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(ชื่อภาษาอังกฤษ) "The Factors affecting to customer loyalty of the Ride Hailing Industry in Thailand."

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The Factors Affecting Customer Loyalty of the Ride Hailing Industry in Thailand

Abstract

Identifying and creating customer loyalty is essential for business success. Understanding the customer loyalty requires understanding value for the customers. The study of customer value is more significant for several researches. However, many factors can affect customer value. This research explores the relationship between product value (product quality, product innovation), service value (customer relationship management, supplier relationship management), and brand value (brand awareness, brand image), and their impact on customer value and customer loyalty in the ride hailing industry in Thailand. The Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was applied to the preliminary analysis of the variables. Poor-performing items were removed from the original items. The 31 remaining items were reanalyzed in regrouping and renamed in 6 constructs which were 'supplier relationship', 'brand image and brand value', 'product value and product innovation', 'customer relationship', 'product quality', and 'service value'. Confirmatory Factory Analysis (CFA) conducted in AMOS revealed the relationship of these 6 main variables and their impacts on customer value and customer loyalty. The research result shows that the service value has the most positive impact to the customer value compared with other variables. Brand image and brand value is the variable that has least positive effect on the customer value. In addition, the relationship between customer value and customer loyalty were also examined in this study and the research result shows that there is a positive relationship between these two variables

Keywords: customer loyalty, customer value, product value, service value, brand value, ridehailing service

Introduction

Ride hailing industry is one of the fast growing industries in several countries, including Thailand. The passengers can hail a vehicle by using online platforms. It is one of the most comfortable means of transportation, as it provides door-to-door services. Increasing trend of ondemand transportation services, employment opportunities, and lower rate of car ownership are the important factors driving the growth of ride-hailing service in several countries.

According to Kandampully et al. (2015), customer loyalty is considered as long-term asset. Normally, the business companies have two objectives of customer loyalty programs. One is to increase sales revenues by raising purchase or usage levels of customers and / or increase the range of products bought. A second aim is more defensive, by building a closer relationship between the brand and current customers. This will support to maintain the current customer base (Uncle, Dowling, and Hammond, 2003).

In order to gain more customer loyalty, various factors affected to build customer loyalty are important to study. One of the important factors to build customer loyalty is customer value. Customer value is the estimation of the products overall capacity of the products to satisfy customer needs. This will affect to the customer tending to purchase products they feel are worth the cost needed to obtain such product. Normally, consumers tend to know exactly what they want to purchase (Singh, 2011).

In order to drive the customer value and customer loyalty to the brand, several factors that affect to the customer value are examined. This paper aims to examine the relationship between product value (product quality, product innovation), service value (customer relationship management, supplier relationship management), and brand value (brand awareness, brand image), and their impact on customer value and customer loyalty in the ride hailing industry in Thailand.

Literature Review

Customer loyalty

Customer loyalty is defined as something that consumers may exhibit to brands, services, stores, product categories (Uncles, Dowling, and Hammond, 2002). Many researchers studied about customer loyalty. The customer loyalty can be in the form of a consistently favorable set of stated beliefs towards the brand purchased. These customers' attitudes may be measured by asking how much people say they like the brand, feel committed to it, will recommend it to others, and have positive beliefs and feelings about brands (Dick and Basu, 1994). Customer's loyalty is considered as receiving a great marketing attention (Wu and Ai, 2016). Customer's loyalty is also regarded as a long-term asset for organization. (Kandampully et al., 2015). Having loyal customers for an organization is a required choice for various companies based on its important role in creating sustainable competitive advantages (Wu and Ai, 2016).

Customer Value

Customer value is the estimation of the products to satisfy the customer needs. Today's consumers are much more educated and informed due to the power of the internet. As such, they will tend to purchase products they feel are worth the cost needed to obtain such product. Sustaining customers is possible by giving customer high satisfaction. Today's most successful companies aim for total customer satisfaction (Singh, 2011). According to Gale (1994), customer value is considered as market perceived quality adjusted for the relative price of your product. It is the customer's opinion of the products (or services) as compared to the competitors. In addition, customer value is also considered as perceived value that is a customer's overall assessment of the utility of a product based on perceptions of what is received and what is given (Zeithaml, 1988)

Customer value has been found to be an antecedent of loyalty, a powerful predictor of purchase intention, willingness-to-buy, motivation for patronage, and repeat purchase behavior. Customers' experience of different types of customer value in service may have different influences on an organization's performance, such as in the area of customer loyalty (Chen, 2014). Companies that are able to provide good customer value can make customer loyalty and high customer retention, higher market share, and result in reduced operating costs. The customer value perceived by the customer is higher or better, the customer loyalty will have a significant increase (Zahra, Lutfie, and Harrie, 2017).

