between the loyalty program communicated by the company compared to the loyalty program expected by the customer (Tahal, 2014). It results in the loyalty program being untargeted and not achieving the expected goals.

The research focuses on whether the digital loyalty program has good engagement with its...
customers and has significant influence on customer satisfaction and customer loyalty. Based on previous research, the hypotheses that can be formed are:

\( H_1 \): Digital loyalty program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_2 \): Digital loyalty program significantly affects customer loyalty.

With the help of technology, several types of new loyalty programs can be offered to customers as described in Table 1, such as a gamification system that offers loyalty programs to customers by having to play video games. Besides, there are also loyalty programs based on social media such as, fan pages and community forums. However, some loyalty programs that are proven to be popular are still used, namely point programs, tier programs, membership programs, and payback programs, and flash sale programs. The five types of loyalty programs are most commonly used by digital businesses such as Lazada, which is the e-commerce examined in the research. Based on the development of loyalty program into a digital version, the research is to hypothesize that each of the five digital-based loyalty programs from Lazada has a significant influence on customer satisfaction and loyalty:

\( H_{1a} \): Toko points program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_{1b} \): Store loyalty program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_{1c} \): E-coupon program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_{1d} \): E-newsletter program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_{1e} \): Flash sale program significantly affects customer satisfaction.

\( H_{2a} \): Toko points program significantly affects customer loyalty.

\( H_{2b} \): Store loyalty program significantly affects customer loyalty.

\( H_{2c} \): E-coupon program significantly affects customer loyalty.

\( H_{2d} \): E-newsletter programs have a significant effect on customer loyalty.

\( H_{2e} \): Flash sale program significantly affects customer loyalty.

The relationship between customer satisfaction and customer loyalty has been proven in previous research. Iddrisu et al. (2015) reveal that customer satisfaction has a direct relationship with customer loyalty judging by the results of the calculation of correlation between customer satisfaction to customer loyalty of 0.763. Compared to what has been conducted, this research focuses on how the digital loyalty program affects customer satisfaction and customer loyalty. Therefore, the third and fourth hypotheses can be formed:

\( H_3 \): Customer satisfaction significantly affects customer loyalty.

\( H_4 \): Customer satisfaction has a mediation role between digital loyalty programs and customer loyalty.

Lazada's online business digital media is chosen as the locus of research since the digital program provides its uniqueness for its competitors in the same field in e-commerce. This leads to explore the conceptual model of the function of customer satisfaction in its ability to bridge or improve its relationship to customer loyalty. Therefore, the current research aims to explore further and bridge the research gap in the literature by developing conceptual
models consisting of the concept of the digital loyalty program, customer satisfaction, and customer loyalty.

II. METHODS

Data collection method is conducted by using the online questionnaire method. Distribution of Google Form links by giving some statements to Lazada users. Topics raised in the research are digital loyalty programs, customer satisfaction, and customer loyalty that occur in Lazada company. The target population of the research is Lazada app users with a variety of demographics. The criteria in determining the sample target are: 1) Lazada app users; 2) No transaction on Lazada; and 3) Frequent transaction through Lazada (more than 5 times). The sampling method is purposive sampling where the selected sample has several inclusion criteria by the three criteria. Sampling is shared via social media. Based on the number of Lazada users reaching 10 million users, the minimum number of samples required is 384 samples (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

Statistical analysis used in the research is Statistic Parametric with Multiple Linear Regression Test by testing free variables and mediation variables against bound variables. Before conducting multiple linear regression tests, several tests are conducted in advance such as validity tests and reliability tests to identify the items of the questionnaire. Next, normality test, linearity test, and homoscedasticity test are conducted as a condition of the feasibility of the linear regression model. A parameter test is conducted to determine the influence of independent variables on dependent variables. Parameter testing includes simultaneous parameter testing (F test) and partial parameter testing (t-test). Simultaneous parameter testing (F test) shows whether all independent variables included in the model have a mutual influence on dependent variables. Partial Parameter Testing (t-test) is used to prove whether independent variables individually affect dependent variables. The four steps in using the Causal Step Method are to: 1) Create an independent variable regression equation (X) against a dependent variable (Y); 2) Create an independent variable regression equation (X) against the mediation variable (M); 3) Create an independent variable regression equation (X) against a dependent variable (Y) by entering a size mediation variable (M); 4) Draw conclusions as to whether the mediation variable mediates perfect mediation or partial mediation.

