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# A MEDIATED MODEL OF E-WOM EFFECTS TOWARDS CONTINUOUS USE INTENTION OF SOCIAL COMMERCE



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA 2019



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## Abstrak

Electronic Word of Mouth (e-WOM) memainkan peranan penting dalam mempengaruhi niat tingkah laku pengguna dalam perdagangan sosial (s-perdagangan). Kajian berkaitan pengaruh atribut anggapan e-WOM terhadap niat penggunaan berterusan s-perdagangan adalah terhad kepada sikap pengguna dalam penggunaan berterusan s-perdagangan. Walaubagaimanapun, faktor kontekstual lain seperti kepercayaan dan komitmen adalah penting dalam mengekalkan hubungan penjualpembeli dalam s-perdagangan. Malahan, terdapat persaingan sengit untuk mengekalkan pelanggan dan memastikan penggunaan berterusan s-perdagangan bagi mencapai kelebihan bersaingan. Kajian ini menggabungkan Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) dan Commitment-Trust Theory (CTT) untuk meneliti hubungan antara atribut anggapan e-WOM, kepercayaan, komitmen, dan niat untuk terus menggunakan s-perdagangan. Rangka kerja ini turut mengkaji kesan pengantaraan bagi faktor dan hubungan berkaitan. Kajian ini mengadaptasi paradigma post-positivism dan kaedah penyelidikan kuantitatif. Data telah dikumpul daripada 365 pengguna s-perdagangan di Malaysia melalui tinjaun atas talian. Data telah telah dianalisa menggunakan teknik analisa statistik dan Permodelan Persamaan Struktur. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa niat penggunaan berterusan dipengaruhi secara signifikan oleh kegunaan anggapan, kemudahan penggunaan, dan keseronokan penggunaan e-WOM. Hasil kajian turut mendedahkan bahawa kepercayaan dan komitmen mempengaruhi niat penggunaan berterusan secara signifikan. Sementara itu, kemudahan penggunaan dan keseronokan anggapan didapati mempengaruhi kepercayaan secara signifikan. Tambahan pula, keseronokan anggapan hanya mempengaruhi komitmen. Di samping itu, kepercayaan secara signifikan mengantara hubungan kegunaan anggapan, keseronokan anggapan, dan niat penggunaan berterusan. Akhirnya, komitmen secara signifikan mengantara hubungan kemudahan penggunaan anggapan, keseronokan anggapan, dan niat penggunaan berterusan. Secara teori, kajian ini menyumbang dengan menggabungkan CTT dan TAM untuk menunjukkan ciri anggapan e-WOM, kepercayaan, dan komitmen dalam konteks penggunaan berterusan s-perdagangan. Secara praktikal, ia menyediakan pengetahuan berkaitan faktor penting bagi perniagaan yang beroperasi atas platform s-perdagangan.

**Kata kunci:** Atribut anggapan e-WOM, Kepercayaan, Komitmen, Niat penggunaan berterusan, s-perdagangan.

## Abstract

Electronic Word of Mouth (e-WOM) plays a significant role in influencing users' behavioural intention in social commerce (s-commerce). Research on the influence of perceived attributes of e-WOM on continuous use intention of s-commerce is limited to users' attitudes in continuous usage of s-commerce. However, other contextual factors like trust and commitment are very crucial in sustaining a seller-buyer relationship on s-commerce. Moreover, there has been fierce competition to retain customers and ensure continuous usage of s-commerce to gain competitive advantage. This study integrates Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Commitment-Trust Theory (CTT) to examine the relationship between perceived attributes of e-WOM, trust, commitment, and continuous use intention of s-commerce. The framework also examines the mediational effects of those factors and their relationships. This study adapts post-positivism paradigm and quantitative research method. Data was collected from 365 s-commerce users in Malaysia through online survey. The data was analysed using statistical analysis techniques and Structural Equation Modelling. The results showed that continuous use intention is significantly affected by perceived usefulness, ease of use, and enjoyment of e-WOM. It is also revealed that trust and commitment significantly affected continuous use intention. Meanwhile, perceived ease of use and perceived enjoyment are found to significantly influence trust. Furthermore, perceived enjoyment influenced commitment only. Additionally, trust significantly mediated the relationship between perceived usefulness, perceived enjoyment and continuous use intention. Lastly, commitment significantly mediated the relationships between perceived ease of use, perceived enjoyment, and continuous use intention. Theoretically, this study contributes by incorporating CTT and TAM to show the relationship for perceived attributes of e-WOM, trust, and commitment in the context of continuous use of s-commerce. Practically, it provides knowledge about the factors that are vital to businesses operating over the s-commerce platforms.

