



Fake News Inventory

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Monday, April 13



This meme presents misinformation regarding Google. It asserts that Google listens to those who use its services and products, without them knowing, and potentially uses that information to tailor advertisements to individuals. While many believe that Google does target ads based on what its devices hear, it has not been shown that Google can identify *any* product from speech alone.

The type of misinformation that best describes this meme is a jocular lie, a lie told primarily with humorous intent.



Tuesday, April 14

This meme most likely is intended to make fun of people who believe and perpetuate the claim that 5G cell towers are the cause of COVID-19. However, someone unfamiliar with the claim might believe that 5G towers really do cause sickness.

The type of misinformation that best describes this meme is a hoax, a deceptive idea intended for a larger audience.



Wednesday, April 15

These images were staged by the photographers who took them. The last image went viral in 2015, but I only learned about it recently. I shared it with my girlfriend, but upon learning that it had been staged, I realized I had misinformed her.

The type of misinformation that best describes these images is art forgery. Forgery involves three elements: making a forgery, using a forgery, or possessing a forgery.

Thursday, April 16

Out of mixed reports on Kim Jong Un's health emerged a claim that he had died. This claim has since been rescinded by its authors, which were mostly fake accounts. However, MSNBC anchor Katy Tur tweeted that Kim was brain-dead before deleting it.



The type of misinformation that best describes this meme is a rumor or hearsay. Rumors or hearsay are untrue or unproven ideas that proliferate at high rates.

Friday, April 17

With all of the news about COVID-19, many are seeking ways to prevent catching it. Among recommendations is the suggestion that people use hydroxychloroquine, despite there being no proof that it does any good. One of the most notable people who endorse this practice is President Trump, who acknowledged his own lack of expertise on the subject. It is unclear whether Trump necessarily “lied,” with his recommendation, as “The person who utters a falsehood does not lie if he believes... that what he says is true.” – Augustine.

The type of misinformation that best describes this recommendation is predatory publishing, since the recommendation contains one of the elements of predatory publishing: a lack of peer review.



Examples of Problematic Misinformation

Of the examples of misinformation in this inventory, these two have the greatest potential to cause harm. The 5G tower meme is based on the theory that 5G towers cause COVID-19, which might lead people to exercise less caution in public spaces, thus increasing the chances of transmitting the virus. Trump's recommendation is also dangerous, as it has not been shown that hydroxychloroquine helps prevent COVID-19 at all, which might also lead to less a cautious public environment.

