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# The examination of the correlation between product placement in short-form videos on tiktok and vietnamese young consumer purchase intention

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#### ABSTRACT

With This study examines the relationship between product placement in short-form TikTok videos and the purchase intentions of young Vietnamese consumers, focusing specifically on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the food and beverage (F&B) industry. The research investigates how various attributes of product placements—including resemblance, aesthetic appeal, popularity, professionalism, and user interaction—affect consumer purchase intentions by eliciting emotional responses. Emphasizing the importance of emotional engagement, the study seeks to understand the psychological and emotional mechanisms underlying consumer behavior. A mixed-methods approach is employed, incorporating qualitative data collected via online questionnaires. The target sample consists of 256 Vietnamese respondents, selected from Facebook groups, with particular attention paid to the demographic profile of young consumers. Data collection and analysis are guided by robust statistical techniques, including exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and structural equation modeling (SEM), to identify key factors and assess the relationships between product placement attributes and consumer purchase behavior. Central to the research is the exploration of positive emotions triggered by strategic product placements and their potential to enhance purchase intentions. The study aims to provide actionable insights for SMEs in the F&B sector by examining the interaction between emotional engagement and specific product placement attributes. These insights are expected to assist businesses in designing more effective and emotionally resonant social media marketing campaigns. The findings highlight the critical role of emotional engagement in shaping consumer purchase intentions, demonstrating how attributes such as beauty, resemblance, and interaction contribute significantly to the effectiveness of product placements. The study underscores the need for SMEs to leverage these attributes strategically to strengthen consumer connections and drive purchasing behavior. This research contributes to the broader field of digital marketing by offering valuable perspectives on using emerging platforms like TikTok for consumer engagement, with practical implications for enhancing marketing effectiveness in the F&B industry.

Key words: Product placement, brand placement, branded entertainment, in-program sponsoring, entertainment marketing

## **INTRODUCTION**

- $_{\rm 2}~$  The growing trend of digitalization has resulted in the
- <sup>3</sup> widespread incorporation of mobile devices into daily
  <sup>4</sup> activities, and they are becoming essential to the exe-
- <sup>5</sup> cution of routines, especially in shoppiong activities,
- 6 as the retail sector undergoes a shift towards digital-
- <sup>7</sup> ization. With the help of smartphones, people now
- <sup>8</sup> perform a range of shopping-related activities like re-
- 9 searching products and stores, making shopping lists,10 browsing shopping blogs, checking product availabil-
- 11 ity, comparing prices, and more, whether they're on
- $_{12}$  the go or inside a store <sup>1</sup>. The shift to digital platforms
- <sup>13</sup> facilitates e-commerce and is a fundamental to corpo-
- 14 rate development and economic vibrancy. It increases
- <sup>15</sup> market presence, fortifies competitive advantage, and

expands company opportunities<sup>2</sup>.

In the empirical research on global entrepreneurship, discussing the development of international ecommerce in retail SMEs suggests that SMEs may ex-19 pand their reach by utilizing e-commerce to get access 20 to unexplored client groups and growing market op-21 portunities<sup>3</sup>. E-commerce is referred to by the term 22 "trading of goods or services over computer networks 23 such as the Internet". Thanks to its growth, numer-24 ous retail companies can not only encroach on new international markets but also achieve cost savings<sup>3</sup>. E-commerce has recently brought about a total revo-27 lution in the retail industry in recent times. Due to this change, customers now have access to an enormous range of options, unrivalled ease, and flexibil-30

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<sup>31</sup> ity, people can shop and make purchases from almost <sup>32</sup> anywhere at any time because of the widespread use of computers, cellphones, and tablets. Mainly due to several variables, such as the COVID-19 pandemic's 34 effects, changing demographics, and more compe-35 tence with digital technology, the trend toward online 36 purchasing has only accelerated<sup>4</sup>. Regarding these-days popular marketing method -38 product placement, which is known as a part of In-39 tegrated Marketing Communication (IMC), all of the 40 definitions agree that it is the advertising messages are either prominently or covertly placed in the entertain-42 ment programs namely movies, TV shows, songs, dia-43 <sup>44</sup> logues, computer games, virtual reality, dramas, etc<sup>5</sup>. Product placement is preferred nowadays and viewers seem more comfortable observing this trendy plat-46 form because while traditional advertisements constantly aim to grab viewers' attention, the desired 48 message will be delivered in a less intrusively, which 50 looks more comfortable for viewers. As a result, the avoidance rate decreased relative to typical commer-51 cial viewing<sup>5</sup>. 52 Pew Research defines Gen Z as those who were born 53 in 1997 or later. However, because the authors con-54 tend that this age group uses social media more often than those under the age of  $16^6$ , that is why my research only looks at Gen Z participants born between 58 1997 and 2006. This group frequently has easy access to technology, frequently with little parental supervi-59 sion. In addition, people between the ages of 16 and 60 25 usually have a higher level of cognitive growth than younger people. This age group also tends be some-62 what financially independent, influencing their attitudes and actions even more<sup>6</sup>. 64 Therefore, this study will be limited to the Generation Z population and will mostly target students in 66 Vietnam's universities, concentrating on those in Ho Chi Minh City. The study intends to get further un-68 derstanding into this demographic segment's distinct viewpoints, habits, and difficulties encountered by 70 this demographic segment by limiting the parameters to this particular group and geographic area. Under-72 standing the preferences, beliefs, and requirements of 74 Generation Z students at HCMC institutions may be gained by understanding their experiences and atti-75 tudes. This will enable more focused and efficient 76 approaches to tackling relevant concerns within this 78 group. **THEORETICAL** 

#### o ABC theory framework

This research will adopt the ABC (Attitude-BehaviorContext) Theory framework, which encompasses attitude variables, behavior variables, and contextual

variables to comprehensively examine the correlation 84 between the attitude and contextual factors that influence consumer purchase intention, which is the behavioral variable. According to the ABC theory, context (C) refers to the external factors that influence behavior, along with consumers' perceptions of 89 these factors. Attitude (A) encompasses consumers' internal beliefs, emotions, and intentions when encountering stimuli. Additionally, behavior (B) de-92 notes the observable actions consumers take in response to these stimuli<sup>7</sup>. The ABC theory claim that "behaviour is an interactive product of contextual factors and attitudinal variables"<sup>8</sup>. Also, Guagnano et al. 96 have asserted that according to ABC theory, behavior (B) results from a combination of attitudinal (A) 98 and contextual factors  $(C)^9$ . This study uses the ABC 99 theory to apply to the complex web of factors influ- 100 encing customer purchase intention through product 101 placement in short-form videos. The goal is to pro- 102 vide advertisers and marketers with valuable insights 103 to help them optimize their strategies in the digital 104 media landscape. 105

