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1	Service Quality, Satisfaction and Loyalty on Online Marketing:
2	An Empirical Investigation
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#### 7 Abstract

16

The purpose of this study is to empirically investigate the impacts of satisfaction on e-service 8 quality, trust and on e-loyalty in online marketing. The theoretical background used in this 9 study was social exchange theory. Online survey from students and faculty members of 10 Kathmandu University, Nepal was conducted in this study. The analytical results indicate 11 that e-service quality, customer service, and trust have strong direct effect on satisfaction and 12 impacts of indirect effects with e-loyalty are more significant. Findings also indicated that 13 satisfaction was a significant variable that mediated the relationships between service quality 14 and customer loyalty. 15

17 Index terms—service quality, satisfaction, loyalty, online marketing.

#### **18 1 I.** Introduction

he Internet has changed people's purchase habits and provides convenience for searching information in online 19 platform. The Internet makes easier to market different products and services. Online marketing offers to 20 consumers a shopping experience different from physical-based marketing such as convenience, search cost, 21 delivery, and price (Palmer 2000). In this connection, online marketing is continued to grow (Chen and He 2003). 22 Privacy and security have been recognized as the major barriers preventing web users from online marketing, 23 leading to the decrease of consumers' perceptions of online service quality. In order to encourage repeat purchases 24 25 and establish customer loyalty, Zeithaml et al. (2002) suggested companies transfer the focus of e-marketing to 26 eservice. Majority of studies on customer satisfaction, however, have largely focused on traditional business channels. Only moderate effort has been devoted to service satisfaction in the online market perspective (Choi 27 et al. 2000; Ho and Wu 1999, Gajendra and Li 2013). The unique characteristics of Internet-based services focus 28 in the area of human-computer interactions. Studies have shown that e-service quality, e-satisfaction and e-trust 29 are key factors for establishing e-loyalty (Reichheld and Schefter 2000). These factors have direct and indirect 30 effects on e-loyalty. We observe a gap in the literature that there is not a complete view on all of effects that 31 e-trust, e-satisfaction, and e-service quality have on each other and on e-loyalty. Boshoff (2007) examined the 32 relationship between e-quality and e-loyalty and proposed that the E-S-QUAL scale should have six dimensions. 33 Marimonet al. ??2010) applied the E-S-QUAL instrument to an analysis of the relationship between loyalty and 34 purchasing in an e-market and expanded Boshoff's (2007) model by adding new construct. 35

36 Customer loyalty is considered as the foundation of competitive advantage and has strong influence on 37 organization's performance ?? Rust et al. 2000). A number of studies showed that companies can generate 38 more profit in an online as well offline environment through retaining their current customers rather than to attain previous ones (Hogan et al. 2003). Moreover, it was observed that loyal customers were less interested to 39 change the company because of price and they also engage in positive word-of-mouth communication and refer 40 it to other users. Higher customer loyalty in service industries will lead to better efficiency. Several researches 41 had focused on inquiring the association of customer loyalty with its antecedents (McMullan & Gilmore 2008; 42 Ibanez et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2005). A number of practitioner studies have provided empirical support for a 43 relationship. Due to the unique characteristics of online marketing (Collier & Bienstock 2006;Wolfinbarger & 44

Gilly 2003), the conceptualization and measurement of e-service quality encompasses the two facets of customer
services and information systems and includes all factors related to the process of service delivery. Fassnacht
and Koese (2006) argue that e-service is a higher-order construct consisting of environment quality, product and

48 services delivery quality as well as outcome quality.

# <sup>49</sup> 2 II. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development a) Web <sup>50</sup> site Design and E-Satisfaction

Peterson (1997) reports that good website design in online marketing is about high-quality organization and easy 51 search. This includes providing consumers' uncluttered screens, simple search paths and fast presentations. 52 Moreover, each of these elements of site design could impact e-satisfaction levels in the variety of a more 53 pleasurable marketing experience being a more satisfying one. Marketing is thought to be pleasant and satisfying 54 to consumers when the transaction sites are fast, uncluttered, and easy-to-navigate. The main function of 55 a business website is to inform consumers about the company and its products or services (Hallerman2009). 56 57 Analysis of website performance in terms of design criteria and other associated factors became an important area of investigation (Tarafdar and Zhang 2008). Appropriate website design eventually enables organizations 58 complete their online marketing activities with greater success. 59