**Keywords**: Perceived attributes of e-WOM, Trust, Commitment, Continuous use intention, S-commerce.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**AVE** Average Variance Extracted

COMM Commitment

CTT Commitment-Trust Theory CUI Continuous Use Intention

CVI Content Validity Index

DIT Diffusion of Innovation Theory

**Electronic Commerce** e-commerce

**ECT Expectation Confirmation Theory** 

e-WOM electronic Word-of-Mouth

**ICT** Information and Communication Technology

MM Motivational Model

**OECD** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

PE Perceived Enjoyment

PEU Perceived Ease of Use

**PLS-SEM** Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling

PU Perceived Usefulness

Social Commerce s-commerce

Social Cognitive Theory **SCT** 

**SEM** Structural Equation Modelling

**TAM** technology acceptance model

TPB Theory of Planned Behavior

TRA Theory of Reasoned Action

**UGC User Generated Content** 

VIF Variance Inflation Factor

Word-Of-Mouth WOM

# CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This chapter entails an introduction to the study by explaining the background of the research and stating the problem statement. Next, this chapter formulates the research questions and the research objectives. Then, it entails the description of the scope of the study as well as the significance of the study are proposed next. Additionally, the operational definitions of the critical terms understudied in this research. Finally, this chapter is concluded with a summary.

# 1.1 Research Background

The rapid growth in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with the appearance of Web 2.0 empowered both corporate organizations and consumers and have also reshaped the way of doing business in general, and commerce in particular (Huseynov & Yildirim, 2016; Hong & Zhu, 2006). The ICT and Web 2.0 technologies allow consumers to make inquiries and shop online anywhere at any time (Dawot, Song, Hashim & Hussin, 2014; Maamar, 2003; Wen, Chen & Hwang, 2001). In other words, the advent of online shopping gave birth to electronic commerce (e-commerce) which has continue to gain so much acceptance across industries and economies (Dawot et al., 2014; Maamar, 2003). Evidently, Orendorff (2017) reported that, the global e-commerce sales will rise from USD1.3 trillion from 2014 to USD 4.5 trillion in 2021. Similarly, in Malaysia, it was predicted that the number of e-commerce users would grow from 13.86 million in 2016 to 21.4million in 2022 (The Statistics Portal, 2018).

# The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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#### Appendix A

#### **Content Validity Form**



Dear Sir/Ma,

We seek your kind indulgence to provide feedback on the items included in the questionnaire of the study entitled; **The Mediating Roles of Trust and Commitment on the relationships between Perceived Attributes of e-WOM and Continuous Use Intention of S-Commerce.** The objective of this research in broad terms is to examine the significant influence of perceived attributes of e-WOM (perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and perceived enjoyment of e-WOM) on trust, commitment and continuous use intention of e-WOM.

Also, this study examines the mediating effect of both trust and commitment on the relationships between perceived attributes of e-WOM on continuous use intention of s-commerce.

Kindly rate the items of the questionnaire base on their relevance to the understudied variables in this research. Also, we would appreciate it if you could put some remarks in the comment section provided in the attached questionnaire.

If you require further information about this research, please contact:

Researcher: Atyaf Sami Noori School of Computing, UUM, Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia. Email: mhsalbayati@yahoo.com

Main Supervisor: DrKamarulFaizalHashim School of Computing UUM, Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia.

Co-Supervisor: DrShafinahFarvinPackeer School of Computing UUM, Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia. Kindly evaluate the following items based on their relevancy for measuring the concept under which they are placed. The items will be distributed to respondents to rate their agreement or disagreement using a 7 point Likert Scale. Finally, the comment boxes are provided after the survey for your overall comments and specific comments on any of the items.

#### **Definitions**

#### **Social Commerce**

Social commerce (s-commerce) refers to the adoption of the social media to facilitate the interaction among users and assist them to collaborate and make their decision regarding the products and services.

#### **Electronic Word-Of-Mouth**

Electronic Word-Of-Mouth (e-WOM) refers to the user-generated contents that are posted on social media. It has three perceived derived attributes which are: perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, and perceived enjoyment.