Variable M is declared as mediation or intervening variable if it meets criteria, namely: 1) If it is in equation I, the independent variable (X) affects the variable that is suspected as the mediation variable (M); 2) If it is in equation II, the independent variable (X) affects the dependent variable (Y); and 3) If it is in equation III, the variable that is suspected as the mediation variable (M) affects the dependent variable (Y). The test is conducted using the help of the SPSS program. Figure 1 shows a diagram design of mediation variable regression analysis with causal step method. The test is to prove the significance of each Lazada digital loyalty program (X) to customer satisfaction (M) in shopping at Lazada.
The regression equation in the third model is:

\[ Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \beta_2 M \]  

(3)

When the effect of variable \( X \) on \( Y \), which was significant, becomes insignificant after inserting variable \( M \) into the regression equation model, it is considered that variable \( M \) testing criteria are declared as perfect mediation variables. On the other hand, when the insignificant effect of variable \( X \) on \( Y \) becomes significant after variable \( M \) is inserted into the regression equation model, variable \( M \) is declared as a partial mediation variable.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

From the model regression analysis as seen in Table 2, the significance value of all items in the digital loyalty program (X) < 0.05. It means that the digital loyalty program (X) affects the customer satisfaction (M) either individually/partially (t-test) or collectively/simultaneously (F test). The magnitude of the influence can be seen in the R-squared value of 0.822 meaning that the digital loyalty program (X) affects customer satisfaction (M) certain factors outside of this report are impacted by 82.2% and the other 17.8%.

The magnitude of the influence between each digital loyalty program on customer satisfaction can be seen in the correlation-Pearson value, in which Toko Points gives the most influence since it has a strong relationship and direction (positive) to customer satisfaction (Figure 4).

![Figure 4 Mediation of Costumer Satisfaction from Digital Loyalty to Costumer Loyalty](image)

Based on data processing using SPSS program assistance, digital loyalty program (X) to customer satisfaction (M) obtains a constant coefficient value of 0.076 and a regression coefficient value of 0.90, so the regression equation for the first model is:

\[ M = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X \]  

(4)

Customer satisfaction = 0.076 + 0.906 digital loyalty program.

It can be concluded that the first criterion "independent variable (X) affects the variable that is suspected as a mediation variable (M)" to test the customer satisfaction variable (M) as the mediation variable is fulfilled.

The second model regression analysis, as seen in Table 3, shows the significance value of all items in the digital loyalty program variable (X) < 0.05. It means the digital loyalty program variable (X) affects the customer loyalty variable (Y) either individually/partially (t-test) or collectively/simultaneously (F test). The significance of the influence can be seen in the R-squared value of 0.804 meaning that the digital loyalty program (X) affects customer loyalty (Y) certain factors outside of this research are affected by 80.4% and the remaining 19.6%.

The significance of the impact between each digital loyalty program on customer loyalty can be seen in the correlation-Pearson value. E-coupon gives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DLP</td>
<td>0.906</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>0.076</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>0.182</td>
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<td>2.683</td>
<td></td>
<td>97.064</td>
<td>0.822</td>
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<td>TL</td>
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<td>0.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
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<td>3.796</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
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<td>0.717</td>
<td>3.183</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
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<td>0.744</td>
<td>4.557</td>
<td></td>
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<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed results 2021 (SPSS)

Description:

- DLP = Digital Loyalty Program
- TP = Toko Points
- EN = E-Newsletter
- TL = Toko Loyalty
- FS = Flash Sale
- EC = E-Coupon
- Coeff. Std. = Coefficient Standard
- Corr. Pearson = Correlation-Pearson
the most influence since it has a strong relationship and direction (positive) to customer satisfaction. Figure 5 shows that digital loyalty program (X) to customer loyalty (Y) obtains a constant coefficient value of 0.006 and a regression coefficient value of 0.896. Therefore, the regression equation for the first model is:

\[ M = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X \]

Customer loyalty = 0.006 + 0.896 digital loyalty program

It can be concluded that the second criterion "independent variable (X) affects dependent variable (Y)" to test the customer satisfaction variable (M) as the mediation variable is fulfilled. The third model regression analysis can be seen in Table 4. The importance of the digital loyalty program (X) and customer satisfaction (M) < 0.05.

Table 3 Second Model Regression Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DLP</td>
<td>0.896</td>
<td>0.756</td>
<td>2.275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>0.162</td>
<td>0.756</td>
<td>2.275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL</td>
<td>0.206</td>
<td>0.645</td>
<td>3.570</td>
<td>85.981</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>0.287</td>
<td>0.771</td>
<td>4.454</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>0.219</td>
<td>0.724</td>
<td>3.503</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>0.232</td>
<td>0.729</td>
<td>3.740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed results 2021 (SPSS)

Description: DLP = Digital Loyalty Program  TL = Toko Loyal  Coeff. Std. = Coefficient Standard
TP = Toko Points  FS = Flash Sale  Corr. Pearson = Correlation-Pearson
EN = E-Newsletter  EC = E-Coupon

Figure 5 Relation of Digital Loyalty on Costumer Satisfaction

Table 4 Third Model Regression Test

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>-0.044</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLP</td>
<td>0.322</td>
<td>0.896</td>
<td>4.015</td>
<td>378.600</td>
<td>0.875</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>0.634</td>
<td>0.925</td>
<td>7.904</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed results 2021 (SPSS)

Description: DLP = Digital Loyalty Program  Coeff. Std. = Coefficient Standard

It shows that the digital loyalty program (X) and customer satisfaction (Y) affect the customer loyalty (Y) either individually/partially (t-test) or collectively/simultaneously (test F). The significant influence can be seen in the R-squared value 0.875 which means that the digital loyalty program (X) and customer satisfaction (M) affect customer loyalty (Y) by 87.5% and the remaining 12.5% is influenced by other variables outside of the research.