Hence, designing an effective website that attracts and retains internet users has become an important mission. 60 Cho and Park (2001) conducted an empirical study of 435 samples of internet users to examine the e-satisfaction 61 index for internet marketing. They found that the customer satisfaction is assessed using the quality of website 62 design. Previous study found that website design factors are strong predictors of customer quality judgments, 63 satisfaction, and loyalty for internet marketers (Wolfmbarger and Gilly 2003). A good strategy includes knowing 64 what to emphasize on a website, presenting with consistency, and using up-todate technology (Tan et al. 2009). 65 Website design can influence customers' perceived image of company, and attract customers to conduct purchasing 66 67 online easily with good navigation and useful information on the website. Website should offer appropriate information and multiple functions to customers. Website design can be considered as a multidimensional 68 69 construct, and define it as the customer's assessment of website attributes based upon their experience with the website. Several studies indicate positive relationship between the website quality and e-satisfaction ?? Szymanski 70 and Hise 2001; Chen et al. 2002; ?? heungand Lee 2002). We expect that each of the dimensions of website quality 71 will have a positive impact on e-satisfaction. H1: Website design is directly associated with esatisfaction in online 72 73 marketing.

#### <sup>74</sup> 3 b) Customer Service and E-Satisfaction

Previous study conducted by Lin (2005) showed that customer service could satisfy customers while it was 75 investigated that satisfied customers tended to be loyal customer (Oliver 1999). A high quality of customer service 76 has resulted in e-satisfaction and finally created repeated purchasing behavior in online environment. Customer 77 78 satisfaction distinguishes the variance between the customer's expectations and the customer's perceptions. When e-selling will be a growing trend in shopping, the online market will become highly competitive, so one way online 79 markets can become more competitive is by offering better customer service. Online retailers should determine 80 and deliver the quality service to customers in order to create satisfaction. Perceived value revolves around 81 price and convenience. Customers expect a lower price on the Internet in general (Koch 2003). Given the price 82 83 sensitivity of online consumers, the ease of finding prices may contribute to the customer value. Customer service 84 is defined as a consumer's perception of the net benefits gained in exchange for costs incurred in obtaining the 85 desired benefit ?? Chen & Dubinsky 2003). Moreover, Heinonen (2006) defined customer service as the perceived outcome of the trade-off of benefit and sacrifice of technical, functional, temporal, and spatial dimensions. Some 86 research has found that customer service has a significant direct impact on e-satisfaction ??Chi et al. 2008; ??a 87 & Janda 2008). H2: Customer service is positively related with esatisfaction in online marketing. 88

#### <sup>89</sup> 4 c) Trust and E-Satisfaction

Researchers in the marketing area have considered trust as one of the key constructs of relationship marketing 90 ??Ribbinket al. 2004). Trust has been defined as the degree of confidence or certainty the customer has in 91 exchange options. E-trust will therefore be defined as the degree of confidence customers have in online exchanges, 92 93 or in the online exchange channel (Reichheld and Schefter 2000). Stewart (1999) claimed that the failure of the 94 Internet marketing is largely attributable to the lack of trust consumers have in the electronic channels. So, 95 customer trust is considered as another important antecedent of satisfaction. Razzaque and Boon (2003), for 96 instance, found a significant effect of trust on satisfaction in the context of channel relationship. Customer's 97 trust plays a primary role in maintaining long-term relationships between customers and online service providers (Chiu et al. 2009). Customers are unlikely to transact through the website which lacks trust, because of fear of 98 vendor opportunism. The dimensions of trust are responsiveness, system availability and contact. Trust toward 99 online companies is often regarded as a key factor of online marketing growth, online success and competitiveness 100 ??Gounaris et al. 2005). Trust in e-service is related to the buying and payment process, the reliability of the 101

website, privacy and securities issues, order fulfillment, service delivery, after sales service and the status of the company. Customers' trust to online companies is critical for online companies' success.