#### **Short-form videos**

Short videos, those little internet snippets that run under five minutes, have a certain allure of their own. 107 They fit into those little periods of downtime and are 109 ideal for today's hectic lifestyles. Their ability to truly 110 start conversations online and their ease of sharing 111 makes them incredibly cool. It is also really simple 112 to build, so anyone can join in on the fun. In addition, when people watch and share them, they kind of 114 dissolve the boundaries that separate producers and 115 consumers, giving people all a sense of belonging. 116 Short videos therefore unite people and keep the digital world humming, whether it is for a quick chuckle 118 or a dose of inspiration <sup>10</sup>. 119

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According to Shaun's research, the number of Viet- 120 namese TikTok users increased to around 28 million 121 in 2022<sup>11</sup>. According to Shaun's study, the number of 122 Vietnamese TikTok users increased to around 28 million in 2022. It can be seen that online behaviors have 124 significantly changed as a result of this exponential increase, especially for teens who are 15 years of age and 126 older. On average, these teenagers now spend, on av- 127 erage, 91 minutes a day interacting with TikTok content. This number significantly outweighs the amount 129 of time people spend on YouTube, which is 51 minutes 130 a day on average<sup>11</sup>. The significant difference in usage demonstrates TikTok's rising appeal among young 132 Vietnamese people and its position as a major player 133 in the digital entertainment and social media space. 134

#### 135 Rationale of Research

The emergence of concise online videos has revolu-136 tionized how younger consumers engage with brands, 137 with platforms like TikTok serving as powerful mar-138 keting tools. These videos are widely consumed and 139 eagerly shared via social media, blogs, text messages, 140 and instant messaging, creating a self-reinforcing cy-141 cle of brand promotion<sup>12</sup>. Social media platforms, 142 as emphasized by Dedeoğlu et al., play a pivotal role 143 in shaping consumers' brand awareness and purchas-144 ing behaviors 13. Product placement, often termed in-145 tegrated or embedded marketing, has been a long-146 standing promotional strategy, with its dual benefits 147 of enhancing brand visibility and offsetting produc-148 tion costs appealing to entertainment companies<sup>14</sup>. 149 150 Empirical evidence indicates a robust correlation between heightened brand awareness and increased 151 purchase intent, underscoring the effectiveness of this 152 marketing technique. 153

154 TikTok, particularly in its international iteration, exemplifies the seamless integration of e-commerce into entertainment. Influencers frequently collabo-156 rate with merchants to showcase products in engaging 157 videos, allowing viewers to purchase items directly via embedded links<sup>15</sup>. Compared to its Chinese counter-159 part Douyin, TikTok has no strict age restrictions and 160 boasts broader accessibility, making it a global hub for entertainment, discovery, and e-commerce. Its audio-162 visual appeal-featuring short videos enhanced with 163 trending music-has solidified TikTok's position as 164 a prime destination for digital marketing and cross-165 166 promotion activities<sup>16</sup>.

In Vietnam, TikTok has become a dominant platform, 167 especially in the Food and Beverage (F&B) sector, where street food garners the highest interest among 169 170 users<sup>15</sup>. These videos often showcase Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs), who leverage their expertise and 171 credibility to influence purchasing decisions. KOLs play a critical role in increasing brand awareness, im-173 proving video quality, and driving conversion rates, 174 175 a phenomenon known as the "Internet celebrity/KOL 176 effect"<sup>17</sup>. By sharing authentic insights and experiences, KOLs foster trust and loyalty among their followers, amplifying their impact on consumer behav-178 ior<sup>18</sup>. 179

This study investigates the relationship between product placement in TikTok videos and young Vietnamese consumers' purchasing intentions, with a specific focus on small and medium-sized enterprises
(SMEs) in the F&B industry. Utilizing the ABC Theory framework, the research aims to provide actionable insights for SMEs to optimize their marketing

strategies on TikTok. By understanding how product 187 placement influences consumer behavior, SMEs can 188 effectively leverage TikTok to engage their target audience and enhance their market presence <sup>19</sup>. 190

# RESEARCH MODEL AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

#### Similarity

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According to Bekk et al, similarity or relevance is 194 stated as "the degree to which consumers perceive an 195 object to be self-related or in some way instrumental 196 to achieving their personal goals and values" <sup>20</sup>. Prod-197 ucts that fit customers' personalities are preferred <sup>20</sup>. 198 Advertisers also pay attention and enhance making 199 the advertising match as much as possible with customers, when Alalwan also unveiled how personalization influences customers' purchase intentions, as 202 well as their trust and satisfaction levels, customers 204 when they perceive them to align more closely with 205 their individual preferences<sup>21</sup>. 206

In another author's view, likeability or similarity 207 are closely related concepts when researching the 208 similarity-based perspective on likeability. When 209 seen in others, these qualities align with an individ- 210 ual's sense of self, increasing the probability of like- 211 ability<sup>22</sup>. Customers are more likely to accept and 212 interact with things that are presented in a relatable 213 way on social media. Thus, this phenomenon is es- 214 pecially crucial there. This idea is supported by exist- 215 ing research, which shows that people likelier to find 216 something likeable in someone they relate to or find 217 relatable in the material<sup>22</sup>. When dealing with fa- 218 miliar and relevant components, people typically feel 219 more at ease and cheerful. Thus, this sense of connec- 220 tion and resemblance creates pleasure and emotion. 221 Hence, the following hypothesis is proposed. 222 H1: Similarity of product placement's KOLs in short- 223

form videos positively correlates to pleasure emotion 223

#### Attractiveness

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The complex quality of attractiveness was evidenced <sup>226</sup> to have a big influence significantly how viewers see <sup>227</sup> things and behave. It is impacted by several things, <sup>228</sup> including as how people seem on the outside, their innate traits, and how they interact with others. And <sup>230</sup> as this research proves, the power to attract viewers significantly impacts buying decisions. According <sup>232</sup> to research, ads with visually appealing aspects have <sup>233</sup> a higher chance of persuading customers, which increases their openness to the information or goods being advertised <sup>19</sup>. In addition to influencing viewers' <sup>236</sup> first impressions, this beauty also elicits and arouses
feelings of pleasure. Customers who find an advertising physically and emotionally appealing are more
likely to accept and interact with the promoted information, which increases viewers'satisfaction.