Product Value, Product Quality, and Product Innovation

Value is a measure expressed in currency, effort, exchange, or on a comparative scale which reflects the desire to obtain or retain a product and/or service. (Kelly and Male, 1993). The value of a product is a measure expressed in units of currency, which is equal to the cost of the product and a subjective marginal value (Neap and Celik, 1999).

Key factors affected customer satisfaction and can be used to measure customer satisfaction are product (in terms of its quality, availability etc.), price (convenient payment conditions and others), services, distribution, and image of a product (Zamazalová, 2008).

Quality is defined as a zero error rate. It can be defined as the ability to produce a perfect product on the first try (Parasuraman et al., 1985). Quality is considered as the producer's ability to meet expectations (Crosby, 1979). Quality can be defined as the quality perceived from the basis of the consumer's decision on the overall excellence or superiority of the product (Zeithaml, 1988). The concept model developed by Zeithaml (1988), which suggested that there is a causal relationship between price and quality with value customers. Munisih and Soliha (2015) also proved that product quality could influence customer value.

Afuah (2003) explained innovation as a use of new knowledge to offer a new product or service that customers want. Herregodts (2014) defined that an innovation is the multi-stage

process which organizations transform ideas into new or improved products or services in order to lead, compete, and differentiate themselves successfully in the market. Payne and Frow (2005) concluded that innovations would more effective and efficient to influence customer value. Nasution and Mavondo (2008) suggested that determinants of customer value are associated with the implementation innovative products and innovative processes. The measure of customer value based on the product efficiency can be viewed from the customer perspective towards the ratio of outputs that the customer obtain to the input that the customer need to deliver. Therefore, the customer value is related with new product or brand innovation (Rajagopal, 2006).

Service Value, Customer relationship management, and supplier relationship management

Service value is explained as global judgments of welfares that consumers received from products. This depends on consumer's thought about get and given services (Lee, Park, Park, Lee, & Kwon, 2005). In addition, service value has become focused due to mediating variable roles between service quality and satisfaction. They also support the concept where some kind of relation between customer satisfaction and value (Lee, Lee, Park, & Moon, 2004).

According to Richards and Jones (2008), customer relationship management (CRM) is defined as the process that identifies customers, creates customer knowledge, builds customer relationships, and shapes customers' perceptions of company and its products and/or services. CRM is considered as a comprehensive strategy and process of acquiring, retaining, and partnering with selective customers to create better value for the company and the customer (Parvatiyar and Sheth, 2001). CRM aligns business processes with customer strategies to build customer loyalty and increase more profits to the company (Rigby, Reichheld, & Schefter, 2002).

Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) is the process of engaging in activities of setting up, developing, stabilizing and dissolving relationships with in-suppliers as well as the out-suppliers to create and enhance value within relationships (Benoit, Klose, and Fassnacht, 2006). Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) is a systematic, the assessment of suppliers' assets and capabilities in view of the organizations overall business strategy, a determination of what activities to engage in with suppliers, and planning and execution of all interactions with suppliers, to maximize the value realized through those interactions. The focus of SRM is to develop two-way, mutually beneficial relationships with strategic supply partners to deliver innovation and competitive advantage than through a traditional and transactional purchasing arrangement (SDI, 2016).

Brand Value, Brand Image, and Brand Innovation

Brand value is one of the most important asset for business companies. Most marketing managers view the successful enhancement and growth of a brand as being almost equivalent to the very survival of their firm in the long term. Many marketers use the brand equity term to describe the brand value. Many marketing strategies can result in different outcomes or added

value for that specific brand (Keller, 2003). Brands contribute to maximize the perceived value of products or services, so it will increase the influence level of customers' preferences and choices. The impact of the brand can be reflected in a higher price premium, volume premium, and revenue premium (Opatha, 2015). According to Christopher (1996), the original concept of brand value is in need of extension, and needs to be embodied within a wider concept of customer value. The customer value concept recognizes that marketplace success in the new competitive environment will require not only continued investment in the brand but also investment in customers.