# <sup>104</sup> 5 H3: Trust directly and positively influences e-satisfaction in <sup>105</sup> online marketing d) E-Satisfaction as a Mediator

Zeithaml and Bitner (2000) defined e-satisfaction as the customers' assessment of a product or service in terms of 106 whether that product or service has met their needs and expectations in online platform. Satisfaction has been 107 shown to be positively related to loyalty and this effect also occurs in online environment. Shankar et al. ??2003) 108 indicated that the effect of satisfaction on loyalty is stronger online than offline. Satisfied customers tend to 109 have higher usage of service, possess stronger repurchase intention, and are often keen to recommend the product 110 or service to their acquaintances. The process of measuring antecedents of e-satisfaction has been found to be 111 both difficult and somewhat controversial ??Szymanski and Henard 2001). Researchers have employed various 112 approaches, including attribute-level performance, prior experiences with the service, frequency of service usage, 113 and expectation-disconfirmation approaches, to measure e-satisfaction ??Shankar et al. 2000). ??zymanski and 114 Hise (2000) have employed the cumulative approach to identify five facets of e-satisfaction. These are: shopping 115 convenience, product offerings, site design, financial security, and product information. The first four factors 116 significantly impact on e-satisfaction with online shopping. ??olfinbarger and Gilly (2002), through focus group 117 interviews, a content analysis, and an online survey, and have uncovered four contributors to the online retailing 118 experience: Website design, reliability, privacy/security, and customer service. E-satisfaction was investigated 119 completely by Ribbink et al ??2009). The results of their investigation showed that when a customer is satisfied 120 with an online service provider, is inclined to repeat his purchase by the same provider and this increases the 121 trust between them. 122

#### <sup>123</sup> 6 e) E-Service Quality and E-Satisfaction

Service quality literature indicated that perceptions of high service quality and high service satisfaction resulted 124 in a very high level of purchase intentions. According to ??arasuraman, Berry and Zeithmal (1985), a perception 125 of service quality is a result of a comparison between what consumers consider the service should be and their 126 perceptions about the actual performance offered by the service provider. Service quality and overall satisfaction 127 128 implicitly include issues such as price perception, which is usually only felt rather than objectively measurable. A majority of studies view them as antecedents of esatisfaction (Gajendra and Li 2013), i.e. satisfaction is 129 conceptualized as a mediator of the relationship between quality and loyalty. Service quality as defined by 130 Santos (2003) described service quality as the customers' overall judgment of the excellence of service offering. 131 Service quality is also affected by the ability of an organization to satisfy customers' needs, according to their 132 expectation level (Yoo& Park 2007). E-service quality can help firms to differentiate themselves by offering 133 enhanced satisfaction, encouraging repeat purchases and building loyalty (Zeithaml, Parasuraman and Malhotra, 134 2002). Each service element in ecommerce offers an opportunity for such differentiation. Eservice quality may 135 also affect customers' emotional responses such as liking, joy, pride, dislike and frustration. Customer service 136 quality has a direct relationship with customer satisfaction in the context of online marketing. Ribbink et al. 137 ?2009) articulates that the importance of attributes of online customer's satisfaction is dependent on technology 138 readiness. Research on the antecedents to e-service adoption also suggests that e-service experience has impact 139 on customers' perception and evaluation of e-service quality. 140

141 H4: E-service quality is positively related with esatisfaction in online environment.

# <sup>142</sup> 7 f) E-Satisfaction and E-Loyalty

Customer e-loyalty is an important issue in the competitive environment of e-marketing. Different studies show that e-loyalty is influenced by esatisfaction, e-trust and e-service quality. Customer loyalty has been defined as "a deeply held commitment to rebuy or repatronize a preferred product/service consistently in the future, thereby causing repetitive same-brand or same brand-set purchasing, despite situational influences and marketing efforts having the potential to cause switching behavior" (Oliver, 1999). The concept of e-loyalty extends the traditional loyalty concept to online consumer behavior. **??** yr et al. (2007) defined e-loyalty as intention to revisit a website or to make a transaction from it in the future. Strauss et al.