Attractiveness was also a factor mentioned by Ri-242 zomyliotis et al. that has a significant impact on how 243 audiences perceive information. It blends the infor-244 mation source's personality with physical attractive-245 ness, increasing the source's credibility and level of 246 engagement<sup>23</sup>. This particular combination of characteristics may result in a more positive response to 248 the message being conveyed. When the information 249 source is seen favorably, it can raise its credibility, 250 affecting how customers feel about the message and 251 heightening their desire to buy (PI). When it comes 252 to influencers, this relationship is apparent. In ad-253 dition to drawing greater attention, an appealing in-254 fluencer is also more likely to be seen as reliable and 255 reputable. This credibility is based on a psychologi-256 cal bias that links beauty to other desirable attributes 257 like honesty, competence, and intellect on a subconscious level. Consequently, customers are more likely 259 to have favorable opinions about the goods or services 260 that appealing influencers promote, they find it easier to relate to attractive people because they see them as 262 perfect examples of what they should strive to be. As 263

<sup>264</sup> a result, the following hypothesis is proposed.

265 H2: Attractiveness of product placement's KOLs in
266 short-form videos positively correlates to pleasure emo267 tion

#### 268 Popularity

Popularity measures how well-known and accepted e-269 commerce anchors are among the general population. 270 An individual's capacity to influence customer atti-271 tudes and preferences regarding items increases with 272 their level of recognition<sup>19</sup>. Advertising is popular 273 depending on the influence, achievements, and rep-274 utation suitable for each field. As the popularity of 275 anchors increases, their negotiating power, credibil-276 ity, and access to resources also grow, thereby dimin-277 ishing risks for customers and elevating their shop-278 ping pleasure<sup>24</sup>. Consequently, the emotion of plea-279 sure of viewers tends to form positively when watch-280 ing renowned e-commerce anchors. 281

<sup>282</sup> By researching about the injunction norm and de-<sup>283</sup> scriptive norm in the social norm theory, Kim et <sup>284</sup> al. also convinced that there is a considerable im-<sup>285</sup> pact on consumer behavior when employing popular-<sup>286</sup> ity signals as descriptive norms<sup>25</sup>. This can success-<sup>287</sup> fully persuade people to make purchases when they are online shopping. This strategy makes use of so-<br/>cial proof, the idea that customers are more inclined289to purchase products that seem popular among their<br/>peers, which raises e-commerce sales and conversion291rates. Furthermore, they also indicate that viewers of<br/>commercials with popularity indications had a signif-<br/>icantly greater inclination to buy the promoted brand294than those without such cues. This effect highlights<br/>the psychological impact of social proof, which holds<br/>that a brand's or product's perceived popularity may<br/>significantly impact consumers' attitudes and inten-<br/>tions. Advertisers may increase a product's attractive-<br/>ness and credibility by demonstrating that it is favored<br/>or<br/>regularly purchased by others.301

Additionally, the idea of brand popularity supports302the premise that individuals frequently choose what303is right by considering what other people think is correct. Consumers frequently base their brand decisions on the choices of other consumers, and this phenomenon explains why popularity might make people304feel more satisfied. It is reassuring and affirming to309satisfaction of the buying experience. Therefore, the310following hypothesis is proposed in this research.311H3: Popularity of product placement's KOLs in short-312form videos positively correlates to pleasure emotion313

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#### Professionalism

The professionalism of an advertisement is demon- 315 strated by the adeptness in conveying relevant knowl- 316 edge, expertise, and skills to the audience during live 317 streams. It was compared with the online trans- 318 actional scenario that "the level of professionalism 319 of e-commerce operators is a crucial indicator for 320 measuring service quality", and consumers preferred 321 purchasing from those businesses with good service 322 quality<sup>19</sup>. Professionalism was highlighted as the 323 paramount attribute among the characteristics of anchors that notably influences consumers' perceptions 325 of utilitarian and hedonic value<sup>26</sup>. Furthermore, the 326 pleasure emotion would also be formed, , and satisfac- 327 tion was improved by quickly and effectively acquir- 328 ing professional product-related information<sup>27</sup>. 320 Alalwan also supports the idea that companies are 330 more credible when influencers use their knowledge 331 than when they participate in sponsored content<sup>28</sup>. This implies that endorsements that are viewed as 333 sincere and knowledgeable are more trusted by cus- 334 tomers than those that are driven just by financial 335 gain. Influencers can improve a business's perceived 336 authenticity and attract more consumers by using 337 their knowledge and authority. Consequently, the fol-338 lowing hypothesis will be proposed in this study. 339

340 H4: Professional of product placement's KOLs in short-

341 form videos positively correlates to pleasure emotion

#### 342 Interactivity

There are a variety of definitions of interactivity. Interactivity can be defined as the gauge of a medium's 344 capacity to empower users to shape the content 345 and/or structure of mediated communication. It illustrates how the communicator and the audience 347 address each other's communication requirements<sup>29</sup>. 348 Advertising involves sharing personal stories and en-349 dorsing products in a contextualized manner, while also engaging with consumers' comments by provid-351 352 ing feedback and responses during the session<sup>19</sup>. Interactivity emerges as a crucial aspect of the new me-353 dia landscape, anticipated to revolutionise advertis-354 ing methodologies and redefine its influence on con-355 sumers' opinions and attitudes<sup>30</sup>. Increased interaction between consumers and e-commerce anchors correlates with a higher likelihood of fostering posi-358 ive emotions toward the anchors<sup>31</sup>. 350

