CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Indonesia is known as a country with a strong and diverse culture, unique experiences, breathtaking scenery, and authentic local dishes that attract tourists (Babolian Hendijani, R, 2016). With the good accessibility of transportation and networks such as airports, highways, and public transportation systems, this easy connectivity makes it easier for tourists to reach Indonesia (Leung, K. H., 2016). With that, Indonesia has become one of the countries with a high potential in the hospitality industry (Japutra & Situmorang, 2021).

With the number and diversity of culture and cuisine, Indonesia has become a country with many good opportunities in the food and beverage sector (Wijaya, 2019). In the food and beverage sector, the craft movement has grown significantly. Food and beverages provide a unique and personalized experience for enthusiasts (Walker, J.R., 2021). Coffee has become one of the most desirable beverages in the world, with an estimated 400 billion cups of coffee consumed per person (Cravero et al., 2020). Coffee, an indispensable part of global culinary culture, occupies an important position in food and beverages (Spence & Carvalho, 2020). Its rich history and diverse preparation methods reflect regional traditions and social preferences (Wijaya, 2019). Indonesia is a country that has a diverse background and culture. Coffee has become a beverage that has been influenced by the diversity of culture which makes it become rich in different tastes (Tucker, C. M., 2017).

Kopi Soe is a coffee brand established and developed in the Indonesian coffee industry. Kopi Soe has grown steadily and now has a strong presence across Indonesia by offering a wide variety of foods and beverages (Romario et al., 2021). Kopi Soe introduces its roasted coffee beans and brings rich, distinct flavors to lovers across the country.

Here's the review that came from one of the Kopi Soe outlets located in Medan, North Sumatra which is Kopi Soe Karya Wisata that has been collected from online reviews.

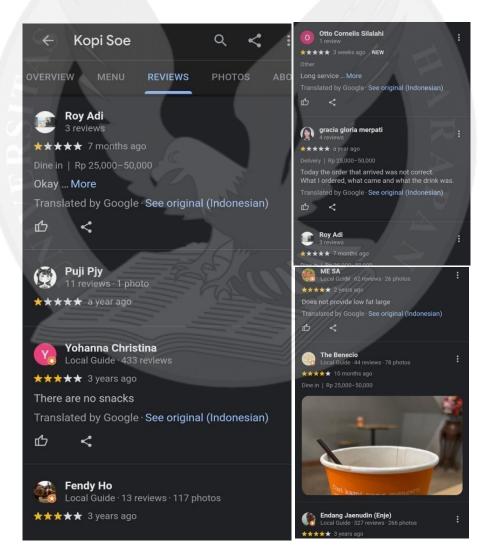






Figure 1.1 Google Review of Kopi Soe Medan

Source: Prepared by the writer (Online Review, 2023)

Although the number of customers at Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan has been increasing in recent years and has a good rating, there are still customer complaints and low ratings. This problem stems from concerns about both service and product quality that impact the brand image. Service quality issues persist, as evidenced by customer complaints about slow service, wrong orders, and others. In addition, product quality issues also arise from the products that were served by Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan, which didn't taste good. This might impact the brand image and influence customer loyalty which might cause them to lose their trust in Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan.

Quality of service in hospitality has become key to customerloyalty (Satti et al., 2020). Customer loyalty is defined as the part of a person's reaction and determination to consume a product or service (Berens, G., Van Riel,

C. B., & Van Bruggen, G. H. 2005). Trust that has been built through the service process could build customer loyalty. Customer loyalty will that been built by trust, shape consumer loyalty to the company (Mawey, T. C., Tumbel, A., & Ogi, I. W.2018). Customer loyalty can be influenced by product quality, service quality, and brand image.

In the hospitality industry, customer loyalty refers to the tendency of customers to repeatedly choose and recommend a particular hotel, restaurant or service provider based on their positive experience. The positive and significant influence between brand image and customer satisfaction shows that customer satisfaction is influenced by the brand image (Suratno et al., 2016). Brand image is built through good service quality or product quality which will later affect loyalty

to the brand.

The quality of services, which includes factors such as personalized service, comfort, cleanliness, responsiveness, and overall customer satisfaction, plays a central role in forming loyalty. Kopi Soe has grown steadily and now boasts a strong presence across Indonesia by providing different types of food and beverages (Kulsum, U., & Syah, T. Y. R. 2017). When customers receive special treatment and services that exceed their expectations, they are more likely to develop a strong emotional connection with the brand. In addition, positive experiences with quality products create feelings of emotional attachment towards the customers. With a positive experience, Customers trust that the product will always bring the expected benefits. This loyalty forms the basis of customer loyalty, as customers choose the same brand over a competitor based on their past positive experiences.

When customers have a positive perception of a brand, based on factors such as its reputation for quality, reliability, innovation and alignment with their values, they are more likely to develop stronger emotional connections. A well-designed brand promotes a sense of trust and familiarity, which encourages customers to continually choose the brand over the alternatives. This emotional connection goes beyond transnational interactions and creates a lasting relationship between the customer and the brand.

1.2 Problem Limitation

In this study, the researchers limited the problem to the analysis of customer

loyalty at Kopi Soe, especially the one located in Medan. With limited knowledge in conducting the research, problem limitations in this study are only on service quality, product quality, and brand image as the dependent variable.

X1: Influence of service quality to the customer loyaltyX2: Influence of product quality to the customer loyalty X3: Influence of brand image to the customer loyalty Y: Customer loyalty

1.3 Problem Formulations

- 1. Does service quality partially influence customer loyalty?
- 2. Does product quality partially influence customer loyalty?
- 3. Does a brand image partially influence customer loyalty?
- 4. Does service quality, product quality, and brand image have simultaneously influenced customer loyalty?

1.4 Objective of the Research

This study aims

- Service quality partially influences customer loyalty at Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan.
- Product quality partially influences customer loyalty at the Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan.
- Brand Image partially influences customer loyalty at the Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan.
- 4. Identify whether simultaneously service quality product quality and brand

image influences customer loyalty at Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan.

1.5 Benefits of the Research

1.5.1 Theoretical Benefits

This research is conducted to aim to answer and explain the phenomenon that occurs based on the explanation that happened in reality. This research focuses on the variables that influence customer loyalty in Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan. This research determines how much service quality, product quality, and brand image in influencing the customer loyalty in Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan..

1.5.2 Practical Benefits

This research is conducted to aim and share information regarding the workplace, which has an impact on improving the results of the practical research.

- 1. For students: this research is conducted to help with the writing of theresearch paper that is related to this study.
- 2. For Researchers: this research is conducted to become a guidance for future research according to the field.
- 3. For at the Community: this research is conducted to aim positive impacts toward the social and education.
- 4. For Restaurants: this research was conducted to provide an overview of how customer loyalty in Kopi Soe Karya Wisata Medan is.