(2009) define e-loyalty as "A customer's favorable attitude toward an e-commerce website that predisposes the 150 customer to repeat buying behavior". Numerous researchers have tried to find relevant antecedents and their role 151 in creating e-loyalty. E-service quality, e-satisfaction, corporate image, word-of-mouth communication, perceived 152 153 value have been proposed as antecedents of loyalty (Wieringa and Verhoef 2007; Patterson and Smith 2003) and 154 these variables are also taken as motivating force of competitive advantage and corporate success. Satisfaction is created when an individual believes that the other person has useful indices besides profitability (Flavian et al 155 2006). Satisfaction is one of the signs of loyalty of customer. Lewis and Soureli (2006) defined that satisfaction 156 is "security that at first means that behavior is guided from the goal of one person to another one and second it 157 is based on qualification of a business to keep its commitments". According to Ribbinket al. (2009), satisfaction 158 is the trust of a loyal customer and of great importance when an online trading is occurred. H5: Loyalty in 159

online environment directly effects esatisfaction The first part of the block is relating to the motivating factors
for e-satisfaction in online environment. The variables are website design, customer service and trust. In this case
these variables act as dependent variables and e-satisfaction acts as independent variable. In addition, e-service
quality acts as dependent variable on e-satisfaction. The next variable 'loyalty on online marketing' or e-loyalty
acts as independent variable and e-satisfaction or satisfaction in online marketing as dependent variable.

# <sup>165</sup> 8 III. Theoretical Background: Social Exchange Theory

Social exchange theory is a social psychological and sociological perspective that explains social change and 166 stability as a procedure of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social exchange theory states that all human 167 relationships are formed by the use of a subjective cost-benefit analysis and the comparison of alternatives. The 168 social exchange context argues that people calculate the overall worth of a particular relationship by subtracting 169 its costs from the rewards it provides (Monge 2003). Social exchange theory was introduced in the 1960s by 170 George Homans. After Homans founded the theory, a number of theorists such as Richard Emerson, John 171 Thibaut, Harold Kelley and Peter Blau continued to inscribe about the theory. Homans's primary concern 172 within this field was focusing on the behavior of individuals when interacting with one another. He believed 173 characteristics such as power, conformity, status, leadership and justice within social behavior was important to 174 explain within the theory (Cook and Rice 2001). Emerson states that social exchange theory is an approach 175 in sociology that is described for simplicity as an economic analysis of noneconomic social situations (Emerson 176 1976). Social exchange includes both a concept of a relationship, and some belief of a shared obligation in which 177 both parties perceive responsibilities to each other. Another common form of exchange is negotiated exchange 178 which focuses on the negotiation of rules in order for both parties to essential differences. This theory can be 179 applied to various social backgrounds such as intimate relationships or work locations. The study discovers the 180 different factors involved when an individual decides to establish an online relationship (Rivka and Azy 2009). 181 Overall the study followed the social exchange theory's idea that people are attracted to those who grant them 182 rewards. Individuals will try to understand the source or cause of feelings produced by social exchange. In 183 this way, emotions become attributed to the object that caused them. Individuals interpret and exchange their 184 feelings with respect to social relationships (e.g. partners, groups, networks). Positive emotions produced by 185 exchange will increase commonality in these relationships, while negative emotions will decrease solidarity. 186

# <sup>187</sup> 9 IV. Methodology a) Measures

Table 1 provides the name of variables, their acronym and description. There are altogether 6 construct variables 188 and 24 items to be measured for data analysis. All scales consisted of 5-point likert questions, ranging from "1 189 as strongly disagrees" to "5 as strongly agree". As shown in the research model (Fig. 1) the variables in left 190 block are website design, customer service and trust. E-satisfaction acts as a mediating variable. The variable 191 in the right block is Eservice quality. Another variable loyalty on online marketing acts as independent variable 192 on esatisfaction. In the table acronym of each variable, their description and indicator items were presented. 193 Each construct contains 4 indicator items and altogether there are 20 indicators. The item in each variable was 194 selected from literature review. 195

# <sup>196</sup> 10 Website design E-satisfaction E-service quality

Customer Pretest of the questionnaires was conducted with 25 users to check the reliability and clarity of 197 questionnaires. Pretest was performed for screening of questions i.e. select those which have clear meaning 198 and understandable. The pilot test was performed with 30 IT experts. Some questions were modified as per the 199 suggestion of users to avoid confusions and to make reliable survey. Altogether 541 participants were requested for 200 survey participation. The responses were received from 378 participants. Thus the response rate is 69.87%. Out 201 of them 9 responses were discarded due to incomplete and invalid answers. Consequently, remaining 369 responses 202 were used for data analysis. The survey contains 20 questionnaires and it takes 10 minutes to answer. Each 203 participant received a small gift for answering survey questionnaires. The e-mail addresses of each participant 204 were collected from IT department of the University. The survey link was sent to each participant. Each item of 205 a questionnaire was rated on a five point likert scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Neutral was 206 given the score of 3. Of all respondents, 56.5% were male, 43.5% were female. The age varies from 22 to 58. The 207 average age is 25. 208