According to studies on consumer behavior, the halo effect significantly impacts on how people see ads and 361 companies. People who see positive evaluations and 362 high ratings, they are more likely to have positive at-363 titudes about advertising due to this cognitive bias. 364 Customers are more inclined to believe that a prod-365 uct is reliable and helpful when it becomes more vis-366 ible, as indicated by the number of watchers, reviews, and ratings<sup>6</sup>. This improvement in perception hap-368 pens as a result of social proof - positive customer re-369 views - which supports the notion that the product 371 is of a high calibre. Advertisements and businesses with a high level of positive interaction such as re-372 sponses to comments as Van Tuan et al. have shown 373 may thus take use of this impact to increase attention and strengthen customer pleasure emotion<sup>6</sup>. Also in 375 their research, they have shown that a positive atti-376 tude may be formed by users more easily, and they are more engaged they are according to Nguyen et. al., <sup>32</sup>. 378 Therefore, the following hypothesis will be proposed. 370 H5: Interactivity of product placement's KOLs in short-380 <sup>381</sup> form videos positively correlates to pleasure emotion

#### 382 Pleasure emotion

Pleasure emotion, often a transient psychological reaction, typically involves positive attitudes such as
feelings of well-being, relaxation, and pleasure<sup>19</sup>.
Studies indicate that favorable emotions, like consumer gratitude directed toward a brand, can potentially enhance consumer trust in the brand<sup>33</sup>. Consumption experiences and product usage can elicit

emotional responses from customers, both during 390 and after consumption. These emotions subsequently 391 influence customers' decisions to make purchases and 392 their behaviors after the purchase<sup>26</sup>. Consequently, 393 the more pleasure customers feel for a brand, the more trust they feel and the more frequently they will return 395 and purchase that brand. 396

Positive affect greatly aids trust, defined as customers' 397 emotional attachment and favourable sentiments to- 398 ward retailers <sup>34</sup>. Personalized service, sympathetic 399 conversations, and memorable client experiences effectively foster this emotional connection. In addi- 401 tion, the second element, affective trust, is charac- 402 terized by customers' when interacting with the mer- 403 chant. Affective trust derives from emotional expe- 404 riences and fulfilment, as opposed to cognitive trust, 405 which is predicated on rational assessment. Increased 406 customer loyalty and enduring connections result 407 from making customers feel important and emotion- 408 ally linked to a store. By analyzing two components, 409 they claim that the positive emotions or pleasure emo- 410 tion of customers through online product placement 411 will affect their emotional trust in brand or product. 412 Additionally, a 1993 research by Al-Ekam et al. also 413 found that consumer satisfaction with a company's 414 dependability, public relations, and expertise are the 415 main drivers of trust<sup>34</sup>. Therefore, the following hy- 416 pothesis will be proposed for this research. 417 H6: The leasure emotion of customers positively affects 418 their emotional trust. 419

#### **Emotional trust**

Emotional trust (ET) refers to the confidence estab- 421 lished through emotional bonds and shared under- 422 standing among individuals, fostering a more pro- 423 found sense of belonging, security, and satisfaction<sup>35</sup>. 424 It is also suggested that trust is more than just credibil- 425 ity; it also includes competence, confidence, kindness, 426 and dependability. In addition, there must be a readiness to rely on one another and a shared emotional 428 involvement<sup>36</sup>. The establishment of brand trust 429 holds significant importance as it can positively im- 430 pact on various marketing metrics, including brand 431 satisfaction and consumer loyalty<sup>33</sup>. Though easy, 432 online purchasing carries several dangers including 433 malware, fraud, and system problems, which signif- 434 icantly impact customer confidence and transaction 435 purposes. Many customers rethink or cancel their 436 online purchases due to the widespread possibility 437 of fraud, which includes identity theft and money 438 scams<sup>37</sup>. The public's top priorities are thus the se- 439 curity and quality of their online buying experiences. 440

Thus, the success or failure of online transactions is 442 heavily dependent on trust. Consumer engagement and transaction completion are positively correlate 443 with an online platform's perceived reliability, secu-444 rity, and customer service. Customer trust is signif-445 icantly impacted by the information displayed on a seller's website. E-commerce companies must thus 447 guarantee the dependability and credibility of their 448 transaction and content such as the advertisements. 449 They may encourage customers to finish transactions 450 and make purchases by doing this and building their confidence. As a result, the following hypothesis will 452 be proposed. 453

454 H8: Emotional trust of customers positively affects their455 purchase intention.

#### 456 Purchase intention

The intent to buy a particular product or purchase in-457 tention has proven to be a reliable predictor of actual 458 purchasing behavior. In the relationship between at-459 titude and behavior, the intention is shaped by the perceived level of effort required to carry out the be-461 havior<sup>23</sup>. Purchase intention is a significant predic-462 tor of an individual's purchasing behavior. In my 463 study, the definition of purchase intention is the user's 464 plan to purchase a product after viewing an integrated marketing video featuring the product on TikTok. 466 467 When someone desires to buy something, this intention prompts them to proceed with the actual pur-468 chase. Moreover, purchase intentions can translate 469 into purchasing behavior when individuals believe in using those kinds of products<sup>23</sup>. Therefore, the aim 471 should be aimed to investigate how consumer per-472 473 ceptions of viral video advertising affect their buying 474 propensity.

When it comes to shopping, good feelings are impacted by mood, disposition, and surroundings, re-476 sulting in more satisfaction and better evaluations. 477 When consumers are feeling well, they make decisions more quickly and efficiently<sup>38</sup>. Positive emo-479 tional states influence customers' product evalua-480 tions, decision-making speed, and level of satisfac-481 tion with their selections. Since happy consumers are 482 more likely to make purchases and feel satisfied with their choices, it stands to reason that establishing a 484 good and happy retail atmosphere may boost sales and 485 improve customer satisfaction. Therefore, the follow-

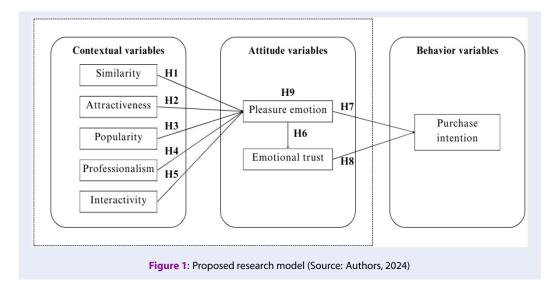
- 487 ing hypothesis will be put out.
- 488 H7: Pleasure emotion of customers positively affects
- 489 their purchase intention
- 490 H9: Pleasure emotion plays a mediating role in affect-
- 491 ing customers' purchase intention
- <sup>492</sup> Proposed research model (Figure 1).

#### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study employs a quantitative methodology, 494 which uses empirical procedures and findings to re- 495 search social issues. This study gathers data through a 496 Google Form survey conducted over the Internet in 497 May and June 2024. Using this method, numerical 498 data from a sizable sample may be gathered and an- 499 alyzed, yielding statistical proof of linkages and pat- 500 terns. The influence of product placement can be precisely analyzed by using surveys and structured ques- 502 tionnaires to quantify customer attitudes, actions, and 503 purchase intentions. Furthermore, quantitative anal- 504 ysis may be used to find significant trends and con- 505 nections, giving SMEs practical advice on how to use 506 TikTok for marketing. In the fiercely competitive food 507 and beverage sector, the objectivity and scalability of 508 quantitative approaches provide solid, generalizable 509 results that may guide strategic choices and maximize 510 marketing initiatives. 511

A Google Form survey was created to gauge customer views on online shopping and its possible impact on online purchase intention in order to validate the data gathered and modify the variables to the Vietnamese context of online purchasing through product placement. The survey's variables were adapted to fit the particular setting and improved upon in light of earlier research.

Our study will make use of a 5-point Likert scale. <sup>520</sup> Likert scales, which include five points and go from <sup>521</sup> "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree," are a useful <sup>522</sup> tool for measuring how strongly people feel about <sup>523</sup> something. Because of its accessibility and ease of <sup>524</sup> use, respondents are more likely to reply, improving the data quality. It also lessens biases, improves <sup>525</sup> measurement validity and reliability, and is adaptable <sup>527</sup> to many study environments. Its simple nature also <sup>528</sup> makes it perfect for investigations involving different <sup>529</sup> cultures, since it encourages consistency and comparability across findings (Table 1). <sup>531</sup>



	Tal	ble 1: Variables me	easurement	
Variable	Label	Code	Measurement questionnaire item	References
Similarity (SI)	SI	SI1	The personal characteristics, interests and habits of KOLs are similar to mine.	31
		SI2	Product suggestions from KOLs that suit your needs and preferences.	
		SI3	KOLs tend to choose and trust products that have the same properties as their priority criteria.	
Attractiveness (AT)	AT	AT1	KOL's attractive appearance or acting makes me love the video more.	39-41
		AT2	The way KOLs express their attractive personalities makes me more interested in watching videos.	
		AT3	I feel more attracted to videos if the KOL has an attractive voice.	
Popularity (PO)	РО	PO1	KOLs are known to everyone in the video industry, which makes me more interested in watching videos.	42
		PO2	KOLs have many fans and strong charisma that makes me enjoy watching their videos.	
		PO3	People are more likely to like watching that video if this KOL regularly appears on news spots of various media.	
Professional (PR)	PR	PR1	KOL clearly understands the product's characteristics and audience, which makes me curious about the product.	43
		PR2	KOLs have a deep understanding of the product's benefits and other related knowledge that will make them confident in using the product according to the explanation provided.	
		PR3	KOLs have professional skills in introducing products and related fields and can provide me with valuable information that will make me feel more excited when watching those videos.	
		PR4	KOLs can persuade followers to buy and use products as suggested.	
Interactivity (IN)	IN	IN1	KOL enhances viewers' viewing interest through diverse acting styles.	44
		IN2	I love participating in online product-related discussions that take place on KOL's TikTok ac- counts.	
		IN3	I like interacting online with KOLs who have the same thoughts about the product.	
		IN4	I will find more videos from other KOLs to get more information and reviews about the product.	
Pleasure emotion (PE)	PE	PE1	TikTok makes me enjoy shopping.	31
		PE2	I feel excited when KOLs promote products and people buy together.	
		PE3	I feel excited when KOLs promote products and people buy together. TikTok's dynamic and en- gaging content makes me excited.	
		PE4	I feel comfortable watching KOLs' TikTok videos, including product promotions.	

Continued on next page

Emotional trust (ET)	ET	ET1	I believe in the authenticity and reliability of the recommended products.	31
		ET2	I believe that they will prioritize consumers' preferences and welfare above all else.	
		ET3	I believe the product received will be as advertised.	
		ET4	I trust that KOL will assist consumers in placing orders without any hesitation or inconvenience.	
		ET5	Videos featuring product advertisements are a reliable source of information about product qual-	
			ity and performance.	
Purchase intention (PI)	PI	PI1	I want to buy products advertised on TikTok.	21,45
		PI2	When I see KOLs putting products in videos, I think about how the displayed products can be	
			useful to me.	
		PI3	I would like to recommend products that famous people include in their posts to others.	

#### 532 DATA ANALYSIS & RESULTS

#### **533 Frequency Analysis**

The study collected a total of 489 valid answer sheets, both meeting the research sample size and ensuring diversity for the research results. In particular, information about the survey respondents was processed using descriptive statistical methods in SPSS software and showed the following typical results (Table 2).

#### 540 Testing research hypotheses

To evaluate the impact relationships between several
variables in the research model, the study will test
the research hypotheses using the test results obtained
from the Bootstrap integration, based on the two leading indicators: Original Sample and P Value (Figure 2).

The results shown in Table 3 confirmed that all re-547 search hypotheses were found to have P Values that 548 satisfy the required condition of being less than or 549 equal to 0.05. In terms of the "Original Sample" value, 550 it can be seen that the "Standardized Impact Coefficients" of these research hypotheses are all positive co-552 efficients, proving that these impacts are all positive. 553 Regarding the direct effects, the order of impact of the 554 variables is arranged from most significant to most minor as follows: H6: Pleasure emotion of customers 556 positively affects their emotional trust (0.512) > H8: 557 Emotional trust of customers positively affects their 558 purchase intention. (0.362) > H3: Popularity of prod-559 uct placement positively correlates to pleasure emo-560 tion (0.325) > H1: Similarity of product placement 561 positively correlates to pleasure emotion (0.281) >562 H7: Pleasure emotion of customers positively affects 563 their purchase intention (0.233) > H4: Professional 564 of product placement positively correlates to plea-565 sure emotion (0.232) > H2: Attractiveness of product placement positively correlates to pleasure emo-567 tion (0.140) > H5: Interactivity of product placement positively correlates to pleasure emotion (0.107). Re-569 570 garding mediating effect, "H9: Consumers' pleasure emotion plays a mediating role in the effect on con-571 sumers' purchase intention" was also accepted with a 572 Sig. value of 0.000 and an Original Sample of 0.186, 573 574 confirming the significant and positive correlation.