#### **Continuous Use Intention of S-Commerce**

It is the decision of the user to continue using s-commerce services in term of purchasing products.

#### Perceived Usefulness of e-WOM

Perceived usefulness is the degree to which a consumer believes that using e-WOM enhances their experience within the context of s-commerce.

#### Perceived Ease of Use of e-WOM

Perceived ease of use refers to the degree to which a customer believes that using e-WOM is simple, and straightforward.

#### Perceived Enjoyment of e-WOM

Perceived enjoyment refers to the extent to which a customer feels that e-WOM is fun and entertaining.

#### Commitment

Commitment is the perception of commitment by S-commerce users with regards to their relationships with other users.

#### Trust

Trust is an individual user's willingness to rely on the words and decisions of the other users in s-commerce.

Please use the following scales to rate relevance of the items below.  $1 = \text{not relevant}, \ 2 = \text{somewhat relevant}, \ 3 = \text{quite relevant}, \ 4 = \text{highly relevant}.$ 

S/N	Continuous Use Intention of S-Commerce		Relevan	ce	_
1	I plan to continue purchasing products using s-	1	2	3	4
1	commerce in the future.	1	2	3	-
2	I will frequently use s-commerce to purchase	1	2	3	4
2	products continuously in the future.	1	2	3	4
3	I will continue to purchase products using s-	1	2	3	4
3	commerce as much as possible.	1	2	3	4
4	I will consider s-commerce the first choice to	1	2	3	4
4	buy similar products in the future.	1	2	3	4
~	I would like to continue using s-commerce to	1	2	2	4
5	purchase products.	1	2	3	4
	I will continue using s-commerce to buy similar	1	2	2	4
6	products in the future.	1	2	3	4
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	Universiti Utara	Mala			
	Commitment	Mala	Relevan	ce	
1	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others	Mala 1		<u>се</u> 3	4
1	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.		Relevano		4
1 2	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-		Relevano		4
	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.	1	Relevano	3	
	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s- commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when	1	Relevano	3	
2	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.	1 1	Relevance 2	3	4
2	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s- commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.  I feel like a part of the group when using s-	1 1	Relevance 2	3	4
2 3 4	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.  I feel like a part of the group when using s-commerce.	1 1 1	Relevance 2 2 2	3 3	4
2 3 4	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s- commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.  I feel like a part of the group when using s-	1 1 1	Relevance 2 2 2	3 3	4
2 3 4	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.  I feel like a part of the group when using s-commerce.	1 1 1	Relevance 2 2 2	3 3	4
2 3 4	Commitment  I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.  I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.  I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.  I feel like a part of the group when using s-commerce.	1 1 1	Relevance 2 2 2	3 3	4

	Trust		Relevano	ee	
1	I trust the information shared on s-commerce by other users to be true.	1	2	3	4
2	Users of s-commerce are trustworthy.	1	2	3	4
3	The information offered by other s-commerce users are reliable.	1	2	3	4
4	S-commerce users do not make false statements.	1	2	3	4
5	The information offered by the other s-commerce users is trustworthy.	1	2	3	4

Comments:

	Perceived Usefulness of e-WOM		Relevanc	ee	
1	E-WOM enhance my s-commerce shopping activities effectively.	1	2	3	4
2	I find using E-WOM as useful.	1	2	3	4
3	E-WOM improves my performance in shopping within s-commerce.	Mal	aysia	3	4
4	E-WOM makes it easier for me to shop within s-commerce.	1	2	3	4
5	E-WOM makes it easier for me to search and find information about products	1	2	3	4
6	E-WOM allows me to accomplish my shoppingmore quickly.	1	2	3	4
7	I evaluate E-WOM as practical	1	2	3	4
8	I evaluate E-WOM as functional	1	2	3	4

Comments:

	Perceived Ease of Use of e-WOM	]	Relevance	e	
1	Understanding E-WOM requires less effort.	1	2	3	4
2	Understanding E-WOM requires less time.	1	2	3	4
3	E-WOM interaction is easy to understand.	1	2	3	4
4	E-WOM interaction is easy to follow.	1	2	3	4
5	I find it easy to understand E-WOM	1	2	3	4

Comments:

	Perceived Enjoyment of e-WOM	1	Relevance		
	I find the experience of reading E-WOM is				
1	enjoyable.	1	2	3	4
	I find the experience of reading E-WOM is				
2	pleasant.	1	2	3	4
3	E-WOM is interesting.	1	2	3	4
4	E-WOM is kind of entertaining.	1	2	3	4
Con	nments:				