# 209 11 V. Results

# <sup>210</sup> 12 a) Measurement Model

Structural equation modeling (SEM) using Smart PLS 2.0 was used to analyze measurement and psychometric properties of the measure for constructs. After a refinement of the survey instrument utilized in our initial tests, all constructs reported high reliability (composite reliability > 0.8, AVE> 0.7). Thus, the measurements fulfill convergent validity requirements. Based on the above described tests our measurement model (Table 2) is validated and we have demonstrated that all measures in this study have adequate convergent and discriminant validity. In order to access the construct validity and reliability, a test on Cronbach's alpha was conducted for

Hair et al. (1998) stated that the threshold value of Cronbach's alpha should be 0.60. Communality is the 217 sum of the squared factor loadings for all factors for a given variable. Communalities report the percentage of 218 variance within each variable that is explained by the resulting factors. The value is above 70% which shows the 219 220 adequate fit. Variance extracted of 0.5 or higher indicates adequate convergent validity. The value of AVE was obtained above 0.5 in our result. The value of construct reliability 0.7 or higher suggests good reliability. The 221 internal consistency reliability (ICR) should be above 0.707. Coefficient of determination (R 2) is received from 222 F-statistics. Internal reliability was evaluated by the composite reliability of each latent variable. Composite 223 reliabilities of all constructs should be above 0.70 threshold (Barclay et al. 1995). In our result the value of 224 composite reliability is above 0.70. The redundancy has noofficial value for analysis but higher value is preferred. 225

#### <sup>226</sup> 13 b) Confirmatory Factor Analysis Model

Out of 20 items, 3 items were deleted due to lower factor loading less than 0.6. In Website design (WD) the 227 third item (WD3) deleted. In Customer service (CS) construct fourth item (CS4) was removed. Similarly in 228 E-service quality (EQ) construct the second item (EQ2) was eliminated due to low factor loading. The result 229 of CFA is presented in Table 4. Reliability of construct is how individuals respond and validity means what is 230 supposed to measure. Individual item reliability can be checked by examining the factor loading of each item 231 on its corresponding latent variable. The loading of all items should be higher than 0.707 (Barclay et al. 1995). 232 However, survey data highly depends upon the opinion of participants, so some fluctuation in result may take 233 place. According to Manly (1994) loading above 0.6 is usually considered high and below 0.4 is low. If all 234 measurement items are strongly significant with a value of over 0.60, then it will be a good model fit and all 235 construct variables are valid. The proposed research model shows a good construct fit as all factor loadings 236 are above 0.6. The research model is statistically significant and well constructed. The factor loadings are in 237 acceptable range and the t-values are significant at the .01 level. If the square root of the AVE is greater than 238 all of the inter-construct correlations, it is an evidence of sufficient discriminant validity (Chin 1998). In order to 239 further access validity of measurement instruments, a cross loading table was constructed. It can be observed that 240 each item loading in the table is much higher on its assigned construct than on the other constructs, supporting 241 adequate convergent and discriminant validity. Chin (1998) suggests that, covariance based estimates such as 242 reliability and AVE are not applicable for evaluating formative constructs. Instead, the path weights of indicators 243 need to be examined to check if they significantly contribute to the emergent construct. 244