Brand image can be define as the observations around a brand as reflected by the brand association held in consumer's memory (Keller, 1993). According to Kotler (1988) and Meenaghan (1995), brand image is defined as set of customer's beliefs towards the brand. Moreover, brand image considered a highly important concept when it relates with consumer behavior. Therefore, if a company is constantly maintaining a positive and ideal image by the public it would affect to gain a better market place, increasing competitive advantage, and finally increasing higher market share (Park et al., 1986). According to Wu (2011), corporate image has been as an important antecedent of loyalty. Martineau (1958) stated that if consumers prefer image of the store, they will probably develop a certain degree of loyalty.

According to Grant (2006), brand innovation was defined that a brand is just like a story, being a key to drive cultural logic, establishes the continuity and association to have every new concept added to a brand's benefits and make the brand alive in the hearts of people. Brand innovation poured innovative concept into an existing brand. Eight items of brand innovation include (1)Concept of New Tradition; (2) Faith; (3) Human Herd Instinct; (4) Connection; (5) Neo-Luxury; (6) Time; (7) Excitement; and (8) Control. Chang (2011) mentioned that the risk of brand innovation is so huge that businesses not only must create the value of brand innovation research & development, but also satisfy consumers' real demand and market trends. Therefore, it will accomplish brand innovation.

Ride-Hailing Service

The ride-hailing is based on internet technology to organize supply and demand information on travel orders and provide a service platform for booking travelling service. Ride-hailing is operated by the company, and the main goal is to maximize profits for the company (Chen, Sun, Chen, Ye,&Jin,2016).

Although the ride-hailing platform seems to be useful for users, it has also led to much argument. In 2016, when Thailand recognized the legitimacy of the ride-hailing platform, it was not clear whether the platform must strictly controlled the industry. As a result, the ride-hailing platform was under the condition of weak supervision, relying on providing lower prices. In addition, the government is lack of supervision, so there is high competition in the market. Platforms in the market have engaged in price wars and eliminated a large number of

competitors. These have a great impact on the development of the online car platform (Sun, He, Wang, & Ma, 2019).

Methodology

Hypothesis

- H1: Customer value will have a positive and significant effect on customer loyalty in Ridehailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H2: Product value has a positive and significant effect on customer value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H3: Service value has a positive and significant effect on customer value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H4: Brand value has a positive and significant effect on customer value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H5: Product value has a positive and significant effect on service value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H6: Service value has a positive and significant effect on product value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H7: Service value has a positive and significant effect on brand value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H8: Brand value has a positive and significant effect on service value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H9: Product quality has a positive and significant effect on product value in Ride-hailing-service industry in Thailand.
- H10: Product Innovation has a positive and significant effect on product value in Ridehailing industry in Thailand.
- H11: Customer relationship management has a positive and significant effect on service value in Ride-hailing industry in Thailand.
- H12: Supplier relationship management has a positive and significant effect on service value in Ride-hailing industry in Thailand.
- H13: Brand image has a positive and significant effect on brand value on Ride-hailing industry in Thailand.

H14: Brand innovation has a positive and significant effect on brand value on Ride-hailing industry in Thailand.

Research Objectives

The paper aims to examine the relationship between product value (product quality, product innovation), service value (customer relationship management, supplier relationship management), and brand value (brand awareness, brand image), and their impact on customer value and customer loyalty in the ride hailing industry in Thailand. The study will be benefit to the business enterprises especially for ride hailing companies to make the right decision to develop the customer loyalty.

Research Setting and Sample

This study was conducted in 5 main locations of Thailand. The respondents were selected from the people who have experience in using ride-hailing service in Thailand. The locations include Bangkok and Metropolitan, Chiangmai, Phuket, Chonburi, Nakhon Ratchasina and Khon Kaen. Data was gathered through a paper-based survey from the people in 5 main locations in Thailand. From the 800 questionnaires distributed to the respondents, about 80 percent of the respondents have submitted the questionnaires.

The survey was conducted to assess product value, service value, brand value, customer value, and customer loyalty. The survey questions were asked to indicate on a 5-point Likert scale anchored by 'Completely Disagree' (1), 'Neither Disagree nor Agree' (3), and 'Completely Agree with the Statements' (5).

Data Analysis and Findings

The study has applied Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) to the preliminary analysis of the variables. Poor-performing items were removed from the original items. The 31 remaining items were reanalyzed in regrouping and renamed in 6 constructs which were 'supplier relationship', 'brand image and brand value', 'product value and product innovation', 'customer relationship', 'product quality', and 'service value'.