#### 575 R square

<sup>576</sup> Before testing the research hypothesis, the study tests
<sup>577</sup> the Quality Criteria in the final step to describe the
<sup>578</sup> explanatory level of the independent variable for the
<sup>579</sup> dependent variable, including R square and f square.
<sup>580</sup> Regarding R square, indicating the variance explained
<sup>581</sup> in each of the endogenous construct, the require<sup>582</sup> ments set out are: R Square > 0.75 = substantial; R

Square > 0.50 = moderate; R Square > 0.25 = weak; R 583 Square < 0.25 = super weak. 584

The results shown in Table 4. proved that the R-square 585 value of PE is 0.511, which is the only moderate R 586 square found in this study. On the other hand, the 587 R-square values of ET and PI are 0.262 and 0.272, respectively, which are both weak. 589

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#### **Effect size f square**

Finally, the study will use the value "Effect size f  $_{591}$  square" to evaluate the role and importance of independent variables in the research model. Based on  $_{592}$  pendent variables in the research model. Based on  $_{594}$  the required conditions given by author Cohen, the f Square index table will be evaluated as follows: f  $_{595}$  Square < 0.02 = the impact level is extremely small or  $_{596}$  has no impact 0.02  $\leq$  f Square < 0.15 = small impact  $_{598}$  level 0.15  $\leq$  f Square < 0.35 = average impact level f  $_{598}$  Square  $\geq$  0.35 = high impact level.  $_{599}$ 

Table 5, the data processing results have shown the following conclusions about the effect size f square: First of all, towards PE, the PO variable has the most significant impact on the PE variable. With f square value of 0.168, the effect size of this variable on PE is considered the average impact level. Meanwhile, small of (0.127) > PR (0.079) > AT (0.036) and IN (0.023). Regarding PI, the ET has most significant impact with f square value of 0.133, followed by PE with 0.055, all considered as small impact levels. Finally, relationships between variables PE and ET are the only high impact level found in this study, with a f square effect size of 0.356.

# CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND I MPLICATION MANAGERIAL

#### Conclusion

To sum up, the final research results show that out of the nine hypotheses set out above, all research hypotheses were accepted in this study. With the Sig. value smaller than 0.05, the latent variables in the research model all significantly impact on each other. With Beta values greater than 0, the relationships between variables are proven to be positive, for example: With regards to contextual variables, the results confirmed that all five dependent variables have a significant and positive effect on pleasure emotion, confirming H1, H2, H3, H4, and H5. Among them, the evel of correlating to customer pleasure emotion is arranged in order from the most significant influence to the smallest effect, as follows: H3: Popularity of product placement positively correlates to pleasure

Information		Frequency	Per cent
Gender	Others	31	6.3
	Male	273	55.8
	Female	185	37.8
Age	<18	41	8.4
	18-22	282	57.7
	23-25	133	27.2
	>25	33	6.7
Occupation	Part-time jobs	72	14.7
	Full-time jobs	110	22.5
	Students/ University students	241	49.3
	Freelancers	66	13.5
Monthly income	Under 2 million VND	110	22.5
	2 – 6 million VND	195	39.9
	7 – 10 million VND	124	25.4
	Over 10 million VND	60	12.3
Total:		489	100

Table 2: Frequency Ana	alysis

Source: Authors, 2024.

#### Table 3: Testing research hypotheses

Correlation	Original sample (O)	P values	Conclusion
H1: Similarity of product placement positively cor- relates to pleasure emotion	0.281	0.000	Accept
H2: Attractiveness of product placement positively correlates to pleasure emotion	0.140	0.000	Accept
H3: Popularity of product placement positively cor- relates to pleasure emotion	0.325	0.000	Accept
H4: Professional of product placement positively correlates to pleasure emotion	0.232	0.000	Accept
H5: Interactivity of product placement positively correlates to pleasure emotion	0.107	0.000	Accept
H6: Pleasure emotion of customers positively affects their emotional trust.	0.512	0.000	Accept
H7: Pleasure emotion of customers positively affects their purchase intention.	0.233	0.000	Accept
H8: Emotional trust of customers positively affects their purchase intention.	0.362	0.000	Accept
H9: Consumers' pleasure emotion plays a mediating role in the effect on consumers' purchase intention.	0.186	0.000	Accept

Source: Authors, 2024

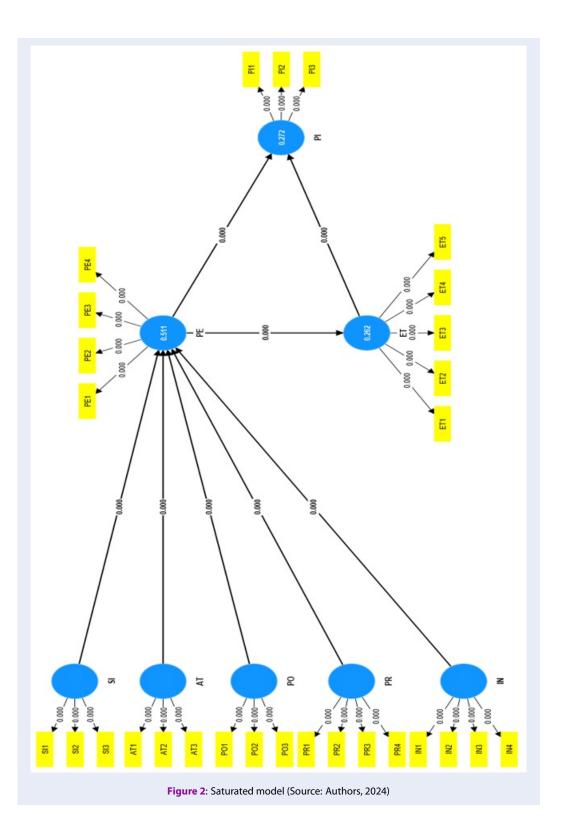


Table 4: K square		
	R-square	R-square adjusted
ET	0.262	0.261
PE	0.511	0.506
PI	0.272	0.269

Source: Authors, 2024

#### Table 5: f square

	AT	ET	IN	PE	PI	РО	PR	SI
AT				0.036				
ET					0.133			
IN				0.023				
PE		0.356			0.055			
PI								
РО				0.168				
PR				0.079				
SI				0.127				

Source: Authors, 2024.