Service Quality, Satisfaction and Loyalty on Online Marketing: An Empirical Investigation EQ 0.32 0.25 0.49 245 0.52 EL 0.31 6 presents the value of latent variable correlations and Square root of AVE. An AVE is used to assess 246 the convergent and discriminant validity of the constructs. The AVE helps to measure the amount of variance 247 that a construct captures from its indicators relative to the amount due to measurement error. In order to assess 248 the convergent validity, AVE of the stipulated construct should be greater than 0.50 and the value of square root 249 250 of the AVE should be greater than .707 (Fornell and Larcker 1981). 7 presents the summary of hypothesis result 251 results of research model. All t-statistics will be significant at p < 0.001. If the probability value (p value) is less 252 than the significance level, the null hypothesis is rejected. If the T value is greater than 2.63, then the path is significant at p < 0.01. T value in between 2.63 and 1.96 is significant at p < 0.05. Likewise, T value below 1.96 is 253 not significant (P < 0.01). The key objective of this study is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of 254 the role of eservice quality, e-loyalty, website design, trust and customer service on e-satisfaction. The empirical 255 results indicate that all the five hypotheses are supported. Analysis of data from 369 participants shows that 256 website design (H1), customer service (H2), trust (H3) and e-service quality (H4) is found to have a positive 257 and significant relationship with e-satisfaction. Esatisfaction (H5) is found to have a positive and significant 258 relationship with loyalty. These are significant findings in that these backgrounds are able to explain a large part 259 of the variance of e-satisfaction. 260

#### <sup>261</sup> 14 VI. Discussion

#### <sup>262</sup> 15 a) Summary of the Results

E-service quality, e-satisfaction and e-loyalty are critical determinants of the success of online marketing. 263 Accordingly, there is a rise of research on these constructs. E-loyalty brings high rate of customer retention and 264 reduced cost for recruiting new customers which leads to long-term profitability to the online service provider. 265 The purpose of this study is to propose a comprehensive model of the e-satisfaction development process by 266 conceptualizing that e-loyalty is influenced by e-satisfaction and e-satisfaction is effected by e-trust, customer 267 service and e-service quality. This study tests all of the direct and indirect impacts that these factors can have on 268 269 each other and in turn on customer e-satisfaction, and presents a comprehensive model on their relationship which 270 goes beyond what previous researches have studied. The quality of e-services has a direct and an indirect impact 271 on both e-satisfaction and e-trust. It means that the better e-service quality, the more customer esatisfaction and e-trust of the internet marketing services. In addition, e-trust not only has a direct impact on e-satisfaction but 272 also has an indirect influence through e-loyalty. Since an online transaction is perceived to be associated with 273 higher risk, trust has Volume XVII Issue II Version I Year ( ) been considered as a critical component in online 274 marketing context. Therefore, online providers should recognize that to build e-satisfaction and e-loyalty, there 275 has to be a prior development of e-trust. In the Internetbased market, customers in actual fact expect correct 276

services, accurate transactions and records, and prompt delivery either electronically or physically. Customer 277 services are also one of the important antecedents of satisfaction ?? Anderson et al. 1994). Company employees 278 should have adequate knowledge to respond customer questions, properly handle problems that arise, understand 279 280 customer specific needs, and address complaints in an cordial manner. In contrast to the findings of ??zymanski 281 and Hise (2000), the study found that a product or service offering is a significant indicator of overall satisfaction in online platform. The finding that security and privacy do not significantly impact on overall satisfaction was 282 consistent with results discovered by ??olfinbarger and Gilly (2000) in their study of service quality dimensions 283 of electronic marketing. 284

Improving e-service quality is the main key to long-term advantage in the electronic age. Therefore, 285 understanding, measuring and managing e-service quality has become an indispensable issue for ensuring 286 customers' satisfaction and loyalty as well as profitability of service industries. This study proved that esatisfaction 287 can affect attitudes and intensions towards reusing of e-service. As an antecedent of online repurchase, marketers 288 should pay enough attention to improve e-services quality and adopt with customers' needs and preferences. 289 Building customer loyalty in emarketing is difficult; it requires online companies to differentiate themselves from 290 their competitors. Practitioners should consider focusing more on customer interface design as a marketing 291 strategy. Also, the argument that trust is positive affect satisfaction and that is supported in the finding. 292 293 However, it has previous study been supported that trust plays significant role to gain success in e-marketing. 294 Trust can easily motivated by conducting trustworthy, secured, private, responsiveness, and personalized for 295 users (Norizan et al., 2010). Finally, the argument that e-satisfaction affects positively on e-loyalty and that is supported by the findings. However, ??orizan et al., (2001) indicated that satisfaction has positive relationship 296 with customer loyalty including repurchase intention and positive word of mouth. 297

# <sup>298</sup> 16 b) Theoretical and Managerial Implications

Our findings have both managerial and research implications. From a managerial perspective, online marketers' can establish early warning systems based on continuously measuring customer perceptions, so that management can take appropriate remedial action when any of these dimensions is perceived as falling below an acceptable level.