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ame of Expert:  xpertise Area:  ears of Experience in the Particular Area: Years		
Expert Information:		
Name of Expert:		
Expertise Area:		
Years of Experience in the Particular Area: Years		
Official Stamp:		
Thank you very much; your support in this study is highly appreciated.		
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# Appendix B Results of Content Validity Index (CVI)

### Item-Level and Scale-Level CVIs for Automotive CBBE

			Experts	S				
	Continuo	ous Use	Intention o		Con	nme	rce	
Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Item-Level CVI
CUI1	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
CUI2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	7/7=1.00
CUI3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
CUI4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
CUI5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
CUI6	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	6/7=0.85
Proportion Relevant:	0.83	1	1	1	1	1	1	S-CVI/Ave =
1								6.83/7 = 0.97
		C	Commitment	Į				
COMM1	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	6/7 = 0.85
COMM2	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
COMM3	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	6/7 = 0.85
COMM4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
Proportion Relevant:	0.50	1	1	1	1	1	1	S- $CVI/Ave =$
3/1								6.25/7 = 0.92
9/	-		Trust					
TRUST1	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	6/7 = 0.85
TRUST2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	6/7 = 0.85
TRUST3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
TRUST4	4	4	sit4 U	4	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
TRUST5	4	4	5114	4	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
Proportion Relevant:	0.60	1	1	1	1	1	1	S-CVI/Ave =
								6.60/7 = 0.94
			Jsefulness o			M		
PU1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
PU2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
PU3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
PU4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
PU5	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	7/7 = 1.00
PU6	4	1	3	3	4	4	3	5/7=0.85
PU7	1	4	3	3	3	4	3	5/7=0.85
PU8	3	4	1	3	4	4	3	5/7=0.85
Proportion Relevant:	0.87	0.87	0.87	1	1	1	1	S-CVI/Ave =
<b>-</b>								6.61/7 = 0.94
	Perc	eived E	ase of Use	of e-	WC	)M		
PEOU1	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	6/7=0.85
PEOU2	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
PEOU3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
PEOU4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	7/7 = 1.00
PEOU5	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	4/7 = 0.85
Proportion Relevant:	0.80	0.80	0.80	1	1	1	1	S-CVI/Ave =

Perceived Enjoyment of e-WOM								
PENJ	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	6/7=0.85
PENJ	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	6/7 = 0.85
PENJ	3	4	1	3	4	4	3	6/7 = 0.85
PENJ	3	4	4	3	3	4	2	6/7 = 0.85
Proportion Relevant:	1	1	0.80	1	1	1	0.80	S-CVI/Ave =
								6.50/7 = 0.92



#### Appendix C **Pilot Study**

Dear Respected Respondent,

My name is Atyaf Sami, a doctoral candidate at School of Computing, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia. This study is aimed at having a better understanding of the influence of e-WOM on the s-commerce continuous use intention among consumers of scommerce. This questionnaire has three sections and it will only take 5-10 minutes to complete this survey. All responses are treated anonymous and will be kept strictly confidential. Your cooperation and willingness to participate in this survey is highly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this research, you may address them by contacting me.

Thank you.

Atyaf Sami

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Note:

Continuous use intention refers to a continuance decision follows an initial acceptance decision. Users' repeated acts of co-creating usage and shopping.

Social commerce (s-commerce) refers to an online shopping activity/ies that take place using web 2.0 or social media applications.

S-commerce user refers to the person who uses s-commerce for buying products on scommerce.

**E-WOM** refers to any statements (comments) made by customers about a product or a company via the social media (in other words, e-WOM means the comments consumer write or leave evaluating or reflecting their experience with the product or service).