Confirmatory Factory Analysis (CFA) conducted in AMOS revealed the relationship between supplier relationship, brand image and brand value, product value and product innovation, customer relationship, product quality, and service value and their impact on customer value and customer loyalty in the ride hailing industry in Thailand.

The model fit summary of the measurement model presented an acceptable fit to the data of n = 896 (p < 0.001) χ 2 /df = 2.786, NFI = 0.931, CFI = 0.954, RMSEA = 0.045]. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy is 0.966. Acceptable model fit was indicated by Comparative Fit Index (CFI) value of 0.80 or greater (Hu & Bentler, 1999), and if a smaller RMSEA value is indicating better model fit, an acceptable is at 0.06 or less (Hair et al., 2009; Hu & Bentler, 1999).

Table 1 shows principle component analysis factor loading and composite reliability (reconstruct of variables)

Table 1: Principle component analysis factor loading and composite reliability (re-construct of variables)

Constructs and itams (Danam)	Standardized	Composite reliability			
Constructs and items (Renew)	loadings				
Product Quality (PQ)					
1. The riding hailing application I used helps my life	0.692	0.771			
to be easier.					
2. The ride hailing application I used helps me to	0.672				
manage time.					
3. The ride hailing application I used is good quality.	0.687				
4. The ride hailing application I used is safe.	0.578				
5. The hailing application I used is better than others.	0.537				
Product Value and Product Innovation (PI)					
1. The ride hailing application I used has technology	0.621	0.720			
development.					
2. The ride hailing application I used has development	0.564				
in new business operation, new product/service, or					
new marketing strategies.					
3. The ride hailing application I used has significant	0.688				
product/service development or significant business					
operation development.					
4. The ride hailing application I used offers new					
changes to customers.	0.630				

Cust	omer Relationship (CR)		
1	. The ride hailing application I used can satisfy me at	0.726	0.700
	every time I need.		
2	. The ride hailing application I used can satisfy me every place I need.	0.692	
3.	The ride hailing application I used is clear and easy		
	to understand.	0.562	
Servi	ice Value (SV)		
1	. The customers' opinion is operated by the company	0.514	0.704
	very quickly.	0.614	0.721
2	. The officers of the ride hailing application I used		
	can solve the problems for me.	0.613	
3	. The officers of the ride hailing application I used		
	are friendly to customers.	0.654	
4	. I can contact the customer service officer of the ride		
	hailing application I used easily.	0.517	
5	. The ride hailing application I used has variety of		
	services to solve the problems for the customers in	0.516	
	case they has usage difficulty.		
Suppl	ier Relationship (SR)	_	
	The ride hailing application I used invest to build	0.720	0.868
	relationship with suppliers.	0.720	
2.	The ride hailing application I used gives importance	0.766	
2.	to suppliers.	0.7.00	
3.	The ride hailing application I used always evaluate their	0.658	
٦.	suppliers' performances.	0.030	
4.	The ride hailing application I used evaluates their suppliers'	0.673	
	performances from their price and quality.		

	to develop product/service.		
6.	The ride hailing application I used has a clear policy to develop	0.681	
	the relationship with their suppliers.		
7.	The ride hailing application I used shares information and	0.681	
	operations to their suppliers.		
Brand	Image and Brand Value (BI)		
1.	I know the ride hailing application I used very well.	0.641	0.812
2.	I know the advertisement of the ride hailing application	0.617	
	I used very well.		
3.	I have confidence in the ride hailing application I used.	0.631	
4.	I can tell the trademark of the ride hailing application I used.	0.725	
5.	The ride hailing application I used has good communication	0.614	
	with customers.		
6.	The ride hailing application I used helps me to have a	0.590	
	good memory.		