Moreover, e-marketers can use the scale items developed in this study to target their online marketing activities 303 with regard to competitors to identify their comparative strengths and weakness from the standpoint of customers. 304 The managers should be aware that the most important dimension of e-service recovery in terms of enhancing 305 306 customer satisfaction is trust. Managers should therefore ensure that all problems and returns are effectively 307 handled through company websites. This is the most critical point in seeking to restore customer confidence after a service failure. Moreover, managers should note that the contact' dimension has no effect on loyalty. These 308 results had implication for practice and social exchange theory. The study findings demonstrate that there is a 309 need to incorporate constructs other than e-satisfaction, corporate image, and perceived value for customer loyalty 310 in order to extend social exchange theory. Seiders et al. (??005) also concluded that relational, marketplace 311 and customer characteristics moderate the relationship between satisfactions and repurchase behavior. From a 312 research perspective, our study provides an early conceptualization of the relevant antecedents of e-satisfaction. 313 Our findings provide a foundation for the further study of this important topic along with both theoretical 314 and empirical dimensions. E-service quality and trust are also key points that require consideration. A prompt 315 response with customers' inquires, making a policy of responding to customers as individuals, using helpful, 316 friendly people and caring about customers are important in online marketing to enhance the e-service quality 317 which provides e-satisfaction. Moreover, convincing customers that they are getting high value from the provider 318 is an important objective. Our study shows that customer service is a contributing factor to esatisfaction. Offering 319 a wide variety of products and services, carefully evaluating price competition, and making the purchase from 320 the website to be easier and efficient are the means to increase customers' value. Esatisfaction is confirmed to 321 be a predecessor of customer value. The continuous improvement in esatisfaction will lead to the increase of 322 customer. Satisfied customers are more likely to purchase repeatedly and speak positive word of-mouth. The 323 managerial implication here is that the online marketing can improve e-satisfaction and the reflection of improved 324 e-satisfaction quality will increase customer loyalty which combined together in making customers satisfied, and 325 then enhance their purchase intentions. 326

# <sup>327</sup> 17 c) Limitations

328 This study has two major limitations. First, the sample collected from academic community may not be 329 representative of the general population of online marketers. The analytical results presented here thus may have 330 limited generalizability. Second, since this study only considered online marketing aspect of internet platform, this 331 study was limited to examining the causal relationships among e-satisfaction, e-service quality, customer service, trust and e-loyalty. In future study, other significant variables, such as company reputation and profitability of 332 the online marketing may be added into the hypothesized research model. Moreover, future studies may use 333 different sampling method to collect data, for example, randomly selecting respondents from a list of customers 334 of a specific emarketer. 335

#### 336 18 VII. Conclusions

According to the results, the most important effective factor on loyalty of the customers in e-services including 337 online marketing is e-satisfaction. Attaining customer satisfaction with high quality services, fulfillment of the 338 expectations of the customers at the best form being pioneer in presenting new services to facilitate customers' 339 affairs will promise the survival of online business. Overall satisfaction of customers plays a significant role 340 in determining repurchase intentions, recommendations, and price sensitivity. Moreover, as some satisfaction 341 determinants directly affect behavioral intentions or indirectly influence behavioral intentions through overall 342 satisfaction, management should focus on these prominent attributes. Identifying satisfaction antecedents will 343 not only help management learn how to take effective measures to improve overall satisfaction, but facilitate 344 efforts to devote limited company resources into the optimum locations and in turn, achieve favorable behavioral 345 intentions. E-satisfaction quality may not only determined by website quality but it depends upon consumer 346 trust, service quality and customer service. In some online marketing services, the quality of associated logistics 347 and customer service components may also determine a customer's overall perception of satisfaction. It may 348

be important for future research to test the developed propositions in other types of e-services which are more
 strongly associated with experiential use. Therefore, future work should examine the customer profile dependency of components of e-satisfaction.