SECTION A: This section requires you to share your previous experience using social commerce (s- commerce). Please select appropriate answer and fill up your response where needed:

1. Do you	havethe intention to co	ontinue	purchasing products fi	rom s-commerce?
Yes No				
2. Please visited.	state the platform(s)	used b	y each of the s-comm	nerce website you
II. Tw III. Inst IV. Wh V. Vib VI. Oth	ners (please state)			
3. How fr	equent do you purchase	e from	s-commerce?	
II. Dai III. Fev IV. 2-3	ce a few hours ily v times a week times a month s than once a month			
4. What n	notivates you to use s-c	comme	ce? (You can choose n	nore than one)
Fun	cost			
	choose the types of prerce (You can choose m		•	sed through the s-
	Clothing Footwear Equipment Videos, DVDs Music & CDs Flowers Foods Sports Goods		Jewelry and Watches Books or Magazines Home and Living Travel (e.g. airline ticl Computer Hardware Software Electronic Products (e Tickets (e.g. Concert,	e.g. Camera)
	Others (please state):			

SECTION B: Based on your experience using s-commerce, please select your responses for each statement using the scale from 1 to 7, where:

Strongly Disagree	<u>Disagree</u>	Somewhat Disagree	<u>Neutral</u>	Somewhat Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Strongly Agree
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

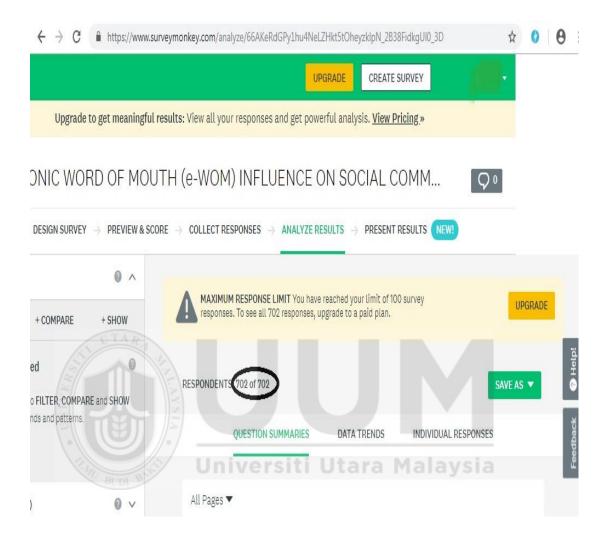
Code	Items/ measurements	7 Point Likert Scale						
1	Electronic word of mouth (E-WOM) enhances my social commerce (s-commerce) shopping activities effectively.		2	3	4	5	6	7
2	I find using E-WOM as useful.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	E-WOM improves my performance in shopping within s-commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	E-WOM makes it easier for me to shop within s-commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	E-WOM makes it easier for me to search and find information about products.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	E-WOM allows me to accomplish my shopping more quickly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	I evaluate E-WOM as practical.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	I evaluate E-WOM as functional.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Understanding E-WOM requires less effort.	1 Ma	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Understanding E-WOM requires less time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	E-WOM interaction is easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12	E-WOM interaction is easy to follow.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	I find it easy to understand E-WOM.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	I find the experience of reading E-WOM is enjoyable.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	I find the experience of reading E-WOM is pleasant.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	E-WOM is interesting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	E-WOM is kind of entertaining.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	I trust the information shared on s-commerce by other users.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	Users of s-commerce are trustworthy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	The information offered by other s-commerce users are reliable.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	·							
21	S-commerce users do not make false statements.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22	The information offered by the other s- commerce users are trustworthy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23	I have a real emotional attachment to others when using s-commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	I feel a strong relation with others when using s-commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25	I feel a sense of belonging towards others when using s-commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26	I feel like a part of the group when using s- commerce.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27	I plan to continue purchasing products using s- commerce in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	I will frequently use s-commerce to purchase products continuously in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	I will continue to purchase products using s- commerce as much as possible.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	I will consider s-commerce the first choice to buy similar products in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31	I would like to continue using s-commerce to purchase products.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32	I will continue using s-commerce to buy similar products in the future.	Ма	2	3	4	5	6	7

# $\begin{tabular}{lll} SECTION & C: & Demographic & information. & Please & choose & your & answer & where \\ appropriate. & & \\ \end{tabular}$

1.	Gender:		Male
2.	Age:		Female Below 20 years 20-25 years 26-30 years 31-35 years 36-40 years 41 years and above
3.	Education:		Primary school Secondary school Diploma Bachelor Master PhD If others, please specify:
4.	4. Your occupation (please state):		
5.	Your location		Within Malaysia
Outside Malaysia			
If it is within Malaysia please specify your state:			
6. Marital status:			
	Single Married		
	Marrieu [	Othe	rs (please state):

## Appendix D Data/Response Obtained From the Survey



### **Appendix E Facebook Invitation Examples**