 $_{632}$  emotion (0.325) > H1: Similarity of product place- $_{633}$  ment positively correlates to pleasure emotion (0.281)  $_{634}$  > H4: Professional of product placement positively  $_{635}$  correlates to pleasure emotion (0.232) > H2: Attrac- $_{636}$  tiveness of product placement positively correlates to  $_{637}$  pleasure emotion (0.140) > H5: Interactivity of prod- $_{638}$  uct placement positively correlates to pleasure emo- $_{639}$  tion (0.107).

In respects of attitude variables, the results also de-640 fined that all two intermediate variables have a sig-641 nificant and positive effect on each other and on the 642 behavior variable, which is consumer purchase inten-643 644 tion, confirming H6, H7, and H8. Among them, the level of correlating to other intermediate variables and 645 a dependent variable is arranged in order from most 646 significant influence to the smallest effect as follows: 647 H6: Pleasure emotion of customers positively affects 648 their emotional trust (0.512) > H8: Emotional trust of 649 customers positively affects their purchase intention 650 (0.362) > H7: Pleasure emotion of customers posi-651  $_{652}$  tively affects their purchase intention (0.233). Last but not least, the only mediating relationship in 653 this study also found to have a significant and posi-654

this study also found to have a significant and positive effect on the behavior variable, confirming the last
research hypothesis H9. In other words, consumers'
pleasure emotion is confirmed to not only have a mediating role in the effect on consumers' purchase intention (0.186), but also have a direct effect on emotional trust (0.512) and onsumers' purchase intention

(0.233).

The research results show similarities with previous662studies by Montgomery et al., Dedeoğlu et al., Eagle et663al., Tran et al., Harker, Tran et al., Niu et al., Luong et664al., Li et al  $^{12-19}$ . However, the research results show665that there is no fundamental difference between the666Tiktok platform and the purchase intention of young667Vietnamese consumers compared to other countries668in the world, although the level of impact is different669from previous studies.670

#### Managerial Implications

Following the analysis above, it can be seen that to in- 672 crease customer purchase intention, food and bever- 673 age small & medium-sized enterprises, as well as Tik-Tok platforms, need to access both emotional trust 675 and pleasure emotion of customers towards product 676 placement in short-form videos on TikTok. However, 677 in order to access those attitude variables to improve 678 behavior variables of Vietnamese gen Z consumers, 679 the most important thing is that these food and bev- 680 erage small & medium-sized businesses need to pay 681 attention to several contextual variables that belong 682 to product placement's KOLs in short-form videos on 683 Tiktok channels. KOLs that are chosen to take part in 684 short-form videos on Tiktok channels about food and 685 beverage fields should have a vast number of fans, and 686 build a strong charisma towards the local customer, 687 in order to make them enjoy watching their videos on 688

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<sup>689</sup> online channels. Moreover, these KOLs should reg-<sup>690</sup> ularly appear on news spots in various media , such <sup>691</sup> as magazines, newspapers, and social networks, to <sup>692</sup> ensure high public recognition, thereby helping the <sup>693</sup> brand become more popular in the market.

Concerning the similarity of product placement in 694 short-form videos on TikTok platforms, food and 695 beverage small & medium-sized businesses should 696 choose KOLs that have a similar image to the personal 697 characteristics, interests and habits of Vietnamese 608 Gen Z consumers nowadays, which are usually also 699 famous people of the Gen Z generation with a free, dy-700 namic, and creative spirit similar to the purchasing in-701 702 tentions of young customers. Secondly, KOLs chosen to advertise by food and beverage small & mediumsized businesses also need to experience these food 704 705 and beverage products first before posting them on social networking platforms for consumers. Only 706 KOLs choosing and trusting food and beverage prod-707 ucts that have the same properties as their priority cri-708 teria can create empathy with customers. In addition, 700 choosing KOLs with images associated with the food and beverage brand is also extremely necessary, since 711 product suggestions from KOLs that suit customers' 712 needs and preferences can attract customers' purchas-713 ing behavior more effectively. 714

Towards professional of product placement in short-715 form videos on TikTok platforms, KOLs are required 716 to clearly understand the product's characteristics and 717 audience, by memorizing and clearly explaining the 718 ingredients, properties, and materials contained in 719 these food and beverage products on their social me-720 dia platforms, in order to make the customer more 721 curious about the product. In other words, food and 722 beverage small & medium-sized businesses should 723 choose KOLs that have a deep understanding of the 724 product's benefits and advantages for using, as well 725 as knowing other related knowledge to the food and 726 beverage products, to make these KOLs and their 727 customers more confident in introducing and using 728 the product according to the explanation provided in 729 short-form videos on TikTok platforms. Especially in 730 market full of harsh competition between numer-731 ous KOLs and a variety of different brands like re-732 cently, these KOLs should have a high ability to per-733 suade their followers to buy and use products that they 734 promoted and suggested on their social media plat-735 forms by creating attractive points for both KOLs and 736 brands that are different from other competitors in the 737 market. One of the differentiation solutions to solve 739 that problem is that these chosen KOLs should have 740 professional skills in introducing products and related fields, in order to provide their customers with valuable information about the food and beverage products and make them feel more excited when watching those videos. 744

Last but not least, to increase the attractivenss of prod-745 uct placement in short-form videos on TikTok plat- 746 forms, food and beverage small & medium-sized businesses should choose a KOL that has an attractive ap-748 pearance or acting, as well as an ability to express 749 their attractive personalities, in order to make customers more interested in watching videos, loving 751 the advertisements more, and feeling more attracted 752 to short-form videos on TikTok platforms by these 753 KOLs' attractive voice. In order to enhance the in- 754 teractivity of product placement in short-form videos 755 on TikTok platforms, these chosen KOLs need to create harmonious interactions and connections for their 757 customers on short-form videos uploaded on TikTok 758 channels in the following ways: (1) Enhancing viewers' viewing interest through diverse acting styles; (2) 760 Creating a chance for customers to participate in on- 761 line product-related discussions that take place on KOL's TikTok accounts; (3) Creating favorable conditions for customers to communicate and interact on-764 line with KOLs who have the same thoughts about the 765 product on the channels; and (4) Using a large num- 766 ber of different KOLs in various business fields related 767 to food and beverage products to help customers in- 768 teract and communicate many times with the brand, 769 thereby both improving brand recognition in the market and making customers easily remember the brand 771 compared to other competitors in the same industry. 772

# Limitation and Future research Limitation

The study only limited the survey subjects to the group of Gen Z customers currently living and working in Ho Chi Minh City. In addition, because of time constraints, the research is also limited the research scope to only small & medium-sized food and beverage enterprises and short-form videos on TikTok platforms. Meanwhile, it can be said that the Tiktok channel is now a social media tool that can be used by numerous different target customers in various countries, has several different forms of image development, and develops various industries and business fields in this platform.