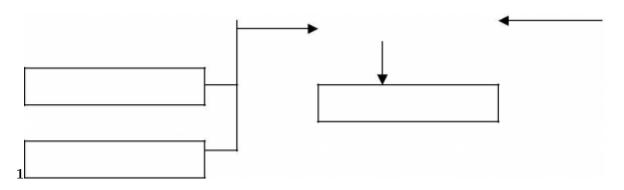


Figure 1: Figure 1 :

 $\mathbf{2}$ 

WD	1.00			
$\mathbf{CS}$	0.74	1.00		
$\mathrm{TR}$	0.71	0.70	1.00	
$\mathbf{ES}$	0.69	0.72	0.78	1.00

Figure 2: Table 2 :

1

Construct	Acro	n Description	Items
Website design	WD	Variable indication website quality for online marketing	4
Customer	$\mathbf{CS}$	Includes variables related to customer value in online	4
service		platform	
Trust	$\mathrm{TR}$	Variables indicating trust in online marketing	4
E-satisfaction	$\mathbf{ES}$	Variables including user satisfaction in online environment	4
E-service	$\mathbf{EQ}$	Includes variables relating to quality of online services	4
quality			
E-loyalty	$\operatorname{EL}$	Variables including loyalty on online marketing	4

Figure 3: Table 1 :

 $\mathbf{4}$ 

Items used for	principal
construct	Factor loading
WD1	0.91
WD2	0.93
WD4	0.88
CS1	0.82
CS2	0.85

# Figure 4: Table 4 :

3

AVE Comp	os <b>R</b> e Cronbach's Alpha	Comm <b>Reality</b> dancy
Reli-	Square	
abil-		
ity		
WD0.872 0.874	0.881	0.897
CS 0.812 0.812	0.1310.838	$0.751 \ \ 0.135$
${ m TR}0.8100.875$	0.0630.894	$0.843 \ \ 0.411$
ES 0.649 0.853	0.910	0.733
EQ 0.715 0.922	0.3190.891	$0.710 \ \ 0.171$
EL $0.814 \ 0.862$	0.3130.902	$0.787 \ \ 0.054$
	CS3	0.83
	TR1	0.86
	$\mathrm{TR2}$	0.83
	TR3	0.91
	$\mathrm{TR4}$	0.84
	ES1	0.87
	ES2	0.80
	ES3	0.82
	$\mathrm{ES4}$	0.90
	$\mathrm{EQ1}$	0.86
	$\mathrm{EQ3}$	0.91
	$\mathrm{EQ4}$	0.83
	EL1	0.89
	$\mathrm{EL2}$	0.84
	EL3	0.82
	$\mathrm{EL4}$	0.87
	Table 5 provides the result of path coefficient to	
	test the research model. Path coefficients are	
	standardized versions of linear regression weights whic	h
	can be used in evaluating the possible causal linkage	
between statistical variables in the structural equation		
	modeling approach. The standardization involves	
	multiplying the ordinary regression coefficient by the	
	standard deviations of the corresponding explanatory	
	variable.	

Figure 5: Table 3 :

6

 $\mathbf{5}$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm WD} \ 0.855 \\ {\rm CS} \ 0.337 \ 0.881 \\ {\rm TR} \ 0.276 \ 0.351 \ 0.930 \\ {\rm ES} \ 0.343 \ 0.251 \ 0.314 \ 0.865 \\ {\rm EQ} \ 0.342 \ 0.441 \ 0.322 \ 0.246 \ 0.798 \\ {\rm EL} \ 0.320 \ 0.342 \ 0.218 \ 0.348 \ 0.401 \end{array}$ 

0.882

Figure 6: Table 6 :

WD	$\operatorname{CS}$	TR ES EQ EL
WD		·
$\mathbf{CS}$		
$\mathrm{TR}$		
ES		
Table		

Figure 7: Table 5 :

 $\mathbf{7}$ 

Hypothesis	T-Statistic	Support
H1:WD?ES	11.54 **	Supported
H2: CS?ES	9.42 **	Supported
H3: CS?INT	10.26 **	Supported
H4: CS?TR	6.91 **	Supported
H5: ITD?CS	8.40 **	Supported
** p<0.01, t-value significant		

Figure 8: Table 7 :

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