Digital loyalty program (X) to customer loyalty (Y) obtains a constant coefficient value of -0.044. In addition, as seen in Figure 6, a regression coefficient value of digital loyalty program (X) is 0.322 and a coefficient value of customer satisfaction (M) is 0.634. Thus, the regression equation for the first model is:

\[ Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \beta_2 M \]

Customer loyalty = -0.044 + 0.322 digital loyalty program + 0.634 customer satisfaction
It can be concluded that standardized coefficients beta value obtained variable digital loyalty program (X) weakened or decreased 0.322 < 0.896 with the addition of customer satisfaction (M). It reveals that customer satisfaction (M) has a mediation role to digital loyalty program (X) and customer loyalty (Y). In addition, the third criteria to test the customer satisfaction (M) as a mediation variable is fulfilled. Table 5 shows the results of each hypothesis test.

Table 5 Hypothesis Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$H_1$ DLP significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.906, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{1a}$ TP significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.182, \text{Sig} = 0.008 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{1b}$ TLP significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.250, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{1c}$ EC significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.232, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{1d}$ EN significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.189, \text{Sig} = 0.002 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{1e}$ FS significantly influence customer satisfaction</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.269, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_2$ DLP significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.896, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{2a}$ TP significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.162, \text{Sig} = 0.025 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{2b}$ TLP significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.206, \text{Sig} = 0.001 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{2c}$ EC significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.287, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{2d}$ EN significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.219, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.01$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_{2e}$ FS significantly influence customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.232, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_3$ CS significantly influences customer loyalty</td>
<td>$\beta = 0.634, \text{Sig} = 0.000 &lt; 0.05$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H_4$ CS mediates the relationship between loyalty programs and customer loyalty</td>
<td>The standardized value of beta coefficients obtained by the digital loyalty program (X) weakened or decreased by 0.322 &lt; 0.896 with the addition of customer satisfaction (M).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Researcher (2021)

It is interesting to see from the outcomes that the variables of the digital loyalty program (along with all Lazada loyalty programs) influence consumer satisfaction and Lazada customer loyalty. Digital loyalty program that has the most influence on customer satisfaction is Toko Points, whereas the program that has the most influence on customer loyalty is e-coupon. The result is alleged because Toko Points gives benefits to Lazada users by redeeming points to get attractive coupons such as Cashback, free shipping, and other discounts that make Lazada customers feel satisfied with the benefits earned until finally loyal to Lazada. The customer satisfaction serves as a mediation function that explains that the digital loyalty program indirectly affects customer loyalty through Lazada customer satisfaction.

In previous research, the relationship between customer satisfaction and customer loyalty has been proven by Iddrisu et al. (2015) who concentrate on how the importance of the digital loyalty system on consumer satisfaction and show that customer loyalty is directly linked to customer loyalty. Visitors, as well as customers, is proven loyal to Lazada website based on the results and calculation of data on visitor loyalty that show drastic increase. This is in common with current research that the variables studied have an influential relationship with each other. Based on the results, it is considered that management can take steps to keep the current promotion, improve, or see promotions or programs that are less efficient in

IV. CONCLUSIONS

It is interesting to see from the outcomes that the variables of the digital loyalty program (along with all Lazada loyalty programs) influence consumer satisfaction and Lazada customer loyalty. Digital loyalty program that has the most influence on customer satisfaction is Toko Points, whereas the program that has the most influence on customer loyalty is e-coupon. The result is alleged because Toko Points gives benefits to Lazada users by redeeming points to get attractive coupons such as Cashback, free shipping, and other discounts that make Lazada customers feel satisfied with the benefits earned until finally loyal to Lazada. The customer satisfaction serves as a mediation function that explains that the digital loyalty program indirectly affects customer loyalty through Lazada customer satisfaction.

In previous research, the relationship between customer satisfaction and customer loyalty has been proven by Iddrisu et al. (2015) who concentrate on how the importance of the digital loyalty system on consumer satisfaction and show that customer loyalty is directly linked to customer loyalty. Visitors, as well as customers, is proven loyal to Lazada website based on the results and calculation of data on visitor loyalty that show drastic increase. This is in common with current research that the variables studied have an influential relationship with each other. Based on the results, it is considered that management can take steps to keep the current promotion, improve, or see promotions or programs that are less efficient in
attracting customers' attention.

Research limitation in sampling questionnaires shows that not all respondents know Lazada since some of them shop at Shopee, Blibli, Bukalapak, and so on. For Lazada customers, some people are unfamiliar with loyalty programs since too many promotional activities and additional services make it increasingly difficult for customers to understand the forms of promotion resulting in the transfer of customers to competitors. It is recommended that future research with similar topic add more data to produce more prominent value. In addition, it is advisable to add other variables such as trusts, brand images, and other considerations that may have a substantial influence on consumer satisfaction and loyalty to customers.

REFERENCES