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#### Future research

Expanding the target customer group of differ ent ages or even other countries, instead of only sur veying gen Z consumers currently living and working
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<sup>791</sup> in Vietnam generally and Ho Chi Minh city particu-792 larly, in order to discover customer purchase intention in each other region and compare the new re-793 search findings with surveyed provinces and cities; (2) 794 Expanding the business scope to large-scale food en-795 terprises, or conducting small & medium-sized enter-796 prises operating in other popular business areas on 797 Tiktok platforms, such as clothing or cosmetics, in or-798 der to serve numerous different industries and business fields; and finally (3) Developing other forms on 800 Tiktok besides short-form videos, such as long videos 801 and live streams; (4) Exploring short-form videos on other social media platforms, such as Youtube Shorts, 803 or Instagram, Facebook Reels, in order to develop 804 more and more effective communication and market-805 ing tools for both local and global businesses on online 806 807 platforms.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

800 SEM: Structural Equation Modeling

810 EFA: Exploratory Factor Analysis

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

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The authors declare that they have no conflicts of in-813 terest. 814

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Author Sinh Duc Hoang: Responsible for the content: 816
- esearch ideas, data investigation, data processing. 817
- Author Duong The Duy: Responsible for the content: 818 writing the article content. 819
- Author Pham Nguyet Minh: Responsible for the con-820 tent: writing the article content. 821

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# Kiểm tra mối quan hệ giữa việc đặt sản phẩm trong video ngắn trên tiktok và ý định mua hàng của người tiêu dùng trẻ Việt Nam

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#### TÓM TẮT

Nghiên cứu này xem xét mối quan hê giữa việc đặt sản phẩm trong các video TikTok ngắn và ý định mua hàng của người tiêu dùng trẻ Việt Nam, tập trung cụ thể vào các doanh nghiệp vừa và nhỏ (SME) trong ngành thực phẩm và đồ uống (F&B). Nghiên cứu điều tra cách các thuộc tính khác nhau của việc đặt sản phẩm - bao gồm sự giống nhau, sức hấp dẫn về mặt thẩm mỹ, sự phổ biến, tính chuyên nghiệp và tương tác của người dùng - ảnh hưởng đến ý định mua hàng của người tiêu dùng bằng cách gợi ra phản ứng cảm xúc. Nhấn mạnh tầm quan trọng của sự gắn kết cảm xúc, nghiên cứu này tìm cách hiểu các cơ chế tâm lý và cảm xúc cơ bản trong hành vi của người tiêu dùng. Một phương pháp tiếp cận hỗn hợp được sử dụng, kết hợp dữ liệu định tính được thu thập thông qua bảng câu hỏi trực tuyến. Mẫu mục tiêu bao gồm 256 người Việt Nam được chọn từ các nhóm trên Facebook, đặc biệt chú ý đến hồ sơ nhân khẩu học của người tiêu dùng trẻ. Việc thu thập và phân tích dữ liệu được hướng dẫn bởi các kỹ thuật thống kê mạnh mẽ, bao gồm phân tích nhân tố khám phá (EFA) và mô hình phương trình cấu trúc (SEM), để xác định các yếu tố chính và đánh giá mối quan hệ giữa các thuộc tính của việc đặt sản phẩm và hành vi mua hàng của người tiêu dùng. Trọng tâm của nghiên cứu là khám phá những cảm xúc tích cực được kích hoạt bởi việc đặt sản phẩm chiến lược và tiềm năng của chúng trong việc nâng cao ý định mua hàng. Nghiên cứu này nhằm mục đích cung cấp những hiểu biết có thể hành động cho các doanh nghiệp vừa và nhỏ trong lĩnh vực F&B bằng cách xem xét sự tương tác giữa sự gắn kết về mặt cảm xúc và các thuộc tính cụ thể của vị trí sản phẩmBằng cách xem xét sự tương tác giữa sự gắn kết về mặt cảm xúc và các thuộc tính cụ thể của vị trí sản phẩm, nghiên cứu này nhằm mục đích cung cấp những hiểu biết có thể hành động cho các doanh nghiệp vừa và nhỏ trong lĩnh vực F&B. Những hiểu biết này dự kiến sẽ hỗ trợ các doanh nghiệp thiết kế các chiến dịch tiếp thi truyền thông xã hôi hiệu quả hơn và có sức tác động về mặt cảm xúc hơn. Các phát hiện này làm nổi bật vai trò quan trong của sự gắn kết về mặt cảm xúc trong việc định hình ý định mua hàng của người tiêu dùng, chứng minh cách các thuộc tính như vẻ đẹp, sự giống nhau và sự tương tác đóng góp đáng kể vào hiệu quả của việc đặt sản phẩm. Nghiên cứu nhấn mạnh nhu cầu các doanh nghiệp vừa và nhỏ phải tân dụng các thuộc tính này một cách chiến lược để củng cố kết nối với người tiêu dùng và thúc đẩy hành vi mua hàng. Nghiên cứu này đóng góp vào lĩnh vực tiếp thị kỹ thuật số rộng hơn bằng cách cung cấp các góc nhìn có giá trị về việc sử dụng các nền tảng mới nổi như TikTok để thu hút người tiêu dùng, với những hàm ý thực tế để nâng cao hiệu quả tiếp thị trong ngành F&B. Từ khoá: Đặt sản phẩm, đặt thương hiệu, giải trí có thương hiệu, tài trợ trong chương trình, tiếp thi giải trí

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