0.502

7. The ride hailing application I used has brand development.

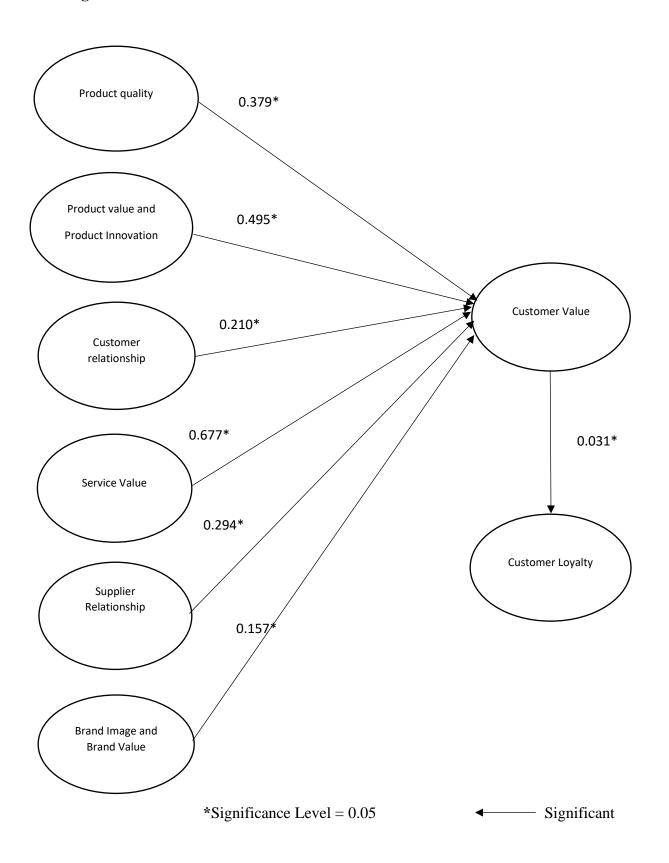
Table 2 Correlation Coefficients for (Renew) Observed Variables

Variables	Product Quality	Product Value and Product Innovation	Customer Relationship	Service Value	Supplier Relationship
Product Quality					
Product Value and Product Innovation	0.844*				
Customer Relationship	0.733*	0.713*			
Service Value	0.759*	0.904*	0.837*		
Supplier Relationship	0.774*	0.766*	0.700*	0.896*	
Brand Image and Brand Value	0.787*	0.776*	0.729*	0.847*	0.828*

Notes: *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

In addition, a Pearson correlation was used to assess the relationship among the variables of the model. All correlations between the proposed dimensions were found to be statistically positive significant at 0.01 level (two-tailed). The correlation matrix for renew observed variables from the model was shown in Table 2.

Figure 2 Standardized Total Effects



Assessment of (Renew) Observed Variables through Renew Model (Based on SIBE Model)

Figure 2 showed that all variables including product quality, product value and product innovation, customer relationship, service value, supplier relationship, brand image and brand value, have positive effect on customer value. The customer value also has positive effect on customer loyalty.

Limitation of the Study and Further Study

The limitation of the study includes limitation of the prior research on this topic and some areas of the study have limitation of accessibility of the ride hailing service. The limitation of the prior research affects laying a foundation for understanding the research problem investigating. The limitation of accessibility in some area affects the coverage area of the study. Some areas of each province cannot be studied.

For the further study, the renew model of the research are recommended to study more about customer value and customer loyalty. Other variables including service quality, human resource management, and brand awareness can be added for the study.

Discussion and Conclusions

From the CFA analysis testing all variables of SIBE model, there were changed, and cutoff some variables into 6 factors which were product quality, product value and product innovation, customer relationship, service value, supplier relationship, brand image and brand value. All variables have positive relationship with the customer value. From the study, the service value has the most positive impact to the customer value compared with other variables. Brand image and brand value is the variable that has least positive effect on the customer value.

The study also examines the relationship among the variables. The research result shows that all the 6 variables have the significant relationship among each other. This can conclude that the factors that affect to customer value include product quality, product value and product innovation, customer relationship, service value, supplier relationship, brand image and brand value are related and affect to each other.

Moreover, the relationship between customer value and customer loyalty were also examined in this study and the research result shows that there is a positive relationship between these two variables. This supports the research of Chen (2014), concluded that customer value has been found to be an antecedent of loyalty, a powerful predictor of purchase intention, willingness-to-buy, motivation for patronage, and repeat purchase behavior. It also supports the study of and Zahra, Lutfie, and Harrie, (2017), mentioned that customer value perceived by the customer is higher, the customer loyalty will increase significantly.

The current study will assist the business enterprises especially for the companies in the ride hailing industry to aware of the importance of building customer values through different

factors including product quality, product value and product innovation, customer relationship, service value, supplier relationship, brand image and brand value. Focusing on these factors can help increasing customer value to the brand. As a result, the customer loyalty will increase. This means that the customer will have more repurchase and loyal to the brand